

Council Meeting – 2nd December 2020

Written Answers Provided To Member Questions

Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Q.1 How much is Taylor Shaw paid for school grab bags?

See below.

Q.2 How much was Taylor Shaw paid for food parcels during lockdown?

A. Grab bags are an exceptional intervention to respond to an emergency situation.
1&2 We didn't enter a specific contract for individual grab bags rate. The payment for this is part of the overall monthly contractual payment to Taylor Shaw for school meals. Because of Covid related protection applied around supplier relief arrangements, limited take up of "paid for meal by parents" and school closure, it is not possible to split costs between grab bags and standard meals. Overall, the grab bag will cost the same as a standard school meal and we can provide the total spend across the period if required.

Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)

Q.1 Members have been notified of Officer Non-Key Executive Decisions including "Additional Extension to ICT Service Continuity Contract" The report states that "Unfortunately, the delay does incur additional work and cost for the council" and the figure stated for a one month extension 1st-30th November is £425245 + VAT. How "unfortunate" is this delay and cost?

A.1 A Cabinet decision was taken in August 2018 to end the Council's strategic ICT partnership contract with Capita Business Services Limited (Capita) on 4th January 2020 and insource the Council's ICT service. A number of factors have led to delays in business critical applications not transitioning to their intended destination to the original plan, so to ensure continuity of service delivery for all Council services it was agreed with Capita that they would provide 'Service Continuity' services for a period of 6 months from January to June 2020; this was extended to 31st October 2020. The need to focus on standing up a full remote working solution for 7,000 staff, starting in March, has contributed to dates needing to be reset. The majority of our ICT systems and services have now been migrated successfully and are now under Council management and control.

Q.2 What was the budget for this work at commencement? (The present extension is a second extension of this contract, and I am thinking the first extension of four months July to October was not anticipated)

A.2 There was no provision in the 2020/21 budget for the extension work as it was not anticipated it would be required. The original migration plan was to have moved off Capita hosting by 4th January 2020 when the contract ended.

Q.3 What is the expenditure to date on this work?

A.3 The cost to date for the extensions from January is £5.3m, which will be funded initially from reserves and repaid from the anticipated savings from the revised ICT arrangements. The cost of the most recent extension to 30th November is £425,245.

Question of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q. What is being done to address the question of food security in respect to the climate emergency? Does the City Council have a plan to increase local food production? Can you provide details of the work done so far?

A. Work to refresh the Council's Allotments Strategy in collaboration with the University of Sheffield will review current approaches to urban food growing in particular the role our 2,500 allotments can make to this..

We will be exploring food security and local food production as part of wider engagement to develop our city net-zero carbon plan next year.

Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q.1 The Tyndall Centre report stated we must reduce CO2 emissions by 14% each year, how much has been reduced since the presentation to full Council in July 2019?

A.1 We are awaiting the Government to issue the updated dataset for 2019 emissions which is anticipated to be released at the end quarter one next year. There is always a time-lag in the Government releasing this data as the energy consumption data has to be collected from across the UK from all utility providers and collated by BEIS before being issued.

We do know from our current net zero commission work that Sheffield has already made some good progress in reducing emissions between 2005 and 2017 with the rate of emissions reductions being higher than the national average so far. However, we also know that the city needs to accelerate this rate of decarbonisation and we are developing a plan with our partners to work towards our ambition of net zero carbon by 2030.

Q.2 What is being done to amend the report each year to keep up with the overall target?

A.2 We are developing an approach to reporting on our climate change targets which will enable the city to report annually on progress and consider new approaches and responses.

Q.3 What work has been done towards looking into adopting the Doughnut economics model designed by Kate Raworth?

A.3 We have held meeting with national research groups and leading international academics to discuss Community Wealth Building and how we can build on Sheffield's great history and amazing Civic achievements. We know that we face a significant challenge to reshape our economy and tackle climate change head-on. We continue to monitor developments in Amsterdam, New York, Barcelona and in deed many cities worldwide and we are working on several place based initiatives to promote the 15 minute city for all of Sheffield.

Q.4 What has the City Council set up to closely monitor the outcomes of the Doughnut Economic model in Amsterdam?

A.4 See A.3 above.

Questions of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q.1 Do you feel the Government's new '10 point green plan' goes far enough in producing a sufficient plan for tackling the climate emergency and creating new jobs?

A.1 No, and the order is all wrong. The Government focuses far too much on cars, new-builds and energy solutions that will not come on stream for years to come. This is wholly inadequate. Government has done nothing to advance the infrastructure of our power grid, nor has it acted to sufficiently boost retrofit, a key and what should be prominent feature of our immediate focus. And Government is still obsessing on flights and people jetting off on holiday. Yes, we should all get to see the world, but why is this so high in the Governments rankings?

Q.2 The Climate emergency affects every one of us. It is damaging to the air we breathe and leading to extreme weather, causing flooding. What efforts is the council undertaking to help people understand about the climate crisis and to foster 'carbon literacy' by raising awareness of the carbon costs and impacts that everyday activities have, and how people can reduce their own emissions?

A.2 The Council is working with the Carbon Literacy Project and the Centre for Sustainable Energy to provide a climate change training and development package which will be initially used internally to support elected Members and Officers. We will be learning from this experience and applying this to the wider engagement and awareness raising activities we aim to conduct next year.

Q.3 What is the Council doing, not only to help people take positive actions in reducing carbon emissions, but to ensure they are leading from the front themselves?

A.3 The Council is delivering a number of programmes and initiatives which will help to reduce our carbon emissions.

Some examples are included below;

Sheffield City Council has already committed £43 million from its capital budget to address climate issues in the city over the next five years, as well as accessing more funding from Government. Investments that will help us on our path to net zero carbon include:

Sustainable Travel

Over £100 million of investment from the city and successfully raised from government is going towards making travelling in Sheffield greener and cleaner and making it safer and easier for people to travel by bike. This includes the new Connecting Sheffield project which is key to our work transforming the city's mobility infrastructure to enable people to get around the city more easily using low carbon, sustainable and inclusive ways of travelling including walking, cycling and public transport.

Previous work to further active travel includes:

- o Accessing emergency funding for active travel made available as a consequence of Covid, and trialling low traffic neighbourhoods, road closures and new cycle lanes.
- o Investing £1.5m from DfT to deliver high quality cycle networks linking the city centre to Broomhall and providing segregated and direct links across the Inner Ring Road.
- o Promoting active travel with more walking routes, segregated cycle lanes and bus lanes.
- o Funding cycle loans, invested in a fleet of bikes and ebikes that people can loan for free; provided cycle training to people and Bikeability training to school pupils in Sheffield.

£896,000 funding has been made available for electric vans which businesses can hire to try before buying and 32 electric cargo bikes for small businesses.

The Council is making its own vehicle fleet cleaner and greener. The Streets Ahead team will run another 15 electric vehicles to replace its current diesel vehicles. It is also taking a major eco-friendly step by trialling two vans that use a hydrogen fuel cell to extend the range of power the battery gives to approximately 200 miles. The Council also runs an extra five hydrogen vehicles.

22 ultra-low taxi charge points are to be installed in the city centre.

Working with Bus companies and government £4.9 million will be invested in to Cleaner Bus Technology Fund to retrofit up to 277 buses to the Euro VI standard. Investing £1.25m to increase access to rapid-charge points for electric cars, with many more charging points planned for the city.

Renewable and Sustainable Energy

Council electricity is now generated from 100% renewable sources, an increase of 81% on last year.

- Energy Surgeries have been established to provide advice on sustainable energy in the home and Smart Energy Meters have been installed for Council tenants – creating a 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy.
- The Council is leading on a funding bid with three other local authorities in the city region to develop a project to support small to medium sized enterprises (SME's) to implement low carbon improvements within the business.

Waste, recycling and energy recovery

We have improved recycling facilities for shared properties such as flats, high density housing, and student accommodation.

Sheffield is trialling electric bin lorries powered by the very waste they have collected. The re-powered lorries have zero carbon emissions and produce no air pollution.

We are working with the city's schools to see a reduction in plastic, including huge reductions in the amount of single use plastics used at school meal times.

General household waste is taken to the city's Energy Recovery Facility (ERF), which generates electricity for the National Grid and heat for the city's award winning District Energy Network. As well as reducing landfill waste the ERF reduces greenhouse gas emissions because it avoids the need to burn fossil fuels to produce energy. This prevents around 21,000 tonnes of carbon emissions from being released every year, as well generating energy for the city's schools, council owned buildings and thousands of homes.

Trees, Woodlands and Green Spaces

Over the next 10 years the Council will plant 100,000 trees as part of its Trees and Woodland Strategy.

Climate adaptation

● Work is ongoing and more than £18 million is being spent to protect Sheffield from the expected increased flood risk resulting from climate change. Work has already been completed on some schemes and further resilience projects are being progressed.

● The award-winning Grey to Green sustainable urban drainage system contributes both to climate emission reduction and also to adaptation. It has replaced roads with cycle paths and drought-friendly, pollen rich planting which is designed to capture water to prevent flooding.

Flood resilience work to protect the Lower Don Valley completed in 2017 and during the recent flood event in November 2019 these defences prevented significant damage and disruption.

Plans are now moving forward for the £9 million Upper Don Valley flood protection scheme and phase 1 (Lower Loxley defences) started in August. This scheme will protect parts of Hillsborough and Owlerton that flooded last year.

A £3m citywide culvert scheme is being developed to improve water flow throughout the city, diverting excess water away from the city's roads and highways.

