

Council Questions

Wednesday 31 March 2021
2.00 pm

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CITY OF SHEFFIELD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 31ST MARCH, 2021
COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Johnson)

For the past year we and Council officers have been using online platforms to hold private and public meetings whilst we work from home.

Q.1 Please list all the different systems Sheffield City Council has been using such as Zoom, Microsoft teams and Public I?

A.1 The Council has used the three listed applications – Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Public-i – to conduct remote and online meetings during the pandemic. The main purpose of the Public-i software is to stream Council meetings.

Q.2 How many individual licenses does the Council have for each application? Please list any that have expired.

A.2

Software	Quantity
Zoom Standard Edition	300
Zoom 100 Webinar – enabling 100 participants	1
Zoom 500 Webinar – enabling 500 participants	1
Zoom 1000 Webinar – enabling 1000 participants	1
Microsoft Teams	8,562
Public-i	180 Hrs

Q.3 What is the cost to the Council of each of these applications?

- A.3 Last year, as we had not yet started rolling out Teams, Zoom licenses were mainly used, but we have reduced the number of licences due to the deployment of Teams. We expect to phase out most of the remaining Zoom licences during the rest of this year.

We do not pay separately for Microsoft Teams so we cannot give a cost for it on its own as the Microsoft licensing is not broken down at this level. Teams comes as part of the Microsoft suite of products and we pay for it as part of our Microsoft Enterprise Agreement which covers all our licences for Microsoft Office (Email, Word, Excel PowerPoint), Microsoft Teams including chat, video conferencing and telephony, lots of products to help us run our IT including technical security and management tools and our data hosting in the Microsoft Azure Cloud.

Public-i- £16,185

Q.4 Going forward, once we are out of lockdown, what are your views on the continued use of these online platforms to allow members of the public, who are not able to attend Council meetings in person, to participate remotely in Council meetings

- A.4 This is something we will look at as we return to in person meetings and in principle it is a good idea, however, as you will be aware the government set out last week that they plan to end the council's right to hold online council meetings after May 7th which is extremely unhelpful.

We have and will have the technical ability to offer a hybrid approach which we believe would be the most effective solution particularly as we begin to return to in person meetings.

Q.5 Will consideration be given to Councillors who also wish to continue attending remotely, in particular to support our carbon reduction plans?

- A.5 See answer above, again this is something we would be open to considering, certainly when meetings resume due to the importance of social distancing and think a form of hybrid model may be the best way to begin to resume in person meetings. However, as above the government's recent intervention is extremely unhelpful.

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Johnson)

The use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) is common in local authorities and other organisations. Costing the public millions of pounds.

Q.1 How many NDAs have been entered into by Sheffield City Council in the last two years?

- A.1 There have been than 5 NDAs in the last 2 years (all related to prospective inward investment projects) with the client unwilling to share what could be commercially sensitive information about their business without us agreeing to signing a NDA.

Q.2 What has been the cost of such agreements?

- A.2 Non disclosure agreements are used on occasion in relation to potential inward investment opportunities but these are rare and amount to no more than a handful over the last two years. No costs have been incurred in respect of these agreements.

There is NEVER a cost associated with these from our perspective.

Q.3 What are the common reasons for entering into such arrangements?

- A.3 Clients can be unwilling to share what could be commercially sensitive information about their business, without us agreeing to signing a NDA.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Johnson)

Q.1 When deciding to spend Council resources on carrying out public engagement promoting the “Cleaner Greener Safer” pilot areas, what were the criteria used by Councillors Wood, Jones, Lea and yourself to select locations in the four marginal wards of Beighton, East Ecclesfield, Walkley and Mosborough?

- A.1 Please see below the answer about Cleaner, Greener, Safer from Councillor Jones given last month. To add to the answer, the pilots do not run concurrently with ward boundaries as suggested in your question the neighbourhoods are much smaller than a whole ward, but may overlap between wards for example the Chapeltown Pilot encompasses both East and West Ecclesfield Wards.

“The Cleaner, Greener, Safer Project aims to improve how the council and council services are responsive to the concerns of local communities to make sure every part of the city has a clean physical environment, somewhere that people feel safe and secure, an environment that is treated with respect and is a good place to live.

The pilots are the first step in developing a new approach to achieve this. The areas that have been selected for the pilots have largely been based on where issues have been raised from local residents relating to the services we are looking at,

however, the ambition is that this is something that we take forward across the whole of the city, it is not limited to these areas. In addition to this there are a number of innovative projects working in different neighbourhoods throughout the city.

This work was originally planned before COVID however has been delayed due to the situation over the past year. We had planned more extensive engagement however the current situation has placed limitations on the types of exercises we can undertake and on staff capacity. We therefore hope to take this forward in a much more extensive way when the current situation eases.”

Q.2 Have the stakeholder workshops been held yet?

A.2 No. The aim is to hold the stakeholder workshops in May after PERP

Q.3 For each pilot area, where the stakeholder workshop “will be led by a local Ward Member,” what are the criteria for selecting the Ward Member in each of the marginal wards?

A.3 See answer above, the stakeholder workshops will take place after PERP, the meetings haven’t been arranged yet.

Q.4 Which Member was selected for each of the four marginal wards above?

A.4 The stakeholder workshops have not been arranged yet and the Chairs have not been confirmed, again please see answer above the workshops will take place after PERP

Q.5 What proposals do you have for rooting out corruption in Sheffield City Council?

A.5 The Council has a robust system of governance in place which is signed off by our external auditors on an annual basis, this includes complaints and whistleblowing procedures; internal and external audit, scrutiny and oversight from a number of external regulators. Any evidence of corruption should be brought to the attention of the Chief Executive immediately.

**Question of Councillor Peter Garbutt to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Bob Johnson)**

Q. The new Chief Executive has expressed the thought that Sheffield should be more ambitious. What are your ambitions for Sheffield?

- A. We must have a new vision for our city in a post COVID world. We must set out how we will support the vulnerable and create a more equal city. The pandemic has seen already stark inequalities in our city deepened. We can lay out an ambitious agenda to give our young people the start in life they deserve, to make the city carbon neutral, build a green economy, tackle our housing crisis and much more. There is much expertise to utilise within our city to come together to develop our vision

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**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

Q.1 What actions have you taken to support the workforce and owners of the Liberty Steel plant in Stocksbridge since the company issued a warning over its financial stability?

A.1 The Council has met with Liberty Steel and we are in touch about what support the Council may be able to provide. It is important to stress that Liberty are hopeful of a successful refinancing although we are watching the situation closely and will remain in touch with the company as things progress.

Q.2 Can you please name the Councillors and business leaders who will sit on the Steering Group to assess applications for the Economic Recovery Fund?

A.2 I wrote to all Councillors with this information on 19th March. The Councillors are Cllr Mazher Iqbal, Cllr Terry Fox, Cllr Tony Damms
The business leaders are Emma Marshall, Operations Director at 3Squared Ltd and Louisa Harrison-Walker, Director at The Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, CEO at Benchmark

Q.3 In the event that John Lewis decides to close its store on Barker's Pool before the break clause in its relatively new lease:

(a) does the contract make provision for the Council to claim back all or part of the £3m it has paid to restructure that lease?

(b) does the contract make provision for the Council to claim back all or part of its contribution towards store refurbishment?

A.3 Last year the Council paid John Lewis £3m, as independently valued, to buy them out of their old lease, thereby buying, that puts the Council in control and gave the Council the ability to offer John Lewis a new lease on modern terms with a capital contribution for refurbishment in return for a rental payment based on turnover, all to retain them in Sheffield.

If circumstances did change, any change to the lease would need our agreement.

John Lewis may plan to close the store, but they are still tied to a lease with The Council. If they want to bring that arrangement to an end there is a commercial arrangement to be agreed between the parties with a payment due from John Lewis, to exit the current lease. As we stated last week, there will be no financial loss to the council.

As reported in July 2020, the surrender of the old lease and grant of the new lease

included a capital contribution from the Council towards the refurbishment costs of the building. Monies were only to be released to John Lewis & Partners as works to the building were undertaken and completed. No works have started to date. Therefore, there is nothing to claim back.

Q.4 Since the Sheffield Business Recovery Plan identified the low level of business start-ups as a strategic weakness for the city, what actions has the Council taken to address this issue?

A.4 The Council delivers a range of workshops and 1:1 advice to start up and pre start up clients. We have recently been able to strengthen advisor capacity in conjunction with the SCR Growth Hub and we are exploring a range of other possible interventions as part of the City Region Renewal Action Plan.

We are supporting more start up enquiries than this time last year through the 'Launchpad' programme. Business Sheffield also recently hosted a Pop Up Business School with 60 start ups in attendance for a full weeks start up boot camp.

The council is also enabling key development projects which facilitate the creation of start up businesses, for example in the past year the Olympic Legacy Park has welcomed 24 new start up businesses as part of the AWRC. The Leah's Yard Scheme as part of the Heart of the City project will be a creative hub for independent businesses and the recently announced Cambridge Street Collective.

**Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

Q. In light of what we have learnt about during the pandemic, what plans are there to bring more 'Live Work Units' to Sheffield. They are designed to allow for living accommodation and work facilities for those residing therein.

A. There are already a small number of successful Live Work units in Sheffield. As part of our plans to see increased residential communities of different mixes of tenures and types in the central area, these are potential models that would be supported, however they will need to be delivered by the private sector. The potential for thing such as Live Work units will be increasingly included in area plans and discussions with potential developers.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

Q.1 What payments (i.e. how much) has the Council now made to John Lewis in respect of the surrender and re-grant of the lease of their Barker's Pool premises?

A.1 Last year the Council paid John Lewis £3m, as independently valued, to buy them out of their old lease, thereby buying, that puts the Council in control and gave the Council the ability to offer John Lewis a new lease on modern terms with a capital contribution for refurbishment in return for a rental payment based on turnover, all to retain them in Sheffield.

If circumstances did change, any change to the lease would need our agreement.

John Lewis may plan to close the store, but they are still tied to a lease with The Council. If they want to bring that arrangement to an end there is a commercial arrangement to be agreed between the parties with a payment due from John Lewis, to exit the current lease. As we stated last week, there will be no financial loss to the council.

Q.2 What further payments has the Council made to John Lewis since the re-grant of the lease?

A.2 None.

Q.3 How much of the committed sum of £21 million is to be paid to the John Lewis Partnership in total?

A.3 There is no committed sum of £21m.

Q.4 When?

A.4 N/a – see above.

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Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

The guidance in the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 **SETTING LOCAL SPEED LIMITS**, January 2013, states 'The National Government has set the 30 mph speed limit on roads with street lighting but the guidance makes clear these national limits are not, however, appropriate for all roads. The speed limit regime enables traffic authorities to set local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is different from the respective national speed limit. Local speed limits are determined by traffic authorities.'

Direction 11 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD 2002), as amended, defines the requirements for the placing of speed-limit repeater signs. This states that speed-limit repeater signs cannot be placed along a road on which there is carriageway lighting not more than 183 metres apart and which is subject to a 30mph speed limit. This direction applies regardless of how the speed limit has been imposed.

Q.1 I have been informed that if the speed limit on Abbey Lane/Whirlowdale Road is reduced to 30mph, it would be inherently more dangerous because speed-limit repeater signs cannot be used. Does this mean that the default speed for these roads was originally 30 mph and that the Council's Traffic Authority took steps to increase it to 40 mph?

A.1 No. The speed limit on Abbey Lane was originally national speed limit, as 60 mph for a rural road. In 1966, an Order was made to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on Whirlowdale Road and Abbey Lane.

Q.2 Is it in the Council's power to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph and what is the process for reducing it given these are roads with street lighting?

A.2 The Council is the Traffic Authority for roads within our jurisdiction, which includes the Abbey Lane and Whirlowdale Road, therefore yes we do have powers to set local speed limits. Setting speed limits requires a Traffic Regulation Order and any proposed change in the highway requires consultation with statutory stakeholders and consideration of the responses.

The presence of street lighting does not inherently mean a 30mph speed limit, as stipulated within the quoted DfT Circular. The classification of speed limits has to be consistent with a range of other factors, including the propensity for a driver to adhere to a speed limit based on the road geometry, type of traffic using it and interactions on the highway.

The Guidance reinforces throughout that traffic authorities can set speed limits on their roads in response to local risk factors and conditions and that respect the needs of all road users, the impact on community and

environmental outcomes. They should consider whether there are indications that an existing speed limit is appropriate for the type of road and mix of use by different groups of road users, including the presence or potential presence of vulnerable road users (including people walking, cycling or riding horses, or on motorbikes), or whether it needs to be changed.

In the case of Abbey Lane/Whirlowdale Road, the 40 mph speed limit promotes its use as an urban through route and prioritised the needs of motorists over the needs of other road users. The mix of road users has altered significantly over the past few years, attracting those on foot and cyclists from across Sheffield and beyond. The Guidance asks traffic authorities to keep their speed limits under review with changing circumstances.

Q.3 Do you accept that there is now a significant increase in the number of pedestrians as well as cyclists using the roads in question, meaning there is a significant change of circumstances since the 40mph was imposed and since the last review was conducted?

A.3

I fully accept that the use of our amazing public spaces, be it, woodlands, parks and countryside have seen a significant rise in popularity over the past 12 months. At Ecclesall Woods, the great work the Council has been doing, and continues to do at the Woodland Centre, mean it is likely to continue to be in high demand. **That's why, I am instructing a feasibility study into the provision of a crossing point in this location. This work will also include how this general road environment could be altered to meet the needs of the users of the area.**

Although pedestrian and cycle movements are considerations within the setting of speed limits, there are several other factors to consider. I appreciate that an increase in activity of these movements will influence the outcomes of the assessment, however, the other factors still remain and will need to be considered. This includes the history of collisions, road geometry and engineering, road function, existing traffic speeds and the road environment.

To confirm, following **this Council's commitment to look at crossing points in the area**, there could be change to the physical environment and an assessment on the speed limit will be included in that feasibility work.

Q.4 Will the Council now review the situation here with a view to reducing the speed limit on this stretch of road to 30 mph given the evidence that a significant number of people on foot and cyclists use this area on a daily basis?

A.4 As outlined previously, I have asked for a review of the speed limit to be undertaken as part of the study.

However, speed limits are only one element of speed management. Local speed limits should not be set in isolation and they should be part of a holistic package with

other measures. This will also raise the driver's awareness of their environment and reinforce the speed limit.

The Council's overall network management responsibilities dictate that measures to reduce speeding should have an impact at controlling **actual** vehicle speeds, that are consistent and help drivers to be more readily aware of the road environment. If it is set unrealistically low for the particular road function and condition, it may be ineffective and drivers may not comply with the speed.

As part of **my** commitment to look at the accessibility improvements in the Abbey Lane area, I will ask Officers to look at how the speed limit change could be included into a holistic package of measures and engage with colleagues at South Yorkshire Police.

Sheffield City Council is promoting Active Travel and the Outdoor City. It recognises that access to green spaces improves quality of life and mental health and well-being. The Guidance recognises that fear of traffic can affect peoples' quality of life and the needs of vulnerable road users must be fully taken into account in order to further encourage active forms of travel as well as easy access to green spaces.

Q.5 What action is being taken on Abbey Lane to facilitate active travel and to ensure all who wish to use the green spaces on both sides of Abbey Lane can safely access them and the Outdoor Discovery Centre and its facilities?

A.5 As said before, Ecclesall Woods and its connecting spaces are a great asset for the City and its citizens. Recognising this, the feasibility study into a crossing will be a positive start.

Q.6 How can a 40mph speed-limit repeater sign about 20 metres away from the entrance to facilities on one side of Abbey Lane opposite a crossing point from the other be justified when it fails to alert motorists to the fact that other road users will be encountered in this space, will need time to cross and a lower speed limit would be more appropriate?

A.6 The requirements for the placing of speed-limit repeater signs are defined in specific regulations and directions from the Department for Transport. This states that speed-limit repeater signs should be placed at regular distances and usually attached to lighting columns to avoid street clutter.

Q.7 Why is there no dropped curb or hard surface across the grass verge which would allow people to cross Abbey Lane more easily in the vicinity of the entrance to the Discovery Centre? This is where a significant number of people with mobility problems, pushing buggies, cycles or using wheelchairs try to cross, though not the only place.

A.7 This is a historic highway feature. However, my commitment to a crossing will take

all this into consideration.

Every request for safety measures to be put in place are met with similar responses. Namely that the speed limit will not be changed and that a driver's perception of what is appropriate for the road matters more than the perception of other road users.

Q.8 The Guidance recognises that drivers' perception is a factor and makes a number of recommendations on how this can be addressed. Has any thought been given to which of the recommendations would be appropriate in this location and what have been the conclusions?

A.8 The feasibility study, as a matter of our duty to abide by Department for Transport guidance, will need to be tested against all the criteria and guidance established by the DfT. Therefore all these matters will be considered for the specific purposes of this location and a conclusion will be drawn.

**Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Julie Grocutt
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

Q.1 Considering publication of "Bus Back Better - National Bus Strategy for England", what is the position of the Administration now to Bus Franchising and Bus Enhanced Partnerships?

A.1 Cllr Auckland has been involved in our previous discussions on the Sheffield Bus Charter, where he agreed that changes to the operating model of Sheffield's buses needs to be looked at. Part of this discussion was understanding how the SCR Bus Review links to Enhanced Partnerships and Franchising and how the Transport Authority (SCR Combined Authority) can work with the City Council to deliver improvements to the people and businesses of Sheffield.

We are therefore engaged in these discussions and at a regional level, as we need to look at how we can make things better for the travelling public. These discussions are ongoing in response to the National Bus Strategy and the requirements that this places on us will not be a Sheffield decision alone and is required to be regional position.

Q.2 Have negotiations concluded for the Planning Service Reforms, which seem like they have been underway for several years?

A.2 The proposed restructure for the Planning service (MER 476) was paused along with other change processes last year as a result of COVID. The MER remains paused, but joint discussions with Unions have now recommenced. The service delivery changes that were proposed as part of that MER have also been paused, subject to ongoing discussions.

Q.3 I refer to the meeting on 4th March of the MCA Transport and Environment Board, from which I note there are difficulties in delivering the Transforming Cities Fund program, and others perhaps. Please list, in respect of Sheffield, the state of delivery against profile of schemes, and mitigation of risks, as applicable, i.e. are we delivering on our commitments at least? Is there a risk of clawback by DFT?

The funds are:-

Active Travel Emergency Fund 1

Active Travel Emergency Fund 2

Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 1

Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2

A.3 For all the funds outlined, we are working to complete the projects within the given timelines of the respective funding agreements. The Council and the project teams associated with delivering the projects are accurately reporting timescales and are discussing the implications with the funders (Sheffield City Region). All actions to mitigate are taking place, including early contractor involvement and close coordination with other projects. On projects that were already underway restrictions on workforce, delivery of goods, etc have had impacts but mitigation is in place.

It should be noted that Sheffield's schemes are ambitious as we want to see transformational change of the city's transport infrastructure. The Connecting Sheffield plans show this ambition. These are not easy schemes to promote and require detailed engagement with stakeholders to help our partners, communities and businesses truly shape the City's future. Engagement was therefore delayed due to a global pandemic, as well as a number of important survey works the . At this time, despite all the challenges and changes faced, we continue to make good progress on our programme and are working closely with SCR to ensure successful delivery..

Q.4 I note that only Barnsley MDC submitted a reserve list of schemes which could be delivered. Why did not Sheffield make a submission?

A.4 There was no formal requirement for reserve schemes to be submitted. Our focus is on delivering our existing transformational programmes of work. This requires significant levels of resource and by focusing on these projects, greater benefit will be realised in the long term.

Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Q. There are numerous "to let" boards, mainly in student areas, which remain in situ as permanent fixtures. Predominantly in Crookes, Broomhall and Ecclesall Road areas.

Clearly, they cause numerous problems for neighbours, aesthetically displeasing on the street scene, security issues, specifically outside University terms when student houses are more likely to be empty.

Many local authorities, including Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Newcastle and Lincoln have stopped these permanent “to let” boards being erected or have enacted a code for their use.

Is there a plan to work with landlords and put together a code to address this?

- A. Planning have enforcement powers regarding letting boards under the Town and Country Planning Act, which states that letting boards should be taken down 14 days after the completion of a grant of a tenancy.

A project led by Housing was undertaken 2 years ago for housing working with Planning colleagues to provide a dedicated resource to carry out intensive enforcement with landlords & letting agents in hot spot geographical locations at a cost of £100k per year however, this would be an additional cost to the Council which could not be taken forward.

The Housing SNUG Accreditation Scheme (this is an accredited scheme for landlords of student housing) do cover this and we encourage landlords to not keep up letting boards. SNUG has membership that covers over 20,000 student accommodation in the city (includes purpose built student homes in city centre and HMO's in local neighbourhoods).

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

- Q. I raised the issue of providing non-idling signs on Cairns Road and Selbourne Road in Crosspool. I was informed they were not priority locations, priority locations being outside care homes, hospitals and schools.**

Will you reconsider this decision as there is a care home on Selbourne Road and will erecting the signs be made an urgent priority?

- A. We will ensure that officers visit the site to observe the current situation outside and in the vicinity of Cairn Home on Selbourne Road. Should this indicate that anti-idling signs would be of benefit we will arrange for their provision.**

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

- Q.1 A number of Graves Park Ward constituents have contacted me to suggest a timed ticket entry system is introduced at the Household Waste Re-cycling Centres - they have Blackstock Road in mind particularly where queuing has become a problem again. I appreciate this has been looked at, but in the light of recent problems, and seasonal increase in demand, will you look again at this issue?**

- A.1 Having reviewed the appointment systems at other authorities, we are very mindful of the further constrictions such systems actually deliver in terms of access to Household Waste Recycling Centres. An appointment system means we will have to prescribe the amount of time for every visit, providing sufficient time for people to unload – when in reality some customers may only be on site for a few minutes. Therefore an appointment system is likely to mean further reductions to the numbers able to access the sites each day. Clearly, this would be counter-productive and cause further frustration to customers.**

- Q.2 Do you agree, that in principle, such a system has merits and is far preferable to imposing financial penalties on residents trying to ‘do the right thing’?**

- A.2 We are asking customers to do the right thing and not queue on double yellow lines outside some of our household waste recycling centres. The yellow lines reflect it is not a safe place to have standing traffic. And the right thing is to keep the traffic flow safe.**

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mark Jones
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

Q.1 Which actions identified in the Arup report for the Council to carry out have now been initiated ?

A.1 The Council is progressing a number of actions which have been identified in reports produced by Arup and Ricardo.

We have also secured funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which will enable us to take action as below;

- Town Hall – new Trend BMS system, centrally linked to energy team system. LED lighting throughout (combination of new fittings and lamp replacement). TRV's to all radiators.

- Moor Market – Roof mounted Solar PV (expected annual output 30,400kWh). LED lighting to all backroom spaces, offices.

- Acres Hill Store – Installation of 2 x Air Source Heat Pumps. Fit new LED lighting. Install roof mounted Solar PV (expected annual output 19,000kWh).

- Netherthorpe Primary School - Installation of 3 x Air Source Heat Pumps new radiators, pipework, TRV's at main school site to create a bi-valent heating system. Installation of 1 x Air Source Heat Pump to sports hall. LED lighting throughout.

We are also investing in electric vehicle recharging infrastructure and providing local businesses with the opportunity to trial electric vehicles such as vans and taxis.

Q.2 Is it still a firm commitment of Sheffield City Council to reach net zero carbon by 2030?

A.2 Yes our commitment is unchanged

Q.3 Does the Council have any plans to apply for further funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for 2021-22?

A.3 Bids for funding under Phase 2 of the Scheme are due to open in April 2021, and details of the criteria have yet to be confirmed, although discussions with the scheme administrators indicate a different approach to the first phase, in that a whole building approach to decarbonising heat is anticipated, for replacing fossil fuelled (gas, oil) heating systems that are at the end of their serviceable life with a low carbon alternative.

Q.4 If so, what is to be included in the bid?

A.4 Until details of the criteria for Phase 2 of the Scheme are confirmed it is not possible to be certain

Q.5 How many Councillors from each party group attended the recent carbon literacy training arranged for all Councillors?

A.5 I will provide you with a written answer to this question

**Question of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Mark Jones
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

Q. What plans are there to roll out carbon literacy training to Sheffield City Council staff?

A We are currently exploring this option

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

Q.1 Who pays for the event security and the traffic enforcement officers at the tip, Sheffield City Council or Veolia?

A.1 The cost of the event staff supporting safe traffic flow outside the Household Waste Recycling Centres is being claimed as part of our additional costs of managing services through the pandemic

Q.2 How much does Sheffield pay for its citizens' bins to be emptied, per head of population, and how does this compare to other cities?

A.2 2021/22 Council tax leaflet explains for a Band A rated property (58% of Sheffield housing stock) £5.93 is spent on emptying bins, disposal and recycling.
2019/20 actual spend on waste and recycling collections £15.3m
Approx. population 555k = £27.55 per head.
Includes all capital (bins and vehicles) and overhead such as supervision and systems staffing.
We don't hold any comparative data for core cities.

Q.3 Is it really beneficial to be fining people who want to dispose of their waste responsibly when they stop on yellow lines, when this could encourage more people to fly tip?

A.3 The double yellow lines outside some of our household waste recycling centres are there to reflect – that this is not a safe place for vehicles to be stood queuing. We ask customers to recognise this is for their own and other road users safety. It is only when we are unable to secure co-operation that a fixed penalty notice is issued.

Q.4 The Lumb, a woodland ravine in my Ward of Gleadless Valley, has the worst fly tipping in the city. It is an informal landfill site. Meet me there to see it for yourself and I'm sure you will be as devastated as I am. During the last decade the Parks Department has had its funding slashed, yet Veolia has not. Will you promise to make whatever it costs to clear it available immediately?

A.4 We have been successful in securing over £3.5m saving/ year from the Veolia contract – without changes/ reductions to front line services.

Q.5 The household waste sites in Sheffield are open drastically less than other nearby authorities. This leads to increased fly tipping and dangerous, polluting queues outside the sites.

Household waste open times in minutes/person/year

Doncaster 2.76

Liverpool 2.1

Leeds 1.98

Greater Manchester 1.74

Sheffield 1.08

Will you increase the times they are open to the same levels as Manchester; 10 hours a day in winter and 12 hours a day in summer, 7 days a week? Taking the number of sites into account, this will raise the average opening time per capita to the same levels as Leeds and Liverpool.

A.5 We currently have significant restrictions to the number of people on site at anyone time at our household waste recycling centres to enable them to continue to operate safely for staff and customers through the pandemic. Opening our sites for 10 hours during the winter months will not alleviate this demand and would be a waste of public money.

We have recently announced additional capacity with both Beighton and Blackstock road opening 7 days a week, additional hours will be added depending on demand

Q.6 Will you consider introducing a booking system for people visiting the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)?

A.6 Having reviewed the appointment systems at other authorities, we are very mindful of the further constrictions such systems actually deliver in terms of access to Household Waste Recycling Centres. An appointment system means we will have

to prescribe the amount of time for every visit, providing sufficient time for people to unload – when in reality some customers may only be on site for a few minutes. Therefore, an appointment system is likely to mean further reductions to the numbers able to access the sites each day. Clearly, this would be counter-productive and cause further frustration to customers.

Q.7 A bin lorry driver told me that he usually has to wait at the incinerator to unload due to lines of lorries from out of town ahead of him. How many lorries are coming to Sheffield importing waste and what size are they?

A.7 The Energy Recovery Facility is operating within the parameters of its current planning permission, which allows for the treatment of waste from the sub-region. The number and size of vehicles depositing material each day will vary. The majority of vehicle movements at the site are the 20 or so collection vehicles operating each day to collect Sheffield's household waste that hasn't been segregated for recycling.

Q.8 What monitoring information does the Council receive in relation to litter bins that are not emptied?

A.8 All highway litter bins with fill level sensors fitted inside them automatically generate report at 3pm every single day. If the bin has more than 70% litter within it then a job for attendance is raised. The Council has visibility of the data from this platform. In addition, all reports of full litter bins from customers and SCC teams are reported through the self-monitoring contract on a monthly basis.

The pandemic has presented an unprecedented challenge in terms of highway litter bin emptying, as the shift to outdoor socialising and a huge uptake in the use of single-use items for food and drink has driven demand far above usual baselines. There have been months in the last year where we have emptied more bins than we would do in a typical full year. Our teams have worked throughout all of the lock downs, including 6 teams working overnight on bin emptying every night to respond to this challenge.

Q.9 Streets Ahead and the Highways Department are notorious for slow responses to Members' emails. What will you do to make sure they are open and transparent, prompt, and supply Members with the information we require?

A.9 Both Streets Ahead and the teams across the Council's Highways functions work to the same council standards for responses. Sometimes questions raised do need several teams to input and therefore this can take some time to co-ordinate. It is important we try and give the right answer in a timely manner not just an answer in the quickest time possible.

Q.10 In the snow and ice this year, it was common to see people walking in the road, often with young children, due to the treacherous condition of the foot paths. What non-road paths are Amey contracted to grit in icy weather, other than the city centre?

A.10 This year our priority order has been:

- ☐ Hospital site perimeters and accesses
- ☐ In and around COVID vaccination centres
- ☐ In and around COVID test centres
- ☐ City Centre Retail Areas
- ☐ Principal Shop Sites
- ☐ District Shop sites

Q.11 In February Members questions, you gave an answer to: How many complaints has the Council had about slippery pavements and roads since the Streets Ahead contract began? However, your search term was “slipp” which would exclude any complaints with the word “slip”. Can you provide updated figures please? Please provide data by year.

A.11 Written answer to follow

Q.12 Also in February, you answered a question about road surfacing with: “All Bituminous coated materials laid on the Sheffield PFI meet the specification set out in the contract and comply with BS EN 13108. Streets Ahead employ competent contractors who are quality assured and carry out regular checks to ensure high standards are maintained.” Please can you explain then why so many of the newly resurfaced roads have already failed?

A.12 The profile of resurfaced roads which may need monitoring for deterioration is not outside the parameters of industry standards or the specification within the Streets Ahead contract, which is available on our website. There is no single reason for road surfaces to fail.

Q.13 Also in February, you said that 1,068 new road signs had been installed by Streets Ahead “in” (assuming you meant “by”) 2020. And that all 1,068 had been maintained. Can you please specify what maintenance has been undertaken to all 1,068 signs and please categorise what exact maintenance has been done?

A.13 The figure quoted is correct. Written response to be sought from Amey if good use of time to provide the record of maintenance of 1,068 signs.

Q.14 How much does a road sign cost to be installed and maintained by Streets Ahead? Please give a breakdown if different types of signs have different costs.

A.14 Written response to follow.

Q.15 In February I asked: How many streets have not been resurfaced since the start of the Streets Ahead contract in 2012? and you replied “There is a total of 10.5m sqm of carriageway and 5.3m sqm of footways that have now been resurfaced” Can you please answer the original question of how many, in sqm if you prefer, streets and footways have not been resurfaced.

A.15 We provided the data we hold.

**Questions of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Mark Jones
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate
Change)**

Q.1 What practical steps has the Council taken to cut carbon emissions since February 2020, in order to get closer to meeting its target of being carbon neutral by 2030?

A.1 The Council is progressing a number of actions which will cut carbon emissions:

We have secured funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which will enable us to take action as below;

- Town Hall – new Trend BMS system, centrally linked to energy team system. LED lighting throughout (combination of new fittings and lamp replacement). TRV's to all radiators.
- Moor Market – Roof mounted Solar PV (expected annual output 30,400kWh). LED lighting to all backroom spaces, offices.
- Acres Hill Store – Installation of 2 x Air Source Heat Pumps. Fit new LED lighting. Install roof mounted Solar PV (expected annual output 19,000kWh).
- Netherthorpe Primary School - Installation of 3 x Air Source Heat Pumps new radiators, pipework, TRV's at main school site to create a bi-valent heating system. Installation of 1 x Air Source Heat Pump to sports hall. LED lighting throughout.

We are also investing in electric vehicle recharging infrastructure and providing local businesses with the opportunity to trial electric vehicles such as vans and taxis.

Q.2 Many former grass verges are now mostly or completely mud, and so much green space within the city has been lost as a consequence. Is Amey

contracted to replace turf that has been damaged by, for example, vehicles parking?

- A.2 Some grass verges are muddy. This may be because local residents park on them. Amey does reseed and I have seen verges that Amey have reseeded.

Q.3 What do you see as the principal purpose of the city's grass verges?

- A.3 Important part of urban drainage and support for bio-diversity of our city.

**Question of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Mark Jones
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate
Change)**

Q. With the Connecting Sheffield scheme, what measures of impact assessment will the Council take, in particular with communities that will be affected by the change?

- A. I can confirm that all of the schemes developed as part of the Connecting Sheffield programme will be subject to, and informed by, an Equalities Impact Assessment. In addition, each of the schemes promoted is undergoing full consultation through our Commonplace online platform, letters sent to all properties in the vicinity of the schemes, and online engagement meetings with specific user groups.

The Business Case submission requires detailed traffic modelling to which the assessment of the related impacts are quantified. This is an industry technique of assessing the costs and benefits of the proposals and considers the economic, social and environmental changes associated with the schemes in the programme.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mark Jones
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate
Change)**

Q. In the carbon literacy training we both attended, the trainer mentioned how the suggestion of changing the Christmas free car parking subsidy to a Christmas public transport subsidy would represent a good change in addressing the climate emergency and our footprint as a city. Will the Administration commit, this year, to take this cost-neutral step of changing the car parking subsidy to a public transport subsidy?

- A. Every year the Council does provide financial support to ensure that key bus services that many people rely upon for work, to visit family and friends, or for other leisure purposes can continue to run. These services operate on Boxing Day and

New Years Day when without financial support Bus Operators have indicated that they would not operate these services.

We will soon be reviewing the festive offer for people travelling at Christmas and how this can continue to best support the city centre in our recovery from Covid-19 and our ambitions to take action on climate change.

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Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

Q. During the Summer 2020, we saw a dramatic increase in rubbish in our parks and with spring weather coming I anticipate this will become a problem again. Are the Council looking at innovative ways to tackle litter in our parks, such as Fin the Fish in Scarborough which is a sculpture that is also a receptacle for plastic recycling, managed and emptied by the Council?

A. Last year the Parks team responded to an unprecedented increase in both use of parks and also the amount of litter that was left by visitors. The learning from that period is being used again this year as we anticipate similar usage of our parks. We have already begun to increase the provision of bins (both permanent and temporary) as the warmer weather has started to bring people back to our green spaces. We are keen to look at innovative ways of encouraging people to either dispose of their litter responsibly or to take it home.

In order to help people stay safe as Covid restrictions continue to be eased we also have a small number of patrols happening in parks to encourage people to use the spaces safely with appropriate social distancing and to support good practices for litter management.

We also have a small seasonal workforce who join us through the summer. This year we have planned for additional litter requirements in most of our parks and will use our staff to support this work.

Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

Q.1 Will you accept the ask from the OurBodiesOurStreets petition ([Lighting Our Parks](#)) and commit to reviewing the amount of lighting in parks and to improving this where needed to enable women to safely exercise in evenings and during winter?

A.1 Yes. We are committed to supporting women to remain and feel safe in parks across the city at any time regardless of the time of year. We are looking at the best ways of doing this, including talking to a variety of people and groups who are interested in developing the most appropriate ways of achieving improvements to women's safety and, as importantly, 'feeling safe' in the city's parks. We will also look to learn from examples of best practice used elsewhere in the country.

As well as lighting there are number of other measures we continue to progress to improve the safety of women, and everyone, using parks. An example of which is opening up sight-lines into and within parks (usually through the removal of sight-line obstacles such as overgrown foliage – especially in the proximity of main access paths and recreational facilities).

Q.2 Can Sheffield City Council list on their website which parks are lit up, and show a detailed map of whereabouts in the park the lights are? It would also help to put this information in a notice at park entrances.

A.2 Yes. We will ensure this information is provided on the website. We will certainly look at where the information can be displayed in the local area (this may differ for each park).

Q.3 Will the Parks Department consider installing a greater number of exits in fenced-off spaces? If a woman finds herself in the daunting situation of approaching a man or group of men in her path, more exits mean she is more likely to have the option of taking an alternative route, should she not want to approach them nor be forced back the way she came. Parks with more exits feel much safer to walk in.

A.3 We will certainly consider the suggestion made alongside reviewing lighting in parks. There are multiple factors that need to be considered in making parks and open spaces safer for women. Women's safety is a very important and complex issue that we need to give focus to. We are doing this in Parks and Countryside alongside our colleagues, partners and the people of Sheffield.

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

- Q. Do you have any further information on the Council's plans for spending the £544,498 from central government for Covid community champions?
- A. This question will be answered by Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

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Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

- Q.** Education is an important part of a young person's development, creating opportunities and a roadmap for the future. Unfortunately, this future is being hampered for young people who need the education system the most.

The issue around young people accessing SEND provision, in particular Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs), is at a critical level in Sheffield. The staff in this area of service provision are hugely stretched and need help.

Everyday a young person is not provided the education needed damages their future, which cannot be allowed to happen.

Will you and the Council declare an emergency and address this issue immediately?

- A.** Following the local area SEND inspection in 2018, we have worked to improve SEND provision and support across the city. This includes work with schools and education partners and improvement to local authority services and processes.

Against a backdrop of historic under funding of the designated schools grant high needs block; the monies provided by government to support children with additional needs, we have increased specialist placements in the city, funding for SEND in mainstream education and invested in local authority services to provide advice and support, including the assessment and delivery of EHC Plans.

We have seen recent increases in the allocation of funding by government in the past couple of years. The High Needs National Funding Formula suggests that Sheffield should receive £81 million in 2021/22. Based on a historic settlement arrangement it is set at £75.5 million. This means that we continue to have a £5.5 million shortfall in the amount government have said we should be provided with and the amount they have put in place. This will be a further year with a substantial shortfall in the funding we are assessed as requiring and the funding we have been provided.

Sheffield continues to see an increase in children with SEN across the city, including a consistent growth in the request for EHC Plans and for specialist provision. This is adding pressure on an already pressurised system. We will continue to seek the best ways to meet the needs of all children with SEN, including seeking to invest in services to support them.

We must and will continue to improve support for children with SEND. We are working with partners across education, health and care; with schools, early years and post-16 settings and with young people and parents to make sure that we address the SEN needs of children in the city.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Q.1 Can you update me in regards to Council housing repairs on the number of sub-contractors that have now been employed by the Council to deal with the Council housing repair backlog?

A.1 We are currently investing an additional £1million pounds with 16 subcontracting companies of which 90% are from within the Sheffield City boundaries to tackle the repairs backlog.

Q.2 Has the Council assessed whether it meets its own standards as a landlord to Council tenants against its own licensing criteria for private landlords? Does it meet its own standards?

A.2 Yes the Council adheres to the national regulatory standards for Council housing and published service standards.

Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Q.1 When can we expect a further report to Cabinet on Local Area Committees outlining their proposed boundaries?

A.1 This is the next stage of the project and work will take place after the PERP period.

Q.2 When will the equality impact assessment into Local Area Committees be carried out and reported?

A.2 The EIA was added to the cabinet papers here:
<https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s44030/EIA.pdf>

As the EIA itself makes clear, it is a live document and has to be because the Local Area Committees are intended to continue to develop over time. This will include working with communities in every part of the city on the development of LACs in their area. The geographical coverage of LACs has not yet been defined and this will need to be fully reflected in the EIA, including assessing the demographic characteristics of each area. Further, we will also need to fully consider the implications for different communities in the city as powers and funding are devolved to LACs over the next 12-18 months.

Q.3 How does the Council intend to follow the Gunning principles on consultation with regard to proposals around the new Local Area Committees?

A.3 Following the principles of the Big City Conversation, more detailed engagement plans are currently being developed.

Q.4 With the amendment to cover the costs of replacing dangerous cladding of buildings below 18 metres being defeated by the Government, what is the Council's response to this defeat which leaves many Sheffield residents in unsafe homes unless they stump up the huge costs to replace cladding?

A.4 This is a very disappointing outcome for the city. The Council has committed to and will continue to work with Government to assist building owners/ managing agents to secure any external grant funding available to reduce leaseholder bills and how the Council can support Leaseholders facing the overwhelming costs for remediation works. This is a national issue / scandal that requires a solution from Central Government. The Council is also:

- Providing support where required to owners and managing agents to ensure that they are meeting regulations and supporting leaseholders facing hardship
- Council website in development and forum with up to date information, to improve access help and support that is available to support leaseholders and, points of contact within the council for support
- Council supports the leaseholder support groups – UK Cladding Group and Sheffield Cladding Action Group etc.
- Weekly dialogue with Govt by Director of Housing on leaseholder matters and securing external funding for city leaseholders and buildings
- Asking developers and agents to provide the information being requested by residents/ leaseholders

Q.5 How will the Council support leaseholders in buildings below 18 metres who are facing astronomical bills to cover the cost of replacing cladding themselves?

A.5 The Council is presently reviewing buildings 11m-18m and what materials they have been constructed with and, working with Govt to identify funding to support this work. However, the city has thousands of buildings that have been constructed over the years at these heights and a huge data collection exercise is required to be undertaken. This will be phased based on level of risk with those with external cladding materials installed first.

Q.6 What is the current waiting time for a Council housing repair from the Repairs and Maintenance Service?

A.6 The current waiting times are:
Emergency 4 hours, Urgent 24 hours and routine repairs up to 25 days

Q.7 What is the current backlog of Council housing repairs in the Repairs and Maintenance Service?

A.7 We currently have 8067 live repairs. In a typical week we get 2000 repairs, so this equates to 4 weeks work in hand.

Q.8 When do you expect this backlog to be cleared?

A.8 Since the 8th March we have been working on reducing the backlog prior to taking any new appointments for routine repairs from the 12th April. We are currently investing an additional £1million pounds with 16 subcontracting companies of which 90% are from within the Sheffield City boundaries to tackle the repairs backlog.

Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Q. There are numerous “to let” boards, mainly in student areas, which remain in situ as permanent fixtures. Predominantly in Crookes, Broomhall and Ecclesall Road areas.

Clearly, they cause numerous problems for neighbours, aesthetically displeasing on the street scene, security issues, specifically outside University terms when student houses are more likely to be empty.

Many local authorities, including Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Newcastle and Lincoln have stopped these permanent “to let” boards being erected or have enacted a code for their use.

Is there a plan to work with landlords and put together a code to address this?

A. This question is to be answered by Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Q.1 Will Sheffield City Council join Newham Council in committing to scrutinise new building applications from developers to include whether their existing buildings have unresolved fire safety issues e.g. cladding, compartmentation etc.?

A.1 The Council is presently working with the Fire Service, Building owners and Managing agents to identify buildings over 18m with any remediation requirements that do not comply with regulations. Any new applications will be scrutinised by the Council. However, it is for the building owner contract management arrangements & approved building inspector to provide final sign off and the Council can only do this if the Council is the Approved Inspector.

Q.2 Will Sheffield City Council commit to have officers report regularly to the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the work to remove combustible cladding from residential properties, and address other serious fire safety issues like compartmentation, in Sheffield?

A.2 Yes and with SYFR. However, the Council cannot disclose any information that would place the Council in breach of data regulations.

Q.3 Will the Council commit to informing all Councillors of buildings within their Wards where the Council is aware they have fire safety issues such as compartmentation, flammable cladding etc.?

A.3 It is for building owners and management agents to provide this information.

Q.4 In February, you committed to provide a written answer on the number of private buildings in Sheffield you were aware of, where residents are currently unable to obtain an adequate EWS1 form. When do you expect to answer this?

A.4 The Council does not hold this information.

Q.5 Will Sheffield Council pledge to support the 10 Steps To End Our Cladding Scandal, available at <https://endourcladdingscandal.org/campaign-aims/>?

A.5 Yes this is supported by SCC.

Q.6 When do you expect to complete your review of the Local Area Partnerships?

A.6 The review of LAPs has completed culminating in the production of the Cabinet report – Empowering Communities through Local Area Committees.

Q.7 What are the main findings of your review?

A.7 Local Area Committees need to be established to ensure Sheffield citizen's feel 'engaged, empowered and enabled'.

Q.8 Will you publish your report?

A.8 Published as a Cabinet report on 9.3.2021

**Question of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Paul Wood
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

Q. Overcrowding was one of the elements of inequality that contributed to the members of the BAME communities being affected by Covid-19. What plans does the Council have to address this issue?

A. Response:

Where overcrowding is reported the housing team will investigate if there is a statutory breach and work with families to address (and their landlords), take statutory enforcement action where necessary.

The most comprehensive evidence on overcrowding in Sheffield we have is from the Census in 2011. The 2011 census found that 4.7% of households in the city were overcrowded, in that they had at least one bedroom fewer than the household composition suggests they needed. Rates for BAME communities were higher than this, for example 13% of 'Asian/Asian British household's, 13% of 'Black/African/Caribbean/Black British' households and 18% of households in the 'other ethnic group' category. (2011 Census survey ethnicity options.)

Analysis by neighbourhood indicates that highest rates are in Burngreave, City Centre, Darnall, Fir Vale and Woodside. Rates were higher for renters (social and private) than for owner occupiers. The levels of overcrowding are driven by a lack of affordability and in some cases limited availability of larger properties.

Ways in which the Council is able to tackle overcrowding include;

Through the lettings policy.

- Households who meet the criteria for 'statutory overcrowding' are given priority for rehousing. This is a different measure to the citywide rates based on census returns quoted above.
- There are currently (26.03.21) 23 households with a rehousing priority due to statutory overcrowding. 17 of the 23 are BAME, again suggesting that this issue particularly on BAME communities.
- 9 households with a statutory overcrowding priority have been rehoused so far in 2021.
- The 7 households who required a 2 or 3 bedroom property to ease their overcrowding had waited on average 25 weeks since their priority was awarded.
- The 2 households who required a 4 bedroom property had waited an average of 97 weeks. This emphasises the shortage of 4 bed homes. Priority applicants are always given preference for 4 bedroom homes that become available.

Through the Stock increase programme

- The Council's Stock increase programme will deliver 3,100 new build or new acquisitions over its 10 year programme and by Housing Association development programmes in the city. All these homes will help provide good quality affordable accommodation for residents.
- A lack of 4 bed family homes has been recognised as a priority for the Stock Increase Programme, and 4 bedroom homes are included in the mix of properties on all appropriate sites.

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Paul Wood
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

Q.1 What is the financial breakdown of spending on the Gleadless Valley Masterplan?

A.1 Gleadless Valley Grant Funding - £515,000

The table below details the anticipated expenditure of the grant funding at the start of the project and the actual spend to date (£504k)

Estimated Budget	Amount	Spend to date
Delivery of communication and engagement strategy	£100k	£58,746
Masterplan of area, officer time and consultant	£245k	£288,715

Technical studies /options appraisals and feasibility studies for intervention areas	£120k	£118,610
Planning advice, briefs/ designs for schemes	£50k	£38,451

The £515,000 of grant funding has enabled the Council to develop draft masterplan proposals that could see tens of millions of pounds of investment being spent in Gleadless Valley.

£76.5m of funding has been identified within Council resources to deliver improvements to housing and green spaces across the valley. A more transformational option has been explored but this would require additional funding of £46.5 which is currently not identified within Council resources.

Q.2 On what and to whom, has the money been spent? Please provide a breakdown.

A.2 Please see attached spreadsheet at the end of these answers.



Cllr enquiry finance
response March 21.xls

Q.3 Has all of the £515,000 been accounted for? Has it all been spent?

A.3 All of the £515,000 has been accounted for and will be spent by early 2021

Q.4 When can we expect to see the Gleadless Valley Masterplan going to its next stage of consultation?

A.4 We expect to start consultation with those residents who may be most affected by the draft housing proposals in Summer 2021. The final consultation on the masterplan is expected to take place in Autumn 2021.

Q.5 When can we expect to see the finished Masterplan?

A.5 We expect to publish the final masterplan in 21/22 with works being delivered over a 10-15 year period if approved.

Q.6 Are there still Gleadless Valley Masterplan meetings being organised without the invitation being extended to all Gleadless Valley Ward Councillors, of all political groups, or was this just something that was happening in 2019?

A.6 No, we are not aware that there have been any meetings organised without the invitation being extended to all Gleadless Valley Ward Councillors.

Q.7 Why were emails from August 2019 originally kept secret rather than being released under FOI rules? What grounds were there to justify the incorrect withholding of information, according to the ICO ruling, when it was said “Councillor Wood was acting in his own capacity as a representative of his constituents” when you are not a Councillor for Gleadless Valley Ward and so have no constituents there?

A.7 The emails relating to the arrangement of the Green Space Workshop on 13 August 2019 were withheld under lawful exceptions in the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This is a parallel information rights regime to Freedom of Information.

The requestor complained about the exceptions and cited guidance from the Information Commissioner’s Office. There is an exception for the personal information of third parties which can be invoked for constituency casework. This exception was wrongly applied in the initial response because none was caught in the scope of the request. Cllr Wood was communicating with fellow councillors and officers as part of the official business of the council.

The complaint by the requestor enabled a re-evaluation of the response and a full disclosure of all the information was made, except for the names and contact details of individuals other than those who were heads of service or higher.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Paul Wood
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

Q. Can Sheffield City Council create a space online where women can report areas in the city where they do not feel safe and where more security and improvements would be beneficial? Currently, the accepted solution is for women to avoid those places altogether, but I hope you agree that this is an extremely unjust and outdated attitude. Please note the harassment map (hyperlink below) created by OurBodiesOurStreets, sadly showing the amount of sexual harassment in Sheffield.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1eIFRsEbWQIx6DW3HEfhaisbiH_7GZnRM&ll=53.38393312169015%2C-1.5046773862863438&z=12https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1eIFRsEbWQIx6DW3HEfhaisbiH_7GZnRM&ll=53.38393312169015%2C-1.5046773862863438&z=12

A. We are currently putting together a consultation using citizen space around domestic violence and violence against women and girls and will include questions about safety linked to street harassment and violence. We can then identify areas and issues of most concern and consider where more security and improvements could be beneficial. We can consider your suggestion alongside the feedback from the consultation to ensure we put in place actions to address the fear of avoiding certain areas. It is however vital that people continue to report any incidents to the police so appropriate

action can be taken.

**Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Paul Wood
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

- Q. Do you have any further information on the Council's plans for spending the £544,498 from central government for Covid community champions?**
- A. This was not a grant, it was a bid made to the MHCLG to support people shown to be most at risk from Coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from an ethnic minority background to follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves and those around them. There is a clear plan in place to work with the local VCFS organisations across the city to create the role of Community Champions, linked to the Local Community Response teams. The Community Champions will be volunteers, drawn from the local communities; trained, developed and supported by their Local Community Response Team. We aim to recruit 80 Community Champions.

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Gleadless Valley Grant Expenditure to date

Budget Heading	Supplier
<i>External Consultants</i>	Urbed
	Turner Townsend
	Met Geo
<i>Staffing Costs</i>	Sheffield City Council
<i>Internal Services</i>	
Communications	Sheffield City Council
Planning	Sheffield City Council
CDS	Sheffield City Council
Urban and Environmental Design	Sheffield City Council
Miscellaneous	
Transport	Clarity Travel Management/ Staff costs
Stationary	Lyreco UK Ltd
Room Hire	Reach
Catering	Hazel's catering
Entertainment	De Sportz & Dance
Conferences	HQN
Vouchers	Meadowhall Centre
Community Commissions	
Bids for grant	FOTV
Bids for grant	GVWT
Bids for grant	Reach
Bids for grant	Together Women
Bids for grant	Heeley City Farm
Bids for grant	Regather
Total	

Goods	Amount	Total
Masterplanning consultancy	49175	
Quantity Surveying Services and Architectural designs	75408	
Topographical surveys	24190	
Total	148773	
Project Team	239,540	
Advice, design, consultation materials, mailing	30,616	
Planning advice / mapping / brief	9583	
Costing of proposals/procurement advice/ surveys	19012	
Green space audit and green space project designs	28868	
Total	88,079	
Public transport	541	
Stationary	565.00	
Room Hire	250	
Catering for consultation events	1298	
Entertainment consultaiton event	25	
Conferences	428	
Consultation	270	
Total	3377	
Community proposals	3506	
Community proposals	5990	
Community proposals	1000	
Community proposals	1757	
Community proposals	5000	
Community proposals	7500	
	24753	
	Total	504,522
Budget		515,000
Remaining		10,478

**Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q.1 How many fines have been issued to drivers whilst they are trying to use household recycling sites?

A.1 33

Q.2 Please list all fines issued and their location?

A.2 I will provide you with a written answer to this question

**Question of Councillor Sue Auckland to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q. Do we expect AMEY to settle trade invoices promptly, and especially when sub-contracting with local small businesses, in line with the Council's own policies? Are AMEY placed under a contractual obligation or otherwise? Is performance in respect of such payments monitored?

A. Yes

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q.1 What financial advice did the Administration receive about spending £650,000 of reserves on Local Area Committees and the impact on the Council's financial resources?

A.1 The financial implications of the decision were set out in the report.

Q.2 What other options were considered for resourcing this spending?

A.2 What other options were considered for resourcing this spending?

Other sources of funding would have required re-prioritisation or cuts to other services, so were considered, but discounted. The use of reserves is expected to be short term and to support the set up and initial development of Local Area Committees. Any longer term investment will be built into future budgets.

Q.3 Do you consider such spending to be prudent?

A.3 Yes

Q.4 What steps have been taken in respect of Local Area Committees since the date of the full Council meeting on 18th March, 2021?

A.4 I was pleased that council supported our new ambitious proposals for Local Area Committees, less than two weeks ago. We are continuing to do more work to develop and implement the new committees, work is ongoing

Q.5 How many payments from the Local Assistance Scheme have been made in 2020-21?

A.5 981

Q.6 What is the total sum of these paid out this year?

A.6 £647,000

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

Q.1 How many outstanding FOI requests are there?

A.1 The Council has 175 outstanding Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, as of 25th March 2021.

Covid-19 has had a significant and material impact on the Council's ability to respond to FOIs within normal timescales this financial year. Contributing factors include:

- the inability to access paper records due to mandatory home working and strict protocols to enter Council buildings safely.
- the re-prioritisation of work and the temporary deployment of the Information Management Team on critical Covid-19 activity; this applies, similarly, to all the Council services that might be required to provide information for FOI responses.
- focusing on ensuring that vital data sharing - to support infection testing and vaccinations programmes - could happen securely and legally.

Our approach to FOI during the pandemic has been consistent with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

However, the importance of timely FOI responses is recognised and work is underway to address the current backlog

Q.2 How many times has the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) ruled against Sheffield City Council in the last three years?

A.2 When answering this question, it is important to understand how the ICO measures 'complaints'. The ICO will look at how exemptions under FOI/EIR were applied in a particular request for information. Where a requestor is unhappy with how their request was handled and complains to the ICO, their complaint may involve more than one application of an exemption. The ICO 'rule' on how each exemption was applied individually by the public authority and they class each of these in their reporting as a complaint. Therefore, one requestor's complaint to the ICO may include more than one ruling by the ICO which we will refer to in this answer as a complaint point. The ICO will then either uphold, not uphold or partly uphold those individual complaint points which means that the number of complaint points upheld, not upheld or partly upheld will rarely be the same as the number of requestors who have complained to the ICO. The latter will be a lower number.

Between 1st April 2018 and 25th March 2021, the ICO made a decision about 19 complaints (i.e. separate complaints by a requestor) it received about how the council applied exemptions to information requests under FOI or EIR (EIR is Environmental Information Regulations) which included.

The public register of decision notices which is available on the ICO website shows that the ICO:

- upheld 2 requestor's complaints – this means that all complaint points were upheld by the ICO
- partly upheld 6 requestor's complaints – this means that some complaint points were upheld and some were not.
- Did not uphold 11 requestor's complaints – this means that no complaint points were upheld.

In the past three years, 5,738 information requests were received by the Council in total. Therefore, in the period between 1st April 2018 and 25th March 2021, the upheld or partly upheld complaints equate to around 0.14% of the total requests received.

Q.3 Have any members of staff being found guilty of improper conduct when it comes to dealing with FOI requests?

A.3 Our HR system does not record disciplinary data at this level of granularity but we are not aware of any staff having been found guilty of improper conduct in relation to dealing with FOIs.

**Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q.1 How will resources be allocated to ensure the smooth running of the Broomhill, Broomfield, Endcliffe, Summerfield and Tapton (BBEST) Neighbourhood Plan Referendum?

A.1 The BBEST referendum is being run as a combined poll along with the other elections and referendums on the 6 May. The Council's Electoral Services team are responsible for the smooth running of all polls being held on 6 May, including the BBEST referendum. All local polls, including local referendums such as the BBEST referendum are funded by the council. Most of the costs are shared across all of the polls.

Q.2 How many officers are working on this?

A.2 The Electoral Services team is the lead team responsible for the running of the referendum. The team works closely with a range of services across the council to ensure that all polls are delivered effectively including Customer Services, Transport and Facilities Management, Communications, and Legal and Governance. Additionally, the team has been working closely with the Planning Service on the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. It is not possible to provide a specific response on the number of officers working on the BBEST referendum specifically as all of the officers in the team work across all of the polls as most of the specific tasks are shared (e.g. processing of postal vote applications).

Q.3 How will relevant households be informed of the referendum?

A.3 The Council has published the information statement and specified documents on its website, as required by regulation 4 of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012. Regulation 5 expressly prohibits the Council from publishing any information about the referendum, including general information or dealing with any issues raised by the question to be asked, during

the referendum period which began from the date that the information statement was published on the council's website. Therefore, any information to households about the referendum will need to be provided by groups or political parties campaigning either for or against the adoption of the plan.

Q.4 How will Sheffield City Council monitor that all relevant households have received information?

A.4 - Currently (at the time of deadline for members questions) one needs to be aware of the BBEST neighbourhood planning referendum to find information on the SCC website. Will information about it be posted to a more prominent part of the website (i.e. with other local election information)? When is that going to happen?

Q.5 Currently (at the time of deadline for submission of Members' questions) one needs to be aware of the BBEST neighbourhood planning referendum to find information on the Sheffield City Council website. Will information about it be posted to a more prominent part of the website (i.e. with other local election information)? When is that going to happen?

A.5 As per the previous question, the Council is not able to play any role in providing information to households about the referendum.

- Currently (at the time of deadline for members questions) one needs to be aware of the BBEST neighbourhood planning referendum to find information on the SCC website. Will information about it be posted to a more prominent part of the website (i.e. with other local election information)? When is that going to happen?

All of the statutory information about the referendum is linked from the main Elections 2021 page at www.sheffield.gov.uk/sheffvotes (click on the link to the BBEST referendum).

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