

Council Questions

Wednesday 16 June 2021
2.00 pm

1. **Leader of the Council** (Pages 3 - 6)
Questions to Councillor Terry Fox
2. **Executive Member for Education, Children and Families** (Pages 7 - 8)
Questions to Councillor Jayne Dunn
3. **Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance** (Pages 9 - 12)
Questions to Councillor Julie Grocutt
4. **Executive Member for City Futures: Development, Culture and Regeneration** (Pages 13 - 14)
Questions to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
5. **Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport** (Pages 15 - 22)
Questions to Councillor Douglas Johnson
6. **Executive Member for Health and Social Care** (Pages 23 - 24)
Questions to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond
7. **Executive Member for Finance and Resources** (Pages 25 - 30)
Questions to Councillor Cate McDonald
8. **Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing, Parks and Leisure** (Pages 31 - 34)
Questions to Councillor Alison Teal
9. **Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Jobs and Skills** (Pages 35 - 40)
Questions to Councillor Paul Turpin
10. **Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management** (Pages 41 - 50)
Questions to Councillor Paul Wood

This page is intentionally left blank

CITY OF SHEFFIELD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 16TH JUNE, 2021
COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 When did you learn about the complaint/concerns by a senior City Council Officer Simon Ogden in relation to Councillor Mazher Iqbal?

A.1 I have issued a statement regarding this issue, which I would refer you to and as stated in the statement I am unable to comment further whilst the investigation is ongoing

Q.2 Given the gravity of the complaints made against Councillor Iqbal, will the leader of Council agree to undertake a full review of all contracts and decisions made by Cllr Iqbal in the last 4 years?

A.2
See above

Q.3 How does the leader of Council intend to rebuild trust and reassure developers and businesses that there is a “Level Playing Field” in terms of how Sheffield City Council interacts with potential investors?

A.3
See above

Q.4 Have any other City Council Officers, past or present, lodged complaints in relation to the behaviour and conduct of Councillor Iqbal?

A.4 I am not aware of any previous complaints from Officers

Q.5 Do you support a “Workplace Parking levy” scheme for Sheffield?

A.5 Given some of the emerging pressures on the tram network, the need for considerable investment, and the need to support a shift to more sustainable modes of travel, the Transport Strategy sets out that we are looking at many different options. However we cannot have a WPL until we have a fit-for-purpose public transport alternative.

Q.6 How many Non-Disclosure Agreements have been entered into with Council employees linked to the Streets Ahead contract on departure and what was the cost to the Council?

A.6 Sheffield City Council does not hold this information.
(These staff are not SCC employees)

Q.7 How many external consultants have the City Council appointed in the last three years?

A.7 The term 'consultants' has a wide range of meanings in terms of how data is recorded. Each month we publish all expenditure over £250 on our website <https://datamillnorth.org/dataset/sheffieldcitycouncil-spend-over-f250> .

Q.8 Could you list the current use of JCB equipment by the City Council and subcontractors?

A.8

- 1) From Transport - 9 mini diggers (for digging graves)
- 2) On our Amey (St Ahead) Contract. 6 in total, as follows: We currently long term hire 4no. JCB 3CX's for civils works and 2no. JCB loading shovels associated with the winter service.
- 3) Veolia have x3 JCB machines deployed for the contract

Q.9 Would you support the addition of local travel concessions to holders of the Senior National Concessionary Travel Pass?

A.9 The only reason that the local concessions were removed was due to the unprecedented cuts the coalition government made to public funding in South Yorkshire, where budgets were decimated, which meant that they could no longer be afforded. The ENCTS provision will fall into the wider discussion about public transport and bus services and how public transport can recover following the lockdowns, along with the budget implications through the Sheffield City Region, however, any additions would need to be funded

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

Please note: Cllr Abtisam Mohamed is overseeing the delivery of the youth strategy as part of her role within the leadership team.

Youth Services were insourced from Sheffield Futures on the 1st October 2020. At the Children Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee in January

2021, a plan was presented to develop the “To-Be” Operating Model, identify performance measures, consult stakeholders and commence implementation by June 2021.

Q.1 Are all the elements of the plan now complete, and will they be presented to the next meeting of the Children Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee as agreed at the January Scrutiny Meeting?

A.1 The strategy has been to consultation and has been updated to a final draft form. Proposals for the operating model are being drafted which we expect to be completed by end of June

Q.2 Given the scale of increase in funding of over 70%, will there be an increase in Council run Youth Clubs, particularly in the any areas that are currently not covered?

A.2 Yes, there will be more Youth Clubs as a result

Q.3 Has the issue of pay harmonisation been addressed as part of the Review Phase of the Youth Services Timeline?

A.3 No, this will be addressed as part of the Achieving Change for Early Help due to be launched in September

This page is intentionally left blank

Question of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

- Q** Since January 2021, how many young people have been excluded from Sheffield schools? could you please provide a breakdown per month and by school.
- A** 42 Secondary and 13 primary, I will provide a written answer with a more detailed breakdown.

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

Youth Services were insourced from Sheffield Futures on the 1st October 2020. At the Children Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee in January 2021, a plan was presented to develop the “To-Be” Operating Model, identify performance measures, consult stakeholders and commence implementation by June 2021.

- Q.1** Are all the elements of the plan now complete, and will they be presented to the next meeting of the Children Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee as agreed at the January Scrutiny Meeting?
- A.1** Will be responded to by Cllr Terry Fox
- Q.2** Given the scale of increase in funding of over 70%, will there be an increase in Council run Youth Clubs, particularly in the any areas that are currently not covered?
- A.2** Will be responded to by Cllr Terry Fox
- Q.3** Has the issue of pay harmonisation been addressed as part of the Review Phase of the Youth Services Timeline?
- A.3** Will be responded to by Cllr Terry Fox

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

- Q.1** Due to traffic and environmental pollution issues around schools. School Streets were proposed which quite rightly had a lot of traction with parents.

Could you please update me on how many such schemes are in place and where, and also how many are in the pipeline? It is terribly important the health and well-being of children around school environments is prioritised. Therefore can you assure me and the public immediate action is to be taken?

A.1 Will be responded to by Cllr Douglas Johnson

Q.2 The School crossing patrol on Lydgate Lane which is a very busy thoroughfare needs to be replaced. Can you please let me know if this is already happening, if not, why not? As this is a dangerous Road and the health and safety of Children is of paramount importance

A.2 Will be responded to by Cllr Douglas Johnson

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

- Q. Will you look again at the guidance issued for the use of the Town Hall (and presumably other council buildings) to ensure that sufficient weight is given to ventilation, in line with the advice of Independent SAGE and many many other independent experts?**

Officers have provided a number of responses to many Cllrs and others questions about SCC property ventilation since start of Covid we have also had numerous questions about all our sites. Our focus on ventilation is not new. The guidance has evolved but maximisation of fresh air has been basic guidance since early stages of pandemic

The available ventilation in the council chamber and all our sites, are now and has been since the early stages of the Covid pandemic, operating to maximise the amount of fresh air in the room/buildings based on the individual site equipment capabilities. In addition where windows can be opened they will be.

Unfortunately the Council Chamber and other rooms at times will be warm. We have used, pre covid, temporary air cooling units fans etc , but these will just move air around the room and do not operate on fresh air so are not appropriate to use in the current environment.

The covid guidance requires the maximisation of air flow within a site capabilities, opening windows along with the other precautions like, not attending if feeling ill, face coverings when walking around, hand washing, reducing shouting, 2m distancing etc are seen as a package of precautions to reduce the risk. This is what we have looked to provide in the Town Hall and other sites.

Maximising air exchange in the best way possible for each site to minimise Covid-19 transmission risk. The Town Hall has high ceilinged rooms, and opening windows so natural ventilation and lower room occupancy is one way that ventilation can be managed on this site. We have given advice not to use electric portable desk fans or portable air conditioning units. Where buildings have mechanical ventilation we advise 6 ACH (air changes per hour) and MERV 13 or HEPA filters on well maintained units. We advise over-riding settings which adjust for lower room occupancies so that the maximum air exchange is achieved.

A number of sources of evidence as the basis for this advice:

SAGE -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928720/S0789_EMG_Role_of_Ventilation_in_Controlling_SARS-CoV-2_Transmission.pdf

Deputy Leader

ECDC - <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/heating-ventilation-air-conditioning-systems-covid-19>

HSE - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/assesssment-of-fresh-air.htm>

WHO - <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-ventilation-and-air-conditioning#:~:text=Since%20January%202020%2C%20WHO%20has%20provid%20recommendation%20on,and%20update%20recommendations%20on%20environment%20and%20engineering%20controls.>

Gov.uk - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus/ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19#ventilation-in-the-workplace-and-non-domestic-settings>

We are continually considering this issue and updating our approach as and when the guidance evolves.

**Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Julie Grocutt
(Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement
and Governance)**

Q. With regard to Local Area Committees, what system will be put in place to sure that decisions are actioned and monies allocated in a timely manner?

A. Each Local Area Committee (LAC) will be responsible for producing an annual Community Plan, which will set out key priorities that have been identified through effective and inclusive community engagement. These Plans will serve as a useful overview of the main areas of focus of the LAC in any given year.

Before a decision is made, the report author will receive legal and financial advice, which will ensure that the recommendations are capable of being implemented and that the amount and source of any monies involved are identified. This assists the LAC in making the decision.

LACs will keep an action log / progress report of decisions, the log will be monitored and maintained regularly by lead officers supporting the committee who will also have responsibility for checking that SCC services and partners deliver within the agreed timescales.

This will be a standing item on the meeting agenda and each LAC will be able to check that decisions are actioned and monies allocated.

If the LAC considers that things are not actioned in a timely manner they will be able to hold those responsible to account

Questions of Councillor Brian Holmshaw to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

Q.1 Has the City Council adapted its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in response to the 'frontloading' of public participation emphasised in the August 2020 Planning White Paper 'Planning for the Future' ?

A.1 Sheffield's current Statement of Community Involvement was last updated on 29 July 2020.

Governmental White Papers set out proposals for future legislation but are not legislation in themselves. The Planning for the Future White Paper covers a package of proposals for reform of the planning system in England, including plan-making, development management, development contributions, and other related policy proposals. It also highlighted the importance of local participation in planning.

I confirm that Sheffield City Council shares the values and principles of involving residents in the planning process; both in plan-making and planning applications, and the Council are committed to accessibility as detailed within the Statement of Community Involvement.

Q.2 Will any new Statement of Community Involvement be initiated across all Council portfolios?

A.2 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Local Planning Authority must prepare an SCI. There is no legal requirement for other services to produce an SCI. The establishment of the new Local Area Committees is a way of engaging and empowering citizens and enabling them to have greater influence on decision making across the city.

Deputy Leader

Questions of Councillor Sophie Thornton to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 Why did you scrap the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee under the new council system?

A.1 As you will be aware the citizens of Sheffield voted for the Council to move to a Committee system of Governance from May 2022. This will be a significant shift for the council as decision making in its current form has been in place for over 20 years. The Committee system does not include scrutiny committees as they exist in their current form, therefore the transitional arrangements are in place to help us with the cultural shift that needs to take place over the next municipal year.

Q.2 What is it being replaced with?

A.2 The Policy development function will move to the cross party Transitional Committees however call-in and any statutory scrutiny functions are being retained by the remaining 3 scrutiny committees. Any call-ins previously heard by the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny will be referred to the Overview and Management Committee instead.

Q.3 What are the responsibilities of any new replacement?

I am asking for an update on the commitments made following the delivery of the petition on reducing council house repairs waiting times earlier this year

A.3 The Transitional Committees provide a formal structure for earlier cross-party engagement so that a broad view and range of ideas can be considered when the Executive is devising strategies and policies.

**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Executive Member for City Futures: Development, Culture and
Regeneration)**

Q.1 In the Interim Consultation Report on Issues and Options for the Local Plan carried out in September/October 2020, well over 70% of respondents identified Option A with no new Green Belt development as their preferred option. Which option has been used in the development of the Draft Local Plan?

A.1 Written response to follow

Q.2 The consultation on the Draft Local Plan was due to commence in July this year. Is it still on schedule?

A.2 Written response to follow

Q.3 Will there be a further update on the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and Green Belt Review before publication of the Draft Local Plan?

A.3 Written response to follow

Q.4 How many meetings with John Lewis have you attended since they announced their proposals to close their city centre store?

A.4 Written response to follow

Q.5 How many times have Council Officers attended meetings with John Lewis since they announced their proposals?

A.5 Written response to follow

Q.6 What actions are planned to recover the money paid to John Lewis following the deal you announced last year that would "secure their store in the city centre"?

A.6 Written response to follow

Q.7 How many electric charging points are being installed for private vehicles as part of the Heart of the City project?

A.7 Written response to follow

Q.8 How many retail/business units are currently vacant in the city centre and what percentage of the total estate does that represent?

A.8 Written response to follow

Q.9 Following the successful bid to the Future High Streets Fund for redeveloping Fargate, when will construction work start?

A.9 Written response to follow

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Executive Member for City Futures: Development, Culture and Regeneration)

Q.1 I understand some people keep wild and exotic animals as pets for example poisonous snakes , spiders ,monkeys, lions , tigers and other such animals.

Could you please let me have details of how many such animals are registered in Sheffield?

A.1 Written response to follow

Q.2 What monitoring do we have in place to ensure they are safe and have the right environment? Also that they do not pose a risk to the general public.

A.2 Written response to follow

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q.1 When did you learn about the complaint/concerns by a senior City Council Officer Simon Ogden in relation to Councillor Mazher Iqbal.

A.1 20th April 2021 – it was in the Star under the headline, “Investigation launched into senior sitting member of Sheffield City Council’s Labour cabinet”

Q.2 When can Sheffield residents expect to see a “Free City Centre Bus Service”. I recently was included in an email to you from a Sheffield resident (text below for information)

“Given the recent and future planned changes to the running of the Council, I wonder as we emerge from the Covid emergency, what your views are on reinstating the use of the bus stops on these two streets.

You will be aware that the present suspension of these stops was ostensibly part of a Covid derived requirement for greater social distancing. These changes, drawn up before the arrival of Covid, were then rather rapidly published, as part of wider permanent plans for our city centre. I suspect given the timing of this consultation the exercise was deliberately intended to limit participation.

I hope you agree with me that to preserve what remains of our retailers in the Town Hall/ Fargate area, it is vital that people can use bus services that allow them to easily visit and spend money at the shops in this area, which means bringing these stops back in to use. I cannot stress too highly how important for the city's prosperity it is that buses take people close to and from where THEY want to use them. The waste lands near the Odeon cinema on Arundel Gate or a so-called bus hub on Rockingham Street (of all places) just don't cut it! Surely, serious thought must now be given to amending the original proposals and allowing the formerly very well used bus stops on these two streets to be brought back in to use.

I urge you and your colleagues to give this serious thought and take a big step towards at least retaining the surviving Town Hall/Fargate area retailers - a bird in the hand etc. Surely, after the havoc wreaked by Covid on our city centre retailers, plus the John Lewis debacle, now is the time to allow buses back on to these streets thus making it easier for people to visit and spend money in this area.”

A.2 No timescale is yet fixed. The FreeBee was something I have previously promoted as part of Green group budget proposals in previous years. However, the provision of a city centre bus would require revenue support to pay for the service to which there is currently no formally identified funding pot.

The current closure of Pinstone Street does not preclude a bus penetrating the city centre and changes to the highway could be made to facilitate this.

Given the previous introduction and subsequent removal of the former Sheffield FreeBee, a long term and sustainable solution would need to be fundamental to this as an option as it takes time to build up patronage.

Q.3 What are the Council plans for Pinstone Street in relation to bus services?

A.3 The current use of Pinstone Street for pedestrian movements is principally in place for social distancing and was implemented under the Emergency Active Travel Fund. Bus service have been routed to Rockingham Street and Arundel Gate in the interim, to which, recent data has shown that journey times have improved by an enormously significant 50%, which will have a transformative effect on the efficiency of the bus network as a whole.

In relation to future plans, the demand for greater levels of public space, which is free from traffic, is higher than ever before. The wider benefits of the space on Pinstone Street for recreational purposes has to be considered. In addition, there are a number of construction plans for the sites in and around Pinstone Street which can be completed more quickly with this closure remaining in place.

The Connecting Sheffield proposals for the City Centre include the permanent relocation of bus services to other streets. Consultation on the principles of this scheme happened in late 2020. There was a good response and many stakeholders were positive to the proposals. The proposal includes new bus routes which reflect the changing nature of the City Centre and will be developed to a high standard with greater levels of integration between other buses and modes.

Q.4 How does the continued closure of Pinstone Street fit into the Council's plans to get more people onto public transport?

A.4 As mentioned before, the current routing has improved some bus service's journey times by up to 50% across the city, equating to nearly 5 minutes per service. This saving, compounded across each bus route, is demonstrating major operational benefits to bus services as journey time, reliability and punctuality can be maintained.

Attracting people onto Public Transport is far more than providing stops on a City Street, we are looking in partnership with the PTE, at a range of measures to make Public Transport more attractive to the travelling public, bringing much closer control to Local Authorities and promoting discussions around wider user experience, ticketing, information, cleaner vehicles, etc.

In addition to this, I am pleased to inform you that I am currently arranging a meeting with the managing directors of the bus companies, where I will express my intention to see these savings put back into Sheffield's bus network as a whole. This clearly demonstrates my commitment to emphasise what benefits are being

realised and how they can provide improvements for the wider passenger experience - something I feel Sheffielders deserve.

Q.5 Has the Council undertaken a “equality impact assessment” on the closure of Pinstone Street to public transport?

A.5 Yes, I understand it has. There needs to be a balance between the need to control the spread of COVID-19 and the ability for social distancing of users of the city centre with the impact on disabled people on the relocation of bus services to bus stops. It also included the build outs of kerb space at bus stops, to ensure social distancing and did recognise the impact on accessibility, which has made some destinations further, or closer, depending on the bus stop being used and the location of where the user wants to get to.

In addition to this, I am informed that a city centre EqIA is being undertaken to look into all these points across a broader change programme. This will include looking at how other Cities are approaching this and what mitigation needs to be put in place.

Q.6 Do you support a “rent free period” for Council Tenants who have been affected by long delays to their Council Housing repairs? -

A.6 To be answered by Cllr Paul Wood

Q.7 Would you support the addition of local travel concessions to holders of the Senior National Concessionary Travel Pass?

A.7 Yes, in principle. Promoting bus travel is good for older people’s enaggemetn with the outside world, health and activity. It reduces isolation. It also benefits the wider economy, with every pound spent on concessionary fares generating far more in the local economy.

Additional concessions also have to be funded, of course. Concessioanry fares are a function of the Mayoral Combained Authority, rather than the council.

Q.8 Could you please update me on the City Council’s revised proposals for a Clean Air Zone in Sheffield? Is there a target date for publication of these new plans?

A.8 No date is fixed yet. Officers have been working closely with the Government’s Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) and I myself hope to meet with them in the near future. When discussions with the Joint Air Quality Unit have been completed, a full update will be presented to Members which will set out the next steps, including any further consultation and engagement required.

Q.9 Since the introduction of the changes to the lay out of parking outside Broomhill Shopping Centre, has any monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions taken place?

A.9 No, not specifically. This was not a requirement of the funding so has not been included. In addition, monitoring data taken from the lockdown period will not be easily comparable with data before or after, and therefore any conclusions being drawn from this data should be considered with caution. However, it is completely reasonable to assume that the removal of general parking bays to have a positive impact on Air Quality at the shop entrances.

Q.10 Has there been any monitoring undertaken of the impact of changes to parking outside Broomhill shopping centre in neighbouring streets?

A.10 The Broomhill Scheme is a temporary measure, for social distancing purposes.

I am informed there has therefore not been any specific monitoring of the schemes. To demonstrate an impact, there would need to be Validated Before Data. As this measure was conceived to provide additional footway to facilitate social distancing, and was introduced under Emergency Funds, it was not possible to acquire Before Data.

Customer comments have been closely monitored to understand the impact, as well as the Connecting Sheffield Interactive Map and SCR Cycling and Walking Interactive Map. The response has been balanced, with some local businesses not supporting the scheme, yet there has been a number of positive responses from residents of the area.

Given that air pollution contributes to an estimated 500 early deaths every year in Sheffield, this is an important issue. the BBEST Neighbourhood plan – which is on this month's agenda for endorsement after the public voted for it – notes that air quality within the shopping centre is very poor and often exceeding legal safety limits. The spaces in front of the shops occupy a major land area and obstruct the pavement. Air quality is poor and traffic is a dominant feature."

I have spoken to officers, and I would like to understand in more detail the public's concerns and opportunities of this project to ensure a fully engaged way forward, so that is why I will open a consultation regarding the future of this scheme

Question of Councillor Ann Woolhouse to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q.1 In April, Cabinet Member Julie Grocutt said she was working to find a long

term solution to parking issues around the Meadowgate Avenue area in Beighton ward. What progress has been made since then on the plans?

- A.1 The parking around Rother Valley Country Park is a long standing issue. We have worked closely with Rotherham Borough Council to develop a pricing strategy to encourage greater use of their car park, rather than use this location in Sheffield. In addition, a brief has been written and officers are working on a number of options to resolve these parking issues. I need to see the results of this before making any comment what changes might come forward and when these might be implemented.

**Question of Councillor Kevin Oxley to Councillor Douglas Johnson
(Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)**

- Q.1 What position on the list for a 20mph zone is Waterthorpe and Westfield? Is there an estimated timeframe for implementation?**
- A.1 Westfield and Waterthorpe 20 mph limit areas are identified in the Road Safety Fund. The allocations within this fund are not yet concluded. If these two projects are supported then I would expect consultation to be happening toward the end of the this financial year with construction in the next.

**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Douglas Johnson
(Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)**

- Q.1 Do you agree that a connection to the HS2 network is crucially important to the long-term future of the city's economy?**
- A.1 Strategic rail connectivity is vitally important to the sustainable connectivity between towns and cities, with economic, social and environment benefits over road travel. For Sheffield, it is important that we look at the option for improving this, not necessarily HS2, but Northern Powerhouse Rail. NPR provides the transformational connections for Sheffield with Manchester and Leeds, which will in turn remove cars from the road and protect important natural assets like the Peak District.
- Q.2 Does the Council monitor use of city centre cycle lanes and, if so, how many times per day is the cycle lane on Pinstone Street used?**
- A.2 The Council does have a cycle monitoring system in place, however Pinstone Street is not equipped. Until recently, it was an unfriendly place for cycling.

**Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Douglas Johnson
(Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)**

The current policy for applications for residents applying for a Resident Only Parking Zone covers the city centre and surrounding wards. Councillor Julie Grocutt, former Cabinet Member for Transport and Development stated recently “According to the existing programme, the development of new parking schemes are focused in locations in and around the City Centre where the highest level of commuter parking is taking place. The current programme is forecast to take place over the next few years. We’ll review the programme as we progress as to the potential next areas to cover.” The outcome of COVID has seen a rise in footfall in District Centres, and more parking problems for local residents, particularly where on street parking is the only option which creates problems which cannot wait years for resolution.

Q.1 When Planning or Licensing decisions deliver a significant change to accessibility for parking of local residents, will this be taken into consideration in an application for a Resident Parking Zone outside the city centre and surrounding wards?

A.1 When a planning application is received, a material consideration is the impact on the highway. If this is deemed to be significant, then mitigation is secured through the planning permission. This normally takes the position of restricting car use on the development being proposed rather than external demand management on the highway network.

Q.2 What steps are being taken to review the policy on Resident only Parking Zone applications to ensure that this is based on need and not location?

A.2 The Policy does not provide for Resident Only Parking Zones. The aim of these projects is to manage demand into an area, particularly around the City Centre. They provide the ability for residents to park, by purchase of permits, but the intention is to reduce private commuter trips by ending the subsidy of free parking for those who choose to bring cars into the city.

The need to introduce these Zones is evident by the volume and nature of parking that occurs. Need is the primary consideration.

**Questions of Councillor Tim Huggan to Councillor Douglas Johnson
(Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)**

Q.1 Last week Stagecoach ordered 46 Electric Buses for cities across Scotland. What plans are there for an electric bus fleet for Sheffield from any bus company?

A.1 Under the present system, the choice of vehicles is a commercial one for a commercial operator.

It is likely that there are no plans, as Stagecoach Yorkshire stated on social media

in May “yes, we do have electric buses in certain areas of the country. We don’t have plans to bring electric buses to Sheffield or South Yorkshire at this time.”

The Council has been in discussion with bus operators towards the investment in vehicle fleets, particularly the introduction of electric buses. I am working with Sheffield City Region and SYPTe to understand in more detail both First and Stagecoach’s lack of plans to introduce these within Sheffield. I don’t feel that is an acceptable position to not invest and will talking with them directly to understand what can be done to promote this investment.

Q.2 Do the plastic traffic bollards in Glossop Road serve any purpose, and if so what?

A.2 These were provided as an Emergency measure to temporarily improve the effective footway width between the hospital and Broomhill/Fulwood area. With the continued relaxation of Covid restrictions we will assess their continued need.

Q.3 At a Planning Committee meeting in May, an approval was given to a supermarket development which had no provision of electric charging points for cars or bicycles. When will the Council have a policy in place that will ensure that any future developments of this sort have charging points as part of any planning permission?

A.3 I know full well the Local Plan, including guidance on parking provision, is currently out of date. I look forward to progress on the new Local Plan when we have the opportunity to ensure that new developments in future incorporate the appropriate infrastructure.

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Douglas Johnson, Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q.1 Due to traffic and environmental pollution issues around schools. School Streets were proposed which quite rightly had a lot of traction with parents. Could you please update me on how many such schemes are in place and where, and also how many are in the pipeline? It is terribly important the health and well-being of children around school environments is prioritised. Therefore can you assure me and the public immediate action is to be taken?

A.1 School Streets trials:
14 – 18th June – Greystones Week trial
21st – 25th June – Carfield Week trial

September, experimental permanent schemes going in outside Greystones, Carfield, Porter Croft & Nether Edge primary schools.

Residents in the vicinity of Nether Edge and Porter Croft Schools should receive a

letter telling them about the scheme in the next 2 weeks or so.

Based on the success and outcomes of these 4 trials, 4 more will be implemented this financial year.

Q.2 The School crossing patrol on Lydgate Lane which is a very busy thoroughfare needs to be replaced. Can you please let me know if this is already happening, if not, why not? As this is a dangerous Road and the health and safety of Children is of paramount importance

A.2 The vacancy for the SCP at Lydgate School is advertised on SCC website – www.sheffield.gov.uk/jobs. The school have sent out details of the vacancy in the newsletter and we have put up a banner outside the school. We have had no applicants as yet. It would be appreciated, if the person raising the question knew of anyone who would be interested in taking up the post, if they would ask them to apply.

Questions of Councillor Steve Ayris to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Executive Member for Health and Social Care)

Q.1 According to the Alzheimer's Society, dementia care costs are on average 15 per cent more than standard social care, and in some cases up to 40 per cent more. Unlike other authorities, Sheffield City Council does not provide an enhanced rate for dementia or high dependency care. Given the difficulties that care providers in the city are facing, how will you ensure the strategic review of the older people's care home market will tackle this?

A.1 Since the 2018 cabinet report this issue has been raised frequently in fees consultation but there has been minimal evidence provided by our providers about what the differential is. Feedback from Laingbuisson/cordis bright suggested the extra £20 (approx.) per week previously paid by SCC and currently paid by most other local authorities is insufficient to meet the enhanced costs of supporting people with dementia. The fee structure will form part of the strategic review to stimulate investment and services where there is likely to be future demand, not just for dementia care.

Q.2 The Kingsbury Hill Fox future demand analysis predicted oversupply of care home places in the city by 2025 to be 8%, with higher levels of supply and higher Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings in the north, while Age-standardised demand are highest and quality ratings are poorest in the south west of the city. How, and over what timescale, are you intending to rebalance these disparities?

A.2 As part of the strategic review we will be signalling to the market what we need and where. As all our care home providers are private companies or charities we have very little control over reducing oversupply. We are also continually work to improve quality in the city's care homes which can be shown in improved CQC ratings over recent years, and positive feedback about the working relationship with the quality and performance team from care providers.

Q.3 The joint Value For Money and Quality project with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) identified fee rate discrepancies with a number of care providers. What is the timescale for remedying these?

A.3 There are 3 parts to this:

- a) Uplifts for non-standard care providers. For non-standard care providers who believe the 1.9% increase is insufficient we will be meeting with the CCG to decide jointly whether or not to agree their additional requests. We are currently awaiting a date from the CCG on this but we are hopeful this will take place before the end of the month.
- b) Value for Money/Quality work is ongoing as new providers request additional fee uplifts; these request are considered in the Commissioning

Team on a case by case basis.

- c) Discussions are currently taken place on how to achieve the harmonisation of fee rates for non-standard providers on an ongoing basis. Potential options include the purchase of a care cost calculator, work with an independent consultant or through establishing and working with a trade association. No timescales have currently been set.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

Q.1 How many properties have fallen into Council tax arrears?

A.1 For the financial year 2021/22 accounts are not classed as being in arrears until the last due date for payment i.e. 31/03/2022.

Q.2 What is the total value of Council tax arrears?

A.2 As at 31/03/2021, the total amount of Council Tax outstanding for all years was £78,203,955.

Q.3 How many Council owned properties are in rent arrears?

A.3 We use a couple of different parameters for identifying tenants in arrears, as some tenants have 'technical arrears' due to how direct debits are calculated. This means that the number owing more than 0.01p is inflated by monthly direct debit payers who are paying their correct rent, but show an outstanding balance until the rent-free weeks in December. We therefore internally use those owing over 2 weeks net rent as a truer reflection. So at end of May 21:

Tenants owing more than 0.01p = 20,612

Tenants owing more than 2 weeks net rent = 11,288

Q.4 What is the total value of Council rent arrears?

A.4 As above:

Value of arrears, for tenants owing more than 0.01p = £10,318,172

Value of arrears, for tenants owing more than 2 weeks net rent = £9,800,781

Q.5 In what circumstances, if any, are the Council employing Bailiffs for the collection of debt?

A.5 Currently the Council is only using the service of its own Internal Enforcement Agent for the collection of debts relating to Parking offences and Bus Gate violations. This action is only taken after a Warrant of Execution has been issued by the Courts and after several attempts have been made by the Council to secure payment of monies outstanding.

Q.6 How many residents have applied for hardship/finance support from Sheffield City Council during the Covid 19 outbreak? Please list total number of applications and what type of support has been provided.

A.6 We are awaiting clarification on the question and will provide a written response once we receive this.

Q.7 How many people applied for the Hardship fund, but were turned down?

A.7 We are awaiting clarification on the question and will provide a written response once we receive this.

Q.8 Since the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) how much money has been raised and how much has been spent?

A.8 Figures as below to 31/03/21:

- CIL collected since commencement: £18,045k
- Strategic CIL Spend : £2,103k
- Local CIL Spend: £348k
- CIL Admin spend: £595k
- Passported to Parishes under CIL Regs - £182k (of which £33,599 spent)

Questions of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

Q.1 What is the average waiting time for the Council's council tax phone line?

A.1 Currently Council Tax calls are split between the Sheffield City Council Contact Centre and Capita's Call Centre in Coventry. This latter arrangement was put in place in January and was only intended as a limited resource to support the SCC Contact Centre whilst the Revenues and Benefits Service was in transition from Capita to the Council; however, in view of the events of the last 15 months this arrangement remains in place.

For the SCC Contact Centre, the average waiting time for week beginning 31st May was 10 minutes and 48 seconds, and the average waiting time for the month of May was 16 minutes and 57 seconds.

For the Capita Call Centre, the average waiting time for week beginning 31st May was 27 minutes and 46 seconds, and the average waiting time for the month of May was 14 minutes and 51 seconds.

Q.2 Council tax payments due on the 31st May and 1st June were not made. What went wrong?

A.2 The Council has recently migrated the IT systems it uses to administer Revenues and Benefits. As part of this process there were changes to the process for the collection of Direct Debits for payment of business rates and Council Tax. The changes for business rates were made last year and there have been no issues

with the process.

Prior to the migration of the system used to administer Council Tax, (which went live on 17 May 2021) extensive testing of the Direct Debit process was undertaken for the following dates:

- 27th April 2021
- 2nd May 2021
- 14th May 2021

No issues were identified through the testing process. Following the system migration on 17 May 2021, the first post migration Direct Debit submissions were made on the following dates:

24th May for the 31st May 2021 Direct Debit
26th May for the 1st June 2021 Direct Debit

Following the transmission of the files to BACS it was then found there was an issue with the account numbers in the payment file from Capita which meant that the direct debits could not be called.

Capita have now amended the interface file to remedy the issue and this has now been tested and successfully sent through to BACS to enable the Direct Debits due 7th June 2021 to be collected.

Q.3 Can you ensure that no one has had arrears added to their account because of this?

A.3 For the financial year 2021/22 accounts are not classed as being in arrears until the last due date for payment i.e. 31/03/2022. The solution we have put in place in response to this issue is aimed at putting taxpayers back in the same situation that they would have been had the payments due 31/05/2021 and 01/06/2021 been taken, i.e. allowing them to make the same monthly instalments throughout the year with no change to the monthly payments.

Q.4 How have you communicated the error with those affected?

A.4 Changes have been made to the Council Tax Call Centre IVR to advise customers of the situation, those who have contacted the service directly have been told what action the Council will be taking and when payments will be next taken. In addition, letters will be issued to all affected customers advising of the next payments and what customers should do if this will cause them a problem. The print file containing these letters was passed to our printing contractor on 10/06/2021 with an instruction that all letters are issued by 16/06/2021

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

Q.1 I asked this question before, but the answer I got was confused through a misunderstanding of my questions.

Could I ask how many Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA) have been signed with Council Officers in the last five years?

A.1 A 'Non-Disclosure Agreement' is not a stand-alone document that somebody is asked to sign, it refers to any confidentiality clause contained within a 'Settlement agreement' where the employee has agreed not to disclose any commercial or sensitive information, providing legal protection for the employee and employer. A settlement agreement would be used to help end an employment relationship in a mutually acceptable way. Any settlement agreement SCC produces contains a confidentiality clause as standard and the employee is making their own choice whether to enter into the agreement having taken independent advice from a trade union official or legal professional.

The figures below include all settlement agreements as well as legal agreements agreed with the involvement of ACAS.

There have been 54 agreements in the last 5 years (2016 to 2020).

Q.2 What was the cost of these NDA agreements to Council Taxpayers of Sheffield?

A.2 The total cost of these agreements is £1,220,447.

Q.3 I understand you may say that my next question may not be answered for the very reason it is a NDA. However, in the spirit of truth and transparency could you give reasons for entering into such arrangements?

Can I ask what was the highest single settlement with a Council Officer and what was the average settlement cost? To include all the heads of costings.

A.3 Specific figures cannot be provided for confidentiality reasons. However, in the spirit of transparency it can be confirmed that the lowest value agreement was between £0 and £5,000. The highest value agreement was between £90,000 and £95,000. The average cost is £22,601.

Specific reasons cannot be provided for confidentiality reasons. However officers have confirmed that they are most typically used when there was an employee work performance or misconduct issue, a breakdown in the employment relationship or when there is a potential redundancy situation. They would never be used in circumstances relating to safeguarding allegations. In each instance an assessment of risk, value for money and impact is made.

**Questions of Councillor Brian Holmshaw to Councillor Paul Wood
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management) to
be answered by Councillor Cate McDonald**

Q.1 Has there been a report or any kind of preparatory work done on this aspect of community ownership by the council? Is that report available publicly and where?

A.1 The Council does not currently have a specific Community Asset Transfer policy.

Q.2 What criteria are used when assessing potential community asset transfers of property and/or land from council ownership to community groups?

A.2 Each case is treated on its own merits. Over 250 buildings are currently leased by the council to third sector groups and the Council manages a further 90 community buildings which are accessed by a range of community and voluntary sector organisations.

We will be formalising our approach as part of the work that is taking place on a Land and Property Plan for SCC.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Alison Teal
(Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing
Parks and Leisure)**

Q.1 When will a café be permitted to open in Whirlowbrook Park?

A.1 We are working very closely with the selected supplier to complete the necessary processes to allow work to begin on the planned café at Whirlowbrook Park. Naturally there are a number of requirements to fulfil but we are confident these will be completed soon.

Q.2 With reference to the questions from Councillor Phipps to Councillor Lea at the March 2021 Council meeting regarding the Our Bodies Our Street petition, do you have anything to add to the position taken by Councillor Lea?

A.2 I strongly support the response given by Cllr Lea who explained that we are looking at the best ways to support everyone to feel safe on our streets and in our parks. We continue to act within our parks to improve safety and learn from others where improvements or changes are made. This remains a priority for us in the city.

Q.3 Do you recognise the role of public realm improvements, eg with artistic installations, in increasing footfall and thereby increasing natural surveillance and public safety?

A.3 Yes, we recognise the role of public realm improvements and one of the important factors in the improvements we make to our green spaces is a desire to have more people using and enjoying the urban outdoors as it is so important to health and wellbeing of our residents. Artistic installations (of which there are many across Sheffield's parks and public realm), are important as they can provide an uplifting and inspiring draw for visitors. Increasing footfall is an important contributor to feelings of safety as does improving the design and management of sites to ensure open sight lines and accessible routes into and within green spaces.

Q.4 What areas of your portfolio do you believe are right for devolution to Local Area Committees?

A.4 Local involvement in decisions about our green spaces has always been key for the Parks and Countryside Service. The introduction of the Local Area Committees is an exciting opportunity to get more people involved in those decisions. The economies relating to management operations (such as grass cutting and playgrounds maintenance and inspections) mean that delivery at a city-wide scale is necessary, however there is still much scope for local influence and 'shaping' of services to deliver a specific LAC's priorities. A key area of local involvement will be in the prioritisation of green space improvements within each LAC. The capital funding required to deliver the green space improvements that communities need and want is a challenge, and it will be great to work with LACs in terms of funding and priorities.

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure)

Q.1 Due to traffic and environmental pollution issues around schools. School Streets were proposed which quite rightly had a lot of traction with parents. Could you please update me on how many such schemes are in place and where, and also how many are in the pipeline? It is terribly important the health and well-being of children around school environments is prioritised. Therefore can you assure me and the public immediate action is to be taken?

A.1 This question will be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson

Q.2 The School crossing patrol on Lydgate Lane which is a very busy thoroughfare needs to be replaced. Can you please let me know if this is already happening, if not, why not? As this is a dangerous Road and the health and safety of Children is of paramount importance

A.2 This question will be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson

Questions of Councillor Tim Huggan to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure)

Q.1 I have had complaints from residents across Crookes and Crosspool about the use of glycosphates by the Council's Contractor. How much was glycosphate does the Council or its contractors use on an annual basis?

A.1 Parks and Countryside use limited amounts of Glyphosate mainly by control droplet applicator requiring one droplet per plant. In 2020 124.2kg of Glyphosate was applied across sites in the city including Housing sites, parks, in car parks, and on land managed by our Facilities Team.

Q.2 What plans are there for the ending of the use of glycosphates by Sheffield City Council and on any on land that it controls?

A.2 We have already invested time and money in seeking alternatives to glyphosate on our estate, though the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed our progress. While research is ongoing towards reaching a decision on the best alternative treatments, the Parks & Countryside department is committed to ending the use of glyphosate in all but the most extreme cases – such as the treatment of Japanese Knotweed, as quickly as possible.

In addition to changing the way we treat weeds many alternative methods, such as not treating the perimeters of parks and open spaces, adding meadows, relaxing mowing in some area, additional tree planting, mulching, and where possible manual weeding in order to further encourage habitat and bio-diversity, are also being undertaken at pace. Our trials have shown alternatives to glyphosate could initially be more time consuming and so more costly, however, we are trialling the best alternatives and hope to find an affordable solution as quickly as possible.

Q.3 The Council's contractor has been reseeding grass verges and then not protecting the verge. What plans are there for the Council to help regenerate Grass Verges across the city?

A.3 We do have a gap in developing our approach and policies for managing verges across the city. However, we are currently waiting to see whether verge parking will be included in the forthcoming Government legislation around pavement parking. Once this has been clarified and the legislation passed, we will review our approach.

In areas such as Redmires, Brookhouse Hill and Woodhead Road we have recently acquired "Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders" to make verge parking enforceable by parking wardens. This is on a 12-month trial basis to see whether this helps to deter the issue.

Amey are responsible for re-instating verge - but this is not regularly achieved where customers persist in using the verge for parking

Q.4 Now that the Council has declared a Bio-Diversity & Ecological Emergency in Sheffield, does the Council plan to increase the number of staff working in the Ecological service?

A.4 We are currently looking at our response to the declaration of a Bio-Diversity & Ecological Emergency in Sheffield. Within our Ecology Team, operational and development staff will be necessary to meet our commitments (once these are established); and we will need to ensure we have the right capacity and staff to undertake the right work to support Sheffield in responding to the declared emergency.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Paul Turpin
(Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Jobs and Skills)**

The Sheffield COVID Business Recovery Plan which included “Opening our City and District Centres securely” was approved by Cabinet in October 2020, with further examination at Economic and Environmental Scrutiny call-in November 2020 and update on the £2M fund in February 2021. There are 52 District and Local Centres.

Q.1 How were business group(s) and/or businesses in each District Centre notified of the Economic Recovery Fund process, and when did this take place?

A.1 In launching the Economic Recovery Fund, two strands of communications activity were initiated.

The first was to release the information into the public domain via the press, social media and the Council’s website. A press notice was released on the day of the launch, 19th March 2021, informing the public about the Fund and inviting collaborators to come forward: <https://sheffnews.com/news/2m-fund-launches-with-an-invitation-to-collaborate>. This release was sent to 208 media contacts and picked up and reported by [Sheffield Telegraph](#), [the Star](#) and the [Business Desk](#).

Associated posts on social media were also published and shared by city partners. A council webpage was created aimed at providing information to any interested party and included a guidance document, the application forms and contact details: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/business/covid-19-economic-recovery-fund>. The webpage has had 1,818 views from 1,541 users.

The second strand of work was to engage and communicate with key stakeholders, both external and internal to the Council. This was seen as the most important way of engaging with District and Local centres.

This was done primarily by distributing the information via existing contacts, contact lists and networks, to ensure it got out to as many businesses and groups as possible. The Recovery Fund distribution list was developed with the help of a wide range of officers and partners, to ensure the greatest coverage. Group contact lists included the following (individuals were also contacted, but details cannot be shared publicly):

- All Councillors
- Members of Parliament
- GovDelivery bulletin (goes to around 80,000 members of the public)
- Weekly news bulletin (3,000 contacts - members of the public)
- Business Covid bulletin (9,000 contacts - businesses in Sheffield)
- Information Officers and their contact lists (x 7 working with businesses across the city)
- Local Community Response Teams, Local Area Officers and Heads of Communities
- Business Response Group Membership (to cascade through their organisations)

Sheffield Chamber
 Sheffield BID
 Sheffield Digital
 Sheffield Social Enterprise Network
 Independent Sheffield
 Culture consortium
 Culture Collective
 The University of Sheffield
 Sheffield Hallam University
 Large Venues Group
 UNIGHT (nighttime economy sector group) and Night Time Economy Group
 Incubator and Shared Workspace Group

In addition, the team managing the Fund attended a range of internal and external meetings to introduce the Fund 'in person'. The team picked up every contact and request for information that came through, following up with calls, meetings, guidance and offers of support.

Q.2 How were Local Councillors engaged in the Economic Recovery Fund process and when?

A.2 On launching the Economic Recovery Fund, the Member for Business and Investment emailed all Councillors with a Letter of Invitation to inform them of the Fund and invite their involvement in the process.

Wherever Councillors have come forward the project team have met with and provided ongoing support wherever this was requested.

Where businesses and local groups requested contact with and support from the local Councillor the central team facilitated this.

Q.3 How were business groups and/or local businesses supported in preparing an Expression of Interest for a Large Project?

A.3 It is well understood that applying for funding can be an onerous task that can require specialist skill and experience. To overcome such barriers the application process was set up to be as simple as possible for businesses to engage with. All potential applicants were encouraged to get in touch to seek advice, guidance and support in completing their application, with the commitment that this would be found wherever possible.

The application process was an open, collaborative one where Council staff *work with* businesses to develop ideas into an Expression of Interest. This has been achieved in a variety of ways and has depended to a large extent on local circumstances and preferences – given that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate and that capacity is limited.

First, Councillors in some areas have taken a lead role in championing the

opportunity presented by the Fund in their areas and have led on undertaking the background work to bring local businesses and other groups together.

Second, the Fund has been able to call on specialist capacity on the ground to work directly with businesses and business groups: seven Information Officers were employed by the Council in September 2020 specifically to support businesses through Covid-19 by providing expert advice and guidance. Through their work Information Officers have cultivated trusted relationships with many businesses across the city. The Recovery Fund has been able to utilise this expertise and these existing relationships: Information Officers have been a critical and invaluable part of the approach to engaging and working with businesses in District and Local centres. Information Officers have provided a range of levels of support to local groups – as requested and needed. They have raised awareness and helped get the message out, they have brought businesses together in meetings, suggested ideas, provided advice and supported businesses to write applications, all in addition to their usual duties.

Third, in some areas businesses did not request support in bringing together their expressions of interest and have therefore done so independently.

In addition, the central team have also provided capacity, support advice and guidance to every contact that has requested it and have encouraged anyone interested in the Fund to do so.

Q.4 (a) How much has been allocated to the Large Project Fund?

(b) Of the District Centres, how many submitted an application for the Large Project Fund?

(c) How many Local Centres submitted an application for the Large Project Fund?

A.4 a) The Fund is split 50:50 between large and small projects, so £1m is currently allocated to large projects.

b/c) 35 applications for the large project fund have been received. Of these, 14 have been categorised as being 'place based' bids that have come from groups of local businesses in district and local centres. The remainder have come from different types of collaborations, such as sector-based or those coalescing around event ideas. A distinction has not been made between district and local centres in capturing this information.

Q.5 (a) How much has been allocated to the Small Project Fund?

(b) Of the District Centres, how many submitted application(s) for the Small Project Fund?

(c) How many Local Centres submitted application(s) for the Small Project

Fund?

A.5 a) As above, there is currently a 50:50 split so £1m is allocated for small projects.

b/c) 57 applications for the large project fund have been received. Of these 15 have come from businesses in district and local centres. The remainder have come from different types of collaborations, such as sector-based or those coalescing around event ideas. A distinction has not been made between district and local centres in capturing this information.

Q.6 What are the criteria for assessing project submissions? Have all the submissions to date been scored ready for assessment?

A.6 The purpose of the scoring process is to provide a transparent, fair and standardised way of assessing each project. In order to be scored the projects have to first pass an eligibility test, to ensure it meets the basic criteria of the Fund. These are:

1. It is not an individual business that is the primary beneficiary of the application
2. It is a true collaboration (supply chains are not collaboration)
3. There is real additionally – it wouldn't happen anyway
4. Any Covid security implications are addressed

If they meet these criteria, projects will then be assessed collectively by the Economic Recovery Fund Steering Group using the same, standard set of criteria across five categories. These categories are scored out of five. Any bids that score below a 3 in any one category, or score overall less than 9/15 (for Expressions of Interest) or 15/25 (for small projects), are automatically failed. If there is a strong argument to do so (such as the application failed in one category but scored very highly in the others), Steering Group reserve the option to ask the applicant to rework a failing section and resubmit their applications.

The scoring categories are:

1. Alignment to project aims
2. Clarity of the proposal
3. Does it address a real problem? Why is it needed?
4. Strength of project management (including Covid security)
5. Value for money

The majority of submissions have not yet been scored.

Q.7 When did the Economic Recovery Fund Steering Group meet to approve the first raft of project submissions, for approval at Cabinet on 9th June?

- A.7 The first raft of small projects that went forward for approval were considered at meeting on 7th May. The first set of large project Expressions of Interest were considered on 21st May. Following discussion at the meeting on 21st May, a number were also scored via email during the week 24-28 May.

Applications were scored by the private sector representatives, the Director of City Growth (who holds the delegated authority for the Fund) and the Head of Economic Strategy and Commissioning. This scoring was done on a provisional basis allowing Councillors to consider and approve the recommendations at the Cooperative Executive.

This page is intentionally left blank

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 How many reports of fly tipping have been made to the Council, for each month since Aug 2020?

A.1 2020

Aug	964
Sept	980
Oct	1145
Nov	1039
Dec	875

2021

Jan	1003
Feb	876
March	1229
April	1231

Q.2 How many repairs to Council homes are incomplete and pending?

A.2 9289 in total

Q.3 What is the average waiting time for the council's Housing Repair phone line?

A.3 w/c 31st May to 6th June 18 minutes 31 seconds
May 14 minutes 7 seconds

Questions of Councillor Sophie Thornton to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 In December 2019, Councillor Richard Shaw asked questions on the proposals to close area housing offices in Lowedges, Jordanthorpe and Firth Park. He was advised by you that there would be a consultation on the issue that would inform a decision on their closure. Can you give an update on what consultation was made, when it happened or will happen?

- A.1 We were planning on carrying out further consultation with residents and members on the future provision at Lowedges, Jordanthorpe and Firth Park in 2020. As a result of COVID we closed all customer access points across the housing service in March 2020 and they remain closed and to date no consultation has been carried out re the future provision of customer access points.

We are now looking at reopening 3 access points – Sorby, Hillsborough and Crystal Peaks and the Council is increasing its use of first point services shortly.

Our proposal for Lowedges, Jordanthorpe and Firth Park will be subject to a Council future decision but in the meantime, we are reviewing the arrangements for customers in the 3 offices and are looking at access points in line with the recovery plan for the Council. We will be consulting with Customers on any plans when looking at the future as part of the overall Council strategy.

Q.2 Will you rule out any closure of area housing offices in Sheffield under this new administration?

- A.2 See answer above, we will be involving customers on any future changes.

Q.3 Why did you scrap the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee under the new council system?

- A.3 To be answered by Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

Q.4 What is it being replaced with?

- A.4 To be answered by Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

Q.5 What are the responsibilities of any new replacement?

To be answered by Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

I am asking for an update on the commitments made following the delivery of the petition on reducing council house repairs waiting times earlier this year

Post Lockdown the Repairs Service has seen a 25% increase in the demand for repairs in addition to a pre COVID backlog.

Currently the Service has 9289 Repairs outstanding and 509 Voids

The Service is exploring all possible avenues to increased resources however the availability of skilled trades operatives is proving challenging.

Pressure on the Repairs Service in dealing with the backlog and increased demand is predicted to continue for the remainder of the financial year.

The Service is continuing with plans to implement its new IT system which aims to go live in September. The system will significantly improve the planning and organising of the work and customer experience with the repairs service.

Q.6 Can you confirm that all areas of the Repairs and Maintenance Service that were closed due to Covid-19 are now open?

A.6 I can confirm that all areas of the repairs and maintenance Service that were closed due to COVID-19 are now open.

Q.7 20 long term apprentices becoming fully qualified by the end of that month was highlighted as an aid to the Repairs and Maintenance Service in dealing with the backlog in council house repairs. How many have been deployed?

A.7 4 Plasterers and 2 Bricklayers have completed their Apprenticeships and have been deployed.

12 Apprenticeships for Gas, Electricians, Joiners, and plumbers have been delayed and extended due to impact of COVID on college.

3rd and 4th Year Apprentices have formed multi trade teams and are completing work in Voids and Fire damaged properties with minimal supervision to gain experience and increase our operational capacity.

Q.8 What additional capacity in the Repairs and Maintenance Service has been filled by offering staff overtime? How many staff has this been offered to, how many have taken it up?

A.8 Overtime has been offered to all trade operatives. Approximately 6% of operatives have taken this up which equates to 19 FTE.

Q.9 What additional capacity has been filled by recruiting new trade operatives to fill the vacancies in the Repairs and Maintenance service? How many new trade operatives have been recruited over the last 3 months?

A.9 We have recruited 6 Gas Engineers. We are in the process of interviewing 60 trade applicants.

Q.10 An increase in work with agency staff was highlighted as an aid to the Repairs and Maintenance Service in dealing with the backlog in housing repairs. Has this happened?

A.10 We currently have 62 Agency staff supporting our recovery.

40 Trade operatives
6 Stores
16 Co-ordinators

Reeds are struggling to provide agency trade operatives therefore we have a wavier to work with HAYS to provide additional resources.

Q.11 Opening up to subcontractors was highlighted as an aid to the Repairs and Maintenance Service in dealing with the backlog in housing repairs. Has this happened?

Since the delivery of the petition to reduce council house repairs waiting times, green square stickers saying “Emergency and Urgent Repairs Response Within 24 Hours” have appeared on the side of Repairs & Maintenance vans.

A.11 Yes, we have increased our spend and utilisation of subcontractors to assist with our COVID Recovery however Subcontractors are struggling to meet our demands and there appears to be a local, national skills shortage.

We are working with CDS to explore alternative subcontractor options through procurement frameworks.

Q.12 As this is still not the experience of many council tenants across the city, can you detail the reason behind this?

A.12 Post COVID lockdown we are experiencing a 25% increase in demand for Repairs. 82% of Emergencies and Urgent Repairs are completed within the timescales.

Q.13 When and how many of these stickers have been ordered?

A.13 26th of February, 200 graphics 50cm squared for both sides of 100 vehicles

Q.14 How much did these stickers cost and which budget met the cost of these stickers?

A.14 Cost £1,249.25. Budget – Repairs Maintenance Service funded via the Housing Revenue Account.

Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Paul Wood
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 Can you confirm that Highway Tree removal and replanting is carried out fully in accordance with “British Standard 8545 Tree’s from nursery to independence in the landscape” and specifically the recommendation that “trees will only be replaced during planting season, this runs from October to March each year.”?

A.1 Amey’s operational teams are required to operate within this standard.

We are aware that Amey non-core have undertaken some planting outside of this window for schemes such as Fitzalan Square this year. This work was progressed against client advice and as such is at their risk, with the trees to be replaced at their cost should the trees fail as a result of this late planting.

Q.2 Does a “significant loss of vitality” or indeed merely a loss of vitality, justify the removal of a highway tree? As a published reason I am concerned that this description may not accord with the dead, diseased, dangerous, or dying categorisation (would you agree?)

A.2 We no longer use the “6D” criteria- that this wording relates to – as the determining factors for assessing/ retaining trees. We are committed to a more transparent and technical discussion around the exact rationale for a tree being replaced. This is detailed in the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership, Street Tree Strategy.

A significant loss of vitality is effectively tantamount to “dying” and we would not seek to replace a tree unless the public consultation indicated that this was in agreement with the views put forward by the community and the Tree Partnership or there was a foreseeable risk to public safety.

Questions of Councillor Roger Davison to Councillor Paul Wood
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 A recent BBC investigation into what happens to recycled waste in the UK showed that a lot of this ended up burned or dumped in Turkey. Are you able to reassure me that Sheffield waste is actually recycled and that the Council knows exactly what happens to it ?

A.1 Council Officers and Veolia undertake stringent checks of waste treatment facilities used and where possible undertake site audits to ensure that high standards are met and that all waste is treated properly and responsibly.

Where waste is collected for recycling it is always sent to processing sites for recycling, we do not send any recycling material to anything other than recycling

facilities.

With regards to the recent media stories about Turkey, we have reviewed our waste disposal routes. All of our collected plastic (generally we collect it mixed with other materials) is sent to a processing site in Derbyshire for them to sort and separate the different materials ready to send out to the markets for recycling. All our plastic waste passes through this sorting facility and this facility, which is used in part due to its commitment to putting as much material through UK recycling markets as possible, something we are keen to achieve wherever possible.

The site we use in Derbyshire do not currently make any exports to Turkey and are committed to doing so moving forward. They are now looking to ensure all materials they process remain within the UK.

New government strategies and plans are intended to help address this infrastructure issue moving forward to ensure we can process and recycle materials within the UK and get them back into new products all within the UK market. As well as producer responsibility legislation currently being consulted on (which will make those companies that produce plastic packaging liable for funding its disposal) it also includes a new tax on plastic packaging where if the product doesn't include at least 30% recycled material in it then a higher tax level on that product will be applied. These are measured all intended to increase the demand for this material in the UK and help ensure infrastructure is developed to provide this.

Q.2 Are there any plans to increase the recycling categories in Sheffield ?

A.2 In preparation for the much delayed and anticipated Environment Bill to be laid before Parliament in the Autumn, the Government is in the process of consulting on a range of new measures that will include potential increases in the materials that we would be required to collect from households.

As part of the consistent waste collections consultation currently out via DEFRA the main impacts on Sheffield's domestic waste services are that we would be required to provide weekly food waste collections and the recycling services would need to take all plastics.

Given that these proposals are being made on the principle that any new burdens are funded by central government it is prudent to currently await the outcome of these consultations and subsequent government policies before determining what service changes are needed moving forward.

**Questions of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Paul Wood
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)**

Q.1 Grass verges are an important part of urban drainage and support for biodiversity of our city. However, many of them are damaged and muddy because of vehicles being parked on them, skips being left on them, etc. What steps will you be taking to ensure that these important urban drainage and biodiversity sites remain intact with grass and/or wildflowers?

A.1 We are currently waiting to see whether verge parking will be included in the forthcoming Government legislation around pavement parking. Once this has been clarified and the legislation passed, we will review our approach.

In areas such as Redmires, Brookhouse Hill and Woodhead Road we have recently acquired "Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders" to make verge parking enforceable by parking wardens. This is on a 12-month trial basis to see whether this helps to deter the issue.

Q.2 Frequently, the reseeded is neither sufficient nor consistently undertaken to replace the lost greenery. Is Amey contracted to replace turf that has been damaged?

A.2 Amey are responsible for re-instating verge - but this is not regularly achieved where customers persist in using the verge for parking

Q.3 What standards are Amey contracted to adhere to in their maintenance of grass verges?

A.3 The maintenance of grass verges varies depending upon classification. Grass is cut under four main classifications. These are maintained on what is known as an "output specification" – so Amey are required to maintain areas to a maximum grass length rather than having a prescribed attendance frequency, but we have attempted to provide a rough indicator of attendance below:

High profile sites and sponsored roundabouts are typically attended every 2 weeks

Typical suburban grass verges outside people's houses are typically attended around once a month

Areas along dual carriageways which have been allowed to go to wildflower are typically attended once per year in August. Sight lines around junctions and signs are cut more frequently from a road safety perspective.

Rural verges out into the countryside are cut once per year, again in August or September with sight lines around junctions cut more frequently from a road safety perspective.

Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Paul Wood
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 How much maintenance is currently contracted for in the Amey contract for cycleways?

A.1 Sheffield City Council has a 25 PFI contract with Amey for delivering a complete highways maintenance service.

Q.2 How often are cycleways cleared of leaves?

A.2 This depends upon location. The proactive street cleansing regime has been designed across the city based on usage in accordance with the DEFRA Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse.

This varies from every hour on some sites down to every 17 weeks in others.

As always, reports of any street falling below an acceptable standard can be reported via the Council's call centre, email address or online forms and additional reactive attendance will be made to resolve the issue in addition to the scheduled cleansing.

Q.3 How often are plants overgrowing into cycleways pruned?

A.3 Vegetation is typically cut back from hedgerows and shrub beds as a programme of work over the winter. This work is often problematic to deliver during the summer as our teams are legally required not to disturb nesting birds.

The majority of vegetation which abuts the highway network is usually owned by third party private properties (i.e. homeowners and landowners). We do serve notices under Section 154 of the Highways Act where applicable for private landowners to cut back any offending vegetation when issues are reported to us or identified as part of our routine highway inspection processes.

Q.4 How often are cycleways inspected by Amey?

A.4 Cycleways inspection is linked to the road/ footpath it forms part of (there is no specific cycleway requirement). Within a high usage footway- these are inspected monthly and cycleways within a low usage footway are inspected annually. Cycle Lanes are inspected as for the road, Primary Routes and Secondary Routes – monthly, Link Roads – 3 monthly, Local Roads – annually. The service specifications are available on the Council website.

Q.5 How many days are allowed between a fault in a cycleway (pothole etc.) being

reported and being addressed?

- A.5 The size/ severity/ impact of the pot hole will determine the response time (from no additional maintenance to within 1 day or 28 days). The service specifications are available on the Council website.

Q.6 How often are cycleways gritted?

- A.6 Cycleways which form part of the main carriageway are gritted on the same frequency as main carriageway. Sheffield City Council operates the largest percentage precautionary gritting network of any UK Local Authority. We treat these areas proactively every time the Road Surface Temperature is forecasted to fall below Zero. Cycleways which are physically segregated from the main carriageway are not currently gritted.

Q.7 How do these figures compare to those for roads for cars?

- A.7 As outlined above, cycle lanes forming part of the main carriageway are treated at the same time and on the same frequency as the main carriageway.

Q.8 Do you agree it is important to maintain cycleways to encourage and enable the modal shift to cycling we need to see?

- A.8 Well maintained cycle infrastructure will be important in fostering this transition, however surveys of this typically suggest that a perceived road danger is actually a greater obstacle to people choosing to commute via bike than a lack of, or poorly maintained cycle infrastructure, so this maintenance needs to be alongside a larger, multi-agency approach also focussing on improving that perception through more appropriate driver behaviour such as enforcement and engagement programmes from the police for “close passes”.

Q.9 How will you look to improve the maintenance of cycleways to address those currently in bad state and maintain the future ones to be delivered under TCF and other schemes?

- A.9 As part of our Connecting Sheffield programme, which includes high quality segregated cycle infrastructure, maintenance arrangements will be reviewed.

Questions of Councillor Brian Holmshaw to Councillor Paul Wood
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

- Q.1 Has there been a report or any kind of preparatory work done on this aspect of community ownership by the council? Is that report available publicly and where?**

- A.1 This question is to be answered by Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)
- Q.2 What criteria are used when assessing potential community asset transfers of property and/or land from council ownership to community groups ?**
- A.2 This question is to be answered by Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport) to be answered by Councillor Wood

- Q.6 Do you support a “rent free period” for Council Tenants who have been affected by long delays to their Council Housing repairs?**
- A.6 The council endeavours to provide the best possible services to our tenants but we recognise that some customers in the last 12 months have been waiting longer than we would like due to Covid 19. At the end of April 2021, 94% of repairs were done on the same day. We do not support rent free periods as we provide lots of other support and especially to those in financial hardship, but we will investigate any overdue repairs and make arrangements to sort out repairs for customers if they are brought to our attention.