

# Council

Meeting date: 15 December 2025

## Public Questions

### 1. Question from Tim Harman to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

Cheltenham Borough Council is proposing a consultation on the establishment of a Town Council. Can the Cabinet Member confirm if the Town Council would fund itself by setting an additional precept above and beyond that which Households would pay to a new unitary Council. If so, can the cabinet member give an estimate of likely amount that each household would pay on an annual basis?

### 2. Question from Tim Harman to the Cabinet Member Waste and Recycling and Parks, Gardens and Green Open Space, Councillor Paul Baker

Residents and users of Hatherley Park have raised with me concerns about the condition of the lake where the water level seems lower than normal. My understanding is that Friends of Hatherley Park have been involved with a restoration plan but there is no progress at this time. Can the Cabinet Member clarify the situation and assure residents and users that the Council will commit to restoring the lake in this popular and well used Park.

### 3. Question from Elliot Craddock to the Cabinet Member Climate Emergency, Councillor Richard Pineger

A month or two ago now I had a leaflet from the Liberal Democrats through my letter box and on it, it talked about the state of Balancing Pond just outside Coxs meadow. I'm sure the Charlton Park councillors are fully aware of the state the pond is in and has been in for a very long time now. In the leaflet it said: "Paul is pleased to report that there should be some positive news very soon." Could you please inform me of this good news now?

### 4. Question from Elliot Craddock to the Cabinet Member Climate Emergency, Councillor Richard Pineger

What are the council's current plans for the building and expansion of energy infrastructure, including renewables, which I know is a policy that the Liberal Democrats take extremely seriously? And how can we ensure these changes are kept when moving to the new local government model?

**5. Question from Gill Hewlett to the Cabinet Member Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries**

I notice that there are companies that are not UK owned in line to buy the municipal buildings and I want to know whether priority is being given to UK owned companies and, if not, why not? And also, how much due diligence has been done on the prospective buyers and can they be sure that any contenders do not have links to either Russian or Chinese states?

**6. Question from Rich Newman to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

Regarding planning proposals, under which circumstances are planning proposals called into committee instead of being decided upon by a planning officer?

**7. Question from Rich Newman to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

Does CBC have any precedent for overturning a planning proposal decision made by a planning officer? Can this even be done, is it possible?

**8. Question from Emma Nelson to the Cabinet Member Major Developments & Housing Delivery, Councillor Alisha Lewis**

The Strategic and Local Plan, currently out for consultation, includes reference (p15) that "Cheltenham will become the new cyber capital for the UK". What impact will the winding up of the NCSC for Startups Program (formerly known as the GCHQ Cyber Accelerator Scheme), have on the future of the Cyber Park?

**9. Question from Emma Nelson to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rowena Hay**

The Echo recently reported (October 23rd) that CBC had paid a total £782,468 over just three years on 25 Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA's). Whilst I appreciate the need to protect potentially commercially sensitive information around recent disposal of high value assets, why is this figure so large?