

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 20TH FEBRUARY, 2023

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Question of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

- Q.** What stage are discussions with Skyline at over development on the Parkwood Springs site?
- A.** The Council continues to have dialogue with Skyline about the development of Parkwood. They remain interested but all parties understand that access and other issues to the site need a solution. Although we were unsuccessful in the latest Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid, the Council is seeking alternative funding routes to secure our vision for Parkwood to ensure that issues with the site can be resolved and the right investment attracted.

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

- Q.1** Will you commit the Council to publishing the report of the Local Government Association's Peer Review of Sheffield City Council?
- A.1** Yes, note it is on the Strategy and Resources Committee's Work Programme.
- Q.2** When do you expect this to be published?
- A.2** We anticipate publishing the review and our Council response for discussion at a meeting of Strategy and Resources Committee before May 2023.
- Q.3** When do you expect to receive the report of the Independent Street Tree Inquiry?

A.3 The Inquiry have set out their plans at: [Independent Inquiry into the Street Trees Dispute | Sheffield City Council](#)

Q.4 Will you commit to publishing this on the Council's website as soon as it is received?

A.4 Yes, per the agreed and published terms of reference of the Inquiry. [Independent Chair's Terms of Reference for the Independent Inquiry into Sheffield Street Trees Dispute](#)

Q.5 Will you join me in thanking everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes on the most challenging financial position this Council has yet seen, with the outcome that, for the first time ever, this Council got to the point of a broadly balanced budget with support from all three party groups by December?

A.5 Absolutely. Thanks must be given to all involved, with a special mention for Councillors Bryan Lodge and Zahira Naz, Co-Chairs of Sub-Finance, for leading this process at a member-led strategic level.

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 This Council was recently ranked 159th against other local authorities for our percentage procurement spend on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME), in research from Tussell and the British Chambers of Commerce. Are there any plans to review the Council's procurement policy in light of this?

A.1 The Tussell analysis relates to activity in financial year 2021/22 and assesses the Council spend with SME's as 38% of contracted activity. When compared to Councils of a similar size to Sheffield, this shows Council performance to be fifth out of 10. On a regional basis, Sheffield is seen to be above average against its local neighbours where the average is 37%.

The large waste contract and highways contract somewhat impact upon the Council's comparative performance.

The analysis also shows that the Council's spend with Voluntary Sector providers is 14% of contracted activity. Sheffield rank 21st out of 259 Councils. When compared with Councils of a similar size to Sheffield this shows the council performance to be second out of 10.

In order to further improve our contracts with SME's we are:

Regularly engaging with suppliers, we publish our procurement pipeline so that contractors can see contracts 18 months in advance, we undertake pre-market engagement to identify any barriers to suppliers engaging and we break tenders down into lots where this will encourage smaller firms to bid.

But I want us to go further, we are currently reviewing our guidance to ensure that tender requirements are proportionate to the contract and tender response times are not a barrier to SMEs.

In addition, changes to procurement and increased support for local SMEs will be at the heart of our forthcoming Community Wealth Building strategy.

Q.2 When did the Council stop collecting Section 106 money and how much remains unspent?

A.1 Since July 2015, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been the main mechanism for pooling developer contributions to help meet the city's strategic infrastructure needs, for education and open space provision for example. However, we do still enter into Section 106 agreements, though such agreements can only be used to deliver benefits that are directly related to and necessary to make a development acceptable. So, where applicable and subject to viability, developers are required to enter into Section 106 agreements to deliver affordable housing for instance. We might also use them to secure site-specific flood risk management measures, a specialist habitat or to secure a public route through a site.

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 With the continuing closure of leisure centres and swimming pools across the country due to high energy costs, are Sheffield's Leisure facilities at risk of closure?

A.1 Sheffield City Council Leisure Services are run by Sheffield City Trust and Places Leisure. We are working with both organisations to mitigate rising energy costs and at present neither organisation is planning to close facilities in Sheffield. The situation continues to be monitored.

Q.2 Has Sheffield City Trust sufficient reserves to ensure its finances are secure through to 2024?

A.2 This is a question for Sheffield City Trust.

Q.3 Under the funding agreement between Sheffield City Council and Sheffield City Trust through to August 2024, will the Council be liable for additional funding to maintain operation of leisure facilities if the reserves prove insufficient?

A.3 Please refer to question 2. The Council has, for many years, provided a Letter of Support to Sheffield City Trust (SCT) as part of the annual audit process. This letter allows SCT's auditors to sign the accounts on a 'going concern' basis. The letter requires the Council to provide short term cash flow support should it be required to enable SCT to meet its financial obligations.

There is also a separate and more detailed Shortfall Agreement. This is a contract between SCT and the Council that commits the Council to fund any deficits on respect of the Major Sporting Facilities (Sheffield Arena / Ponds Forge / Hillsborough Leisure Centre).

Questions of Councillor Roger Davison to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 The Council has a financial interest in a number of trusts. Which trusts are represented by Council Members or nominees?

A.1 There is Councillor representation on the Boards of Sheffield Theatres, Sheffield Museums and Showroom/Workstation (SMEC). There is an additional nominee on the Sheffield Museums Board. One Councillor representative on Sheffield City Trust – through same process as other Boards.

Q.2 How are the non-Councillor nominees appointed by the Council selected for the theatres , museums and City Trust?

A.2 Officer response not provided in time. Written answer to follow.

Q.3 What subsidies or grants are awarded and on what basis?

A.3 Showroom/Workstation receives no financial support.

Sheffield Theatres receives £291,600 and Sheffield Museums receive £1,841,000 per year as a grant payment – both representing at least a 40% decrease over 10 years. They are both civic institutions which serve the people of Sheffield and bring visitors to the city. Sheffield Museums was

previously the Sheffield City Council Museums Service, they care for the city collections of art and artefacts, which are owned by the people of Sheffield.

Questions of Councillor Kurtis Crossland to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 How does Sheffield City Council monitor tendered out contracts?

A.1 The Council's organisational approach to contract monitoring sees the client service area taking responsibility to closely manage contracts. For the higher value/strategic contracts, the procurement team provides commercial support in the form of attending board meetings, managing contract variations and providing advice and guidance on contractual issues.

Q.2 How does the Council monitor if a tendered contract is meeting our obligations under the Equality Act?

A.2 The Equality Act and the associated responsibilities the Council adheres to are given thorough consideration before, during and after the procurement process.

Firstly, commissioners are required to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment for decisions that are taken to committee for approval. The Equality Impact Assessment is there to:

- help stop direct and indirect discrimination
- help improve Council services and commissioning
- help make services more accessible for all
- help provide better outcomes for our customers
- help us meet our Public Sector Duties under the Equality Act 2010

Secondly, the Invitation to Tender documents which are used within the tender process, requires bidders to answer a number of questions under the sections of mandatory and discretionary exclusions. These are used to protect the Council and prevent from contracting with suppliers that do not meet the required standards in a wide range of areas including equality. Successful bidders are also required to sign up to the Council's terms and conditions which include clauses on Equalities, Human Rights and Ethical Conduct. The clauses place responsibilities on providers to ensure they take all necessary steps to prevent unlawful activity in relation to equality and to co-operate with the Council to ensure policies and equality objectives are achieved.

Finally, regular monitoring of all key aspects of the contract is taken

throughout the contract term.

It is through this three stage approach that will ensure contracts are managed effectively incorporating equalities.

Questions of Councillor Alexi Dimond to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 Given none of the political groups opposed the proposed locations of traveller sites during the years-long development of the local plan or when it was voted on in Full Council, why has the Labour candidate for Beighton suddenly decided to start campaigning against the proposed Beighton site?

A.1 The Labour candidate is not a sitting Councillor, and as Leader of the Council I have no say in what issues they may wish to campaign on.

I would expect any political candidate to be making local representations.

Q.2 Anti Gypsy, Roma and Traveller discrimination is often described as the “last acceptable form of racism”. What does the 2700+ petition started by a Labour candidate say about Sheffield Labour's commitment to the Race Equality Commission and Sheffield as an inclusive city?

A.2 Sheffield Labour Councillors are proud to celebrate the rich histories and diverse cultures of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, and we are committed to providing traveller sites.

We are steadfast in our commitment to combating discrimination and to defending and supporting all of those with protected characteristics.

The Council is making progress through the Race Equality Commission report, and through the development of the RECs legacy group, we will continue working hard with partners and anchor institutions to do everything we can to make Sheffield an antiracist city.

Questions of Councillor Bernard Little to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 What is the Council's progress on Recommendation 1 of the Race Equality Commission's report, Sheffield: An Antiracist City - (Governance, Leadership and Workforce)?

A.1 There will be an interim progress report going to the Strategic Equality and Inclusion Board (SEIB which oversees equality work in the Council and Senior Leadership Board in March. A further report will go in July. The SEIB is Chaired by the Chief Executive and has senior officer and cross-party membership.

The three areas of priority as identified in the Sheffield City Council Response report were training, data and debiasing systems.

The Equalities and Engagement team have undertaken training for managers on the Race Equality Commission (REC) and race equality at a series of workshops over the past four months and these are ongoing. We are currently also looking at additional cultural/racial competency training.

We have produced a detailed Workforce Equality Data report as part of the Annual Equality Report which is going to the Strategy and Resources Committee in March and a detailed Ethnicity report to go alongside this. We have undertaken a presentation on the data in Race Equality Matters week and will continue these across Sheffield City Council. See data in the report as answers for Q2 and Q3.

The new Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) form will be launched in April and this will include new guidance and training this is a key part of the debiasing systems work across the City Council. Human Resources are starting to undertake a series of policy reviews which will all have an EIA and staff engagement as part of this.

We held a series of internal workshops and an external event as part of Race Equality Matters week in February.

Also, as a civic leader Sheffield City Council is committed to working in partnerships with Key Anchor Organisations across the city to input into the design of an effective Legacy Group to improve race outcomes across the city. These conversations are ongoing and updates will be shared when decisions have been made.

Q.2 How many Black, Asian and minoritized ethnic employees are there in bands 1 to 8 and what is their percentage in successfully applying for Sheffield City Council jobs to a higher band?

A.2 We don't currently have this data broken down as requested above but have extracted the charts below from the Workforce Data Report 21/22:

Progression and Promotion

SCC Overall Employees Progressing by Race Representation

BAME	13.7%
White British	86.3%

SCC Overall Employees Progressing by Ethnicity

Asian/Asian British	4.9%
Black/Black British	3.5%
Mixed Multiple Heritage	2.6%
Other Ethnic Group (including White Other)	2.6%
White British	86.3%

BAME Applicants	
Applications	27.1%
Short-listed	23.7%
Offers Made	20.7%

Q.3 The lack of diversity in senior managers in Sheffield City Council was acknowledged in the Race Equality Commission report. What percentage of senior managers and directors in Sheffield City Council are Black, Asian and minoritized ethnic people?

A.3 SCC Grade and Race Representation

	Grades 1 to 5	Grades 6 to 9	Grades 10 to 11	Chief Office Grade
BAME	18.0%	16.1%	14.5%	10.5%
White British	82.0%	83.9%	85.5%	89.5%

SCC Grade and Ethnicity Representation

Ethnicity	Grades 1 to 5	Grades 6 to 9	Grades 10 to 11	Chief Office Grade
Asian/ Asian British	6.5%	4.0%	3.3%	2.3%
Black/ Black British	4.9%	5.1%	2.7%	1.2%
Mixed/ Multi Heritage	2.8%	3.0%	2.5%	2.3%
Other Ethnic Group (Including White Other)	3.8%	4.0%	6.0%	4.7%
White British	82.0%	83.9%	85.5%	89.5%

Questions of Councillor Christine Gilligan to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Richard Williams)

Q.1 Could you please provide an update on the tender for the Hillsborough Park Activity Hub?

A.1 The parks tennis procurement including the development of an Activity Hub at Hillsborough Park is close to reaching a conclusion. Final submissions have been received and we plan to communicate the outcome of this with local Councillors and Members of the Communities, Parks and Leisure committee in the coming weeks.

Q.2 How many bids were received?

A.2 The Charity Trustee Committee report for the March Committee will provide detail on the procurement strategy, detail around bids and interest received will be included within here.

Q.3 How will the final decision be made?

A.3 A report will be taken to the Charity Trustee Sub Committee in March for approval on the recommendations around contract award and agreement to enter into leases for the nine sites incorporated within the parks tennis programme. Prior to this, Officers have discussed with Councillor Richard

Williams about arranging additional briefings with Members of the Communities, Parks and Leisure committee, as well as local Councillors.

Q.4 Will all stakeholders be consulted before the decision is made?

A.4 We continue to consult with key stakeholders, and subject to Charitable Trustee Committee approval, all feedback received would be, where appropriate, incorporated in plans in advance of any planning applications.

Q.5 In particular stakeholders, are concerned about any limitations to the free and unlimited use of the MUGA (multi use games area) for Cycling 4 All and other park users. Can you give a guarantee that the use of this area will not be limited by the chosen providers?

A.5 Yes – this came through very clearly from discussions with local Councillors, the Friends of Group and Cycling for All, therefore the procurement specification stipulated free to use and unlimited use of the MUGA for cycling for all and other park users.

Question of Councillor Dawn Dale to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Richard Williams)

Labour set aside funding to be spent on Youth work provision across our city with a minimum commitment to provide three sessions of youth work for every Council ward worth six hours every week.

Q.1 How many wards are currently receiving three sessions of youth work per week?

A.1 Our commitment was to ensure that all Wards gave our young residents in Sheffield access to three youth sessions per week delivered by either Sheffield City Council or Voluntary Community and Faith (VCF) sector partners. We are thoroughly mapping this to ensure a central understanding of what exactly is available, and this is positively developing.

Youth work in Sheffield is significantly increasing. All wards in Sheffield are receiving youth work from Sheffield City Council with a minimum of one session per week and an average of two session noting that five wards are now receiving three or more sessions delivery and with the delivery of a wide range of VCF partners many wards are offer more than three sessions of youth work provision and engagement which is positive for our young residents.

We are also closely working with partners to deliver in some areas

increasing the availability of provision to three sessions. With this, we are in the process of evaluating bids for a centrally delivered non recurrent youth grant of up to £20,000 with two bids to be allocated per ward. These bids are currently being evaluated by young people and will be awarded very soon. This will further increase the youth offer to beyond three sessions in the majority of Sheffield wards.

Local Area Committees were allocated £10,000 for a local youth grant and this is a developing discussion in LAC areas with communities to enhance and to support further youth leisure activity. .

Q.2 What is the progress on training of youth workers?

A.2 Community youth services has now received tender submissions to deliver 30x Level 2 Youth Work Certificates and 30x Level 3 Youth Work Diplomas. Evaluations process has taken place prior to awarding the contract which is to be completed imminently.

We are working closely with National Youth Agency in relation to their Level 4 Certificate in Professional Development (Youth Work) and we are in talks about how best we can bring this to the city in several ways. This conversation will include VCF representatives.

We have also had discussions with Sheffield Hallam University to establish possibilities to support the development of youth work training and this is ongoing.

We are now looking at thematic training and Continued Professional Development and are building a training calendar that will be open to youth practitioners addressing the skills to support the developing needs and issues facing young residents in the city.

Q.3 What are you doing as Chair to ensure targets on youth work provision are being met?

A.3 The Chair and Head of Youth Service meet fortnightly and often weekly at the Communities Committee Briefing where youth services are discussed and the development against the strategy is reviewed in this space.

Alongside this, there is regular communication when needed on topical issues and updates via email and one to one meetings, to ensure Community Youth Services is building and developing against the strategy.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Richard Williams)

In answer to my question at December, 2022 Full Council meeting, I asked a question on the environmental specifications of vehicles used by ice-cream traders in parks and was informed that as part of the tender award process of last year, it was specified that only Euro 6 compliant vehicles are to be used in parks.

Q.1 How can I reassure residents that only Euro 6 compliant vehicles are to be used in parks? What checks have been carried out by officers that only compliant vehicles have been and will continue to be used?

A.1 Within the licence agreement with our ice cream operators, we stipulated that Euro 6 compliant vehicles were a requirement. We check compliance with the licence at regular intervals with our operators and communicate frequently on a range of matters including any issues arising with their operations within the parks.

Q.2 Is there a mechanism whereby members of the public can establish whether an ice-cream van is compliant?

A.2 As older vehicles can be converted, there is no real obvious indicator as to whether or not a vehicle is Euro 6 Compliant. There is no current Government Legislation that documentation or proof of this should be displayed.

At the September, 2022 Full Council meeting, my Liberal Democrat colleague, Councillor Roger Davison, asked what former park keeper lodges were still in use as employee homes.

Q.3 Can you tell me the current status of the Park Lodge in Endcliffe Park?

A.3 The Park Lodge is still occupied, sadly our former employee who was the tenant there passed away before Christmas, his widow has remained in the property at present.

For a number of years children's rides have been operating in Millhouses Park providing a popular attraction to families. Alongside is a pitch for an ice-cream trader. The siting of the rides increased footfall at one end of an extended play area and encouraged movement through the park rather than a concentration in other areas. Last year there were no children's rides and I was told this was because there

were outstanding negotiation for operating children's rides in the Park and no tender was awarded.

Q.1 Can you explain why the situation occurred?

A.1 The previous tenant fell into arrears and we were unable to reach a mutually satisfactory way forward, we are still working through this with legal.

Q.2 Have the issues now been resolved?

A.2 No – we continue to work through this.

Q.3 Will there be children's rides in Millhouses Park this year?

A.3 Yes – due to the ongoing dispute and lack of resolution, we have taken the decision to award the contract to another operator.

Q.4 What has been the knock-on effect on the ice cream trader with the drop in footfall alongside his pitch?

A.4 This hasn't been flagged as an issue from the ice cream trader, we are communicating regularly with them on a range of other matters.

Q.5 What has been the loss in revenue to Parks and Countryside because of the situation?

A.5 As this dispute has not reached a conclusion, it wouldn't be appropriate to share this detail. However, we are doing what we can to ensure that any revenue that can be made in the park, is made appropriately with our partner operators, but most importantly that we can continue a range of much loved and needed services for our park users.

Questions of Councillor Kurtis Crossland to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Richard Williams)

In November, 2021 the Co-operative Executive approved the implementation of the outcomes identified by the Leisure Investment Review. The report approved significant investment (c£100 million) towards the development of Sheffield's sport, leisure and entertainment assets. The Programme of work was split into the

following themes:

- 1. Capital Investment Programme (including new build developments and Lifecycle and Essential maintenance).**
- 2. Procurement of a new operator/s.**
- 3. Sheffield City Trust Wind Up.**

It was agreed that the Communities Parks and Leisure Committee will oversee the implementation of the outcomes from the Leisure and Entertainment review. This will include:

- Approach for procuring a new operator (September 2022)**
- Development of the Specification of Services**
- Oversight of the Capital Development projects, funding decisions will be taken via the Capital Approvals Process and approved by the Strategy and Resources Committee.**

In light of the increases in costs, both utility costs and building costs, a decision (not by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee) was taken to review the impacts of these increases on the proposed investment and review what could be delivered.

Q. Can you update on progress with this review and when will it be completed?

A. This work is continuing, and an update will be provided when it is completed. At present we cannot provide a firm timeline.

Questions of Councillor Minesh Parekh to the Chair of the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee) (Councillor Martin Smith)

Environment Agency workers have recently been forced to take strike action due to being offered a 2% pay rise, which with the level of inflation is significant real terms pay cut. With your Committee's current work on Green Skills and Jobs

Q.1 Do you agree it's important to focus on creating high-quality, well-paying green jobs, retaining the quality of already-existing green jobs such as these Environment Agency workers?

A.1 It's important to focus on creating high-quality, well-paid jobs in many sectors to support the local economy.

Q.2 Will you agree to involve trade unions that represent workers in already-existing green jobs in discussions about the future of green jobs and green skills for our city?

A.2 As a member of the Committee, you are free to make suggestions for our work programme, a review of which is on the agenda at every meeting. The work programme is a matter for the whole Committee, not just the Chair.

Questions of Councillor Marianne Elliot to the Co-Chairs of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee (Councillor Dawn Dale and Councillor Mick Rooney)

Q.1 What system does the Council have for logging parental complaints about schools?

A.1 School complaints within the local authorities School's Services Department deal with all school related complaints and enquiries for Sheffield schools, whether maintained or academies. Independent schools and other educational establishments are also covered.

School complaints come in from a variety of sources, the bulk of which are from Ofsted, others arrive from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), parents/carers, councillors, MPs, charities, advocates etc. The complaints team works with the local authority's Education Safeguarding Officers and Local Authority Designated Officers in order to resolve complaints. A clear administration process is followed. Regular phone calls take place between Ofsted and the Service Manager in relation to Section 11a complaints, these generally relate to safeguarding and management concerns.

School enquiries are referred into the Department by the Sheffield City Council (SCC) Customer Services Team via schoolenquiries@sheffield.gov.uk They are either responded to directly by the complaints and enquiries officer or sent on to the appropriate department in Education and Skills to be dealt with. These enquiries are recorded in a spreadsheet and SCC Customer Services are made aware of actions taken.

Q.2 How many parental complaints have been received by the Council for each school in Sheffield over the last 12 month period?

A.2 The total number of complaints received for schools in Sheffield from 1st January 2022 to 31st December, 2022 is 161, Secondary 88, Primary 54, Junior 3. No school specified 12 and other 4. These are only the complaints which have reached us, we do not know how many parental complaints sits within individual school processes.

Q.3 Regarding King Edward VII School, what is the procedure for choosing an Academy?

A.3 As a Direct Academy, an order has been issued by the Secretary of State for Education to King Edward VII School, which has been placed into a category of inadequate by Ofsted, this finding was linked to inadequacies in Leadership and Management due to safeguarding issues. The Local

Authority do not have powers to intervene with a process of choosing an academy or academy trust, this responsibility falls to the Department for Education (DfE).

With regards to further communication by the Local Authority to parents, we have been advised by the DfE to advise that you may find it helpful to look at the Schools Causing Concern guidance issued by the DfE which can be found [here](#). This provides an overview of the Departments processes including the process for intervention where a school has been judged inadequate by Ofsted. I believe your questions on timescale and process can be answered here.

With regards to a chosen sponsor, this is the decision of the Regional Director for the Department of Education. This person is led by an Advisory Board (formerly Headteacher Board), and they meet every month to discuss and put forward recommendations for academisation and conversion to academy status. The Local Authority does not (as per nationally) have a seat at this table.

At present, we are continuing to work with the school and have offered support in a variety of ways; including addressing the areas of the inspection report that are most urgent. We are also conscious of the need for parental voice and have also reached out to the school to support them with this moving forward.

Labour councillors do not agree with the forced academisation of schools, but we have no authority to challenge the Department of Education decision.

Q.4 Has the process has started?

A.4 The school received a Direct Academy Order in December 2022, therefore the process to seek a sponsor has already started.

Q.5 If so, which Academies have expressed an interest?

A.5 We do not know this information at present.

Q.6 How can parents be involved in the process?

A.6 At present, we are continuing to work with the school and have offered support in a variety of ways; including addressing the areas of the inspection report that are most urgent. We are also conscious of the need for parental

voice and have also reached out to the school to support them with this moving forward.

With regards to further communication by the Local Authority to parents – we have been advised by the Department of Education to advise that you may find it helpful to look at the Schools Causing Concern guidance issued by the DfE which can be found [here](#). This provides an overview of the departments processes including the process for intervention where a school has been judged inadequate by Ofsted. Parents can contact Ofsted directly if they wish to do so.

Question of Councillor Tim Huggan to the Co-Chairs of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee (Councillor Dawn Dale and Councillor Mick Rooney)

- Q. Has the Council taken any steps to aid and assist King Edward VII School in challenging its ‘Inadequate’ Ofsted rating, which will have the effect of academizing the school?**
- A. King Edward VII School was inspected in September 2022. As part of the inspection process, all schools have the opportunity to challenge and query any inspection process through a four stage complaints process and this is actioned by the school. All inspections are underpinned by an internal Ofsted quality assurance process and all of the above is carried out before any publication of a report. The local authority does not have any powers in submitting a complaint or query to Ofsted on behalf of a school and has not been requested to support the school in challenging the judgement.

Questions of Councillor Minesh Parekh to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q.1 What is your assessment of the condition of student housing in areas such as Crookes, Broomhill and Walkley?

A.1 Private Housing Standards is responsible for the regulation of all properties within the private rented sector, which includes student accommodation. In 2013, we introduced our Snug registration scheme, this is a voluntary scheme (as there are no mandatory student schemes) which we set up in partnership with Hallam University, the University of Sheffield and Student Unions'. As a partnership group, we meet quarterly but do speak between meetings should complaints or issues be raised to any partner which needs to be investigated.

Fit and Proper checks are carried out on **all** Snug applications and **all** properties are inspected by a Private Housing Standards Officer to ensure they are meet the Snug standards in terms of property condition and management. Any properties which landlords want to register and advertise through Sheffield Hallam University, or the University of Sheffield (or both) need to be Snug approved. Properties will not be advertised or promoted until they are approved.

There are currently 19,310 bedspaces within Snug, which is 522 properties. 476 of these are HMOs and 46 are purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA).

We also deliver the mandatory HMO licensing scheme, which applies to any HMO that is occupied by five or more people, forming two or more households sharing facilities (such as kitchen / bathroom). Fit and Proper checks are carried out on all HMO applications and we inspect them to ensure they meet HMO licence standards and management regulations. We currently have around 2,000 licenced HMOs in the city.

Q.2 What work has the Council done to engage with students, proactively encourage students to report housing issues to us so that we can tackle bad landlords in the city, and do you think more work is needed?

A.2 We have a direct contact phone number (0114 2734860) and email address (phs@sheffield.gov.uk) which is widely publicised and a webpage that provides information on the advice and support our service delivers.

As a high number of student homes fall within Snug or HMO licensing, they are some of the most regulated private accommodation in the city. We encourage any student to report any issues directly to us.

In addition, both Universities have welfare teams and dedicated staff to which students can report issues to and the Student Union also take reports and concerns and actively engage with students. As they are all part of the

Snug partnership complaints and reports are shared with us via our regular Snug Partnership meetings so we can investigate as necessary.

Both Universities hold Student Fairs at which we always have a presence and a Snug stall attended by staff from Private Housing Standards. We also regularly attend the Student Good Neighbour Forum meeting which are facilitated by Hallam University where issues or concerns can be raised.

Q.3 Do you agree with me that a landlord licensing scheme would improve living standards in student houses in these areas?

A.3 Should any potential licence scheme be considered, then evidence would have to be gathered to show the need for a scheme, this would include looking at alternative ways to address to issues as evidenced.

You may also be aware that Green councillors raised the issue of the range of student housing in 2017, in view of the changing pattern of its use and the consequences for the city. Unfortunately, the proposal for an up-to-date assessment of student accommodation was blocked by the Labour majority at the time.

Q.4 Will the Chair provide data on Council housing cases where a notice to quit has been served when the tenants have reported issues of damp and/or black mould?

A.4 The Council does not serve Notice to Quit as a result of tenants reporting mould and damp issues. Plainly, our response would be to resolve the damp and mould in tenants' homes.

Q.5 Will the Chair provide data on Council housing cases where child safeguarding referrals have been placed where tenants have reported issues of damp and/or black mould?

A.5 I am not aware of any.

Questions of Councillor Jayne Dunn to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q. Why are we having this meeting of Full Council today instead of as originally scheduled, no doubt inconveniencing many members and constituents?

- A. I believe it was at the request of the Leader of the Council and with the support of the Lord Mayor.

Questions of Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

At the meeting of the Climate Change, Economy and Development Transitional Committee on 10th November, 2021, it was agreed that there should be a focus on the decarbonisation of housing in the city, and to request officers to submit a report setting out possible actions and interventions. The last meeting of the Transitional Committee proposed that subsequent Committees should address this issue and start to undertake actions to address Net Zero.

- Q.1 What has the Housing Committee done to progress this cross-party consensus to progress retrofitting of the Councils housing stock during 2022-23?**

- A.1 A report was commissioned for the Council's strategic construction partner RLB (Rider Levett Bucknall) to develop a roadmap to net zero for Sheffield City Council housing stock. I understand the report is due shortly and will be foundational to support asset/ investment management planning toward net zero targets.

The Council has been actively seeking grant funding for energy efficiency/ decarbonisation projects. This included approximately £1.3m "LAD 2" funding under the Government's Green Homes Grant initiative for Sheffield City Council homes and £2.3m in the private sector.

The Council was successful in securing £4.8m Homes Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding for off-gas homes in the private sector.

The Council has applied for £4m from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) bid that will assist in an external wall insulation programme to 370 homes. We are currently awaiting confirmation of this award.

Recently, the Council has launched its ECO 4 Flex (Energy Company Obligation) policy/scheme. It is intended that hundreds of homes of all tenures across the city will benefit from millions of pounds for important energy efficiency improvements.

The Housing and Neighbourhoods Service is exploring opportunities under the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES) for funding to evaluate decarbonisation opportunities for several of its boiler plants

Tenders have recently been received to retrofit and externally insulate 255 system-built properties under Phase 3 of the external wall insulation (EWI)

programme. This is anticipated to be on site in May/June 2023 with a programme to be completed within 15 months of the contract award being approved.

A further 120 Airey type properties will undergo structural repair works along with external wall insulation, upgraded windows, ventilation and loft insulation. This project is awaiting tender process and is anticipated to start on site in September 2023 with a view to completion within 18 months of starting.

Q.2 What resolutions has the Housing Committee made since May 2022 to act on decarbonising our Council housing to create warmer more affordable homes?

A.2 See the HRA Business Plan on today's agenda, which contains a commitment to improve all Council homes to EPC C standard by 2030. Funding is in place for this in the Housing Investment Capital Programme. There are around 6,900 homes out of a stock of just under 39,000 that are not already at EPC C.

The HPC has also commissioned officers to produce a roadmap to Net Zero which will be considered by the Housing Policy Committee later in 2023. This will set out the approach that could be undertaken and, an update on estimated costs.

Q.3 How many Council homes have had insulation retrofitted since you took on chair of housing?

A.3 Grant funded:
LAD 2 SCC 120 homes
LAD 2 private sector 207 homes
HUG 1 target 80 homes
Total: 405 homes

Q.4 How many Council properties have now been fitted with solar panels

A.4 39 houses fitted as part of LAD 2 (during May – September 2022) plus six blocks of four flats (providing communal solar powered lighting and controlled entry backed up with batteries – delivered by the Roofing contractor during Summer/Autumn 2021). Prior to this, under previous administrations, no solar panels were installed.

When solar photovoltaic installations qualified for a Feed In Tarrif (which would enable their installation at no net cost), Green Councillors proposed using this mechanism to put solar panels on thousands of Council homes

as other Councils have done. Unfortunately, this proposal was rejected, at the time, by the majority Labour Administration.

The Green group submitted a motion to Full Council on 2nd November, 2022, “A Renewable Energy Strategy for Sheffield” which contained the following recommendations which were accepted.

(i) Conduct an audit of the potential for renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures on all Council land and property, draw up a priority list for installations based on the most potential to save energy and generate clean energy, and present it to the committee within 6 months.

(ii) Install solar photovoltaics on all new build Council owned buildings where technically feasible, recognising that integrated roof systems are cheaper to install than retrofitting solar systems after construction.

I was pleased the Labour group supported these proposals and I look forward to your support in ensuring they are implemented.

Q.5 What proportion is this of the stock?

A.5 A total of 63 properties –ie 0.16% of the council housing stock.

Q.6 What increase has there been under his leadership of housing?

A.6 See above. It is important to note that, although I chair the Committee, all decisions are made by the full Committee, of which I am a member of the smallest political group.

It is time for other parties to accept the move away from the previous “Strong Leader” model of command. Under the new committee system, I am pleased to have worked constructively and collaboratively with colleagues from both other parties on the Committee.

Questions of Councillor Mark Jones to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

I understand that leaseholders are not getting billed for works undertaken on flats/maisonettes, where significant works have been undertaken by Council Housing Repairs.

Q.1 Are you aware of the “Section 20 notice” with regards to Housing Repairs, and how many have been issued during 2022-23?

A.1 I understand that, since the beginning of April 2022, Leasehold Services have issued eight Section 20 notices.

Q.2 Could you please provide figures on the number of significant works that have been undertaken on blocks of flats/maisonettes over 2022-23 where costs could and should have been shared with leaseholders?

A.2 I will have to get back to you about this if this information is available. However, all major works are subject to formal consultation as set out above.

Q.3 How much was recovered for the HRA budget through passing charges of works over £250 onto leaseholders within those affected blocks of flats and maisonette properties?

A.3 This is an income in the HRA to cover cost of Leaseholder works which offsets costs to HRA. HRA cannot fund cost of works to private homes, so we raise invoice to cover this cost. We do allow Leaseholders flexible payment options, so this takes a number of years to recover full debt. If any leaseholders do not pay, then the Council will legal recover this cost and the final outcome for non-payers will be to forfeiture their properties to cover the debt

In the financial year 2022/23, we raised 2,876 invoices for Leasehold Service Charges to a value of £440,000. 89% of which have been paid and this figure is expect to increase as some pay charges on a monthly basis.

In 2021/2022, we raised 2,650 invoices, to a total value of £382,000. 95% was collected in year.

Major Works:

2022/23 – 329 invoices raised for Major works to date, to a value of £426,000, 84% has been collected so far.

2021/22 – 426 invoices raised for Major Works, to a value of £426,000, 88% collected to date.

All leaseholders are allowed flexible payment plans to pay for what can be expensive works, so cost spread over a number of years. All leaseholders that have been issued with an invoice have either paid in full or on a payment plan.

Questions of Councillor Mike Chaplin to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q.1 How many Council homes need repairs to remedy faults caused by subsidence?

A.1 Four properties (this financial year) have been the subject of detailed structural surveys to address movement issues.

Q.2 How many Council Homes had repair work carried out to stabilise subsidence in the 2021/22 financial year and in the current 2022/23 financial year?

A.2 The four are with surveyors and in a work programme to address structural improvements that will be required. Any property with subsidence issues will have been improved if this was identified in previous years. If any resident or Councillor is aware of properties with a subsidence issue, then they should report these to the Council Repairs Service.

Q.3 What is the current average waiting time to have repair work to stabilise properties adversely affected by subsidence to be carried out?

A.3 A response will be provided, clarification being sought.

Questions of Councillor Sophie Thornton to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q.1 What was the average waiting time for a Council house repair issue to be resolved over the last three months? What was the longest wait?

A.1 The average waiting time for a Council house repair issue to be resolved over the last three months is as follows:

November 2022: 22.34 days
December 2022: 19.01 days
January 2022: 21.24 days

Overall average for the last three months: 20.91 days

The longest wait for a repair issue to be resolved over the last three months is as follows:

November 2022: 791 days

December 2022: 812 days
January 2023: 702 days

It should be noted that the longest waiting time is significantly skewed by the issues experienced in some cases with gaining access to properties to undertake fire safety work.

In addition, the last three months has covered the peak period in repair requests as we entered the winter months. Since October 2022 our repairs demand has seen an increase of 40%. We continue to complete as many repairs each week as we can, however the increase in repair requests has put pressure on our services.

Q.2 What was the average waiting time on the Council house repairs phone line before answering each month in the last two months? What was the longest wait?

A.2 The average waiting time in December 2022 was 23 minutes. The longest wait was 2 hours and 40 minutes.

The average waiting time in January 2023 was 33 minutes. The longest wait was 2 hours and 53 minutes.

Waiting times have increased due to several serious concurrent issues; vacancies in the contact centre, increased demand because of the Stannington emergency, freezing weather (and consequent demand), media focus on damp and mould, longer handling times as 37% of calls (350/day) are chasing a previously booked repair and these calls are referred to back office teams, issues with the online repair form, and experienced staff training new recruits.

Q.3 What was the average waiting time for a planned repair to be resolved over the last three months?

A.3 The average waiting time for a planned repair to be completed over the last three months is as follows:

November 2022: 140.33 days
December 2022: 120.21 days
January 2023: 128.27 days

Overall: 130.89 days

Please note the average length of time taken to complete planned repairs has been impacted by resources being prioritised to deal with service demands in relation to damp and mould, responsive repairs, voids, gas and

fire stopping. Performance across many areas has improved, with compliance on gas servicing increasing to 98% from 85%, the number of void properties awaiting repairs has reduced from over 550 to under 350 and the time taken to complete repairs to voids has been halved.

Q.4 What is the current number of outstanding or incomplete Council house repairs?

A.4 There are currently 13,902 open repairs, of which 3,081 are overdue. This has reduced significantly from over 4,000 jobs at the start of the financial year and is against a backdrop of peak demand over the last three months (an increase in repair demand of 40%).

There are 4,010 open planned jobs, of which 2,784 are overdue

Q.5 How many people are currently in temporary accommodation organised by the Council?

A.5 513 households, just looking at interim accommodation duty. 525 under all provision.

Q.6 How long was the average stay in temporary accommodation over the last three months?

A.6 For placements ending in the last three months, the average length of stay for those currently in temporary accommodation under interim accommodation duty is 123 days across all provision (B&B 73 days, SCC TA 152 days).

Q.7 How long is the current longest stay in temporary accommodation, including household moves between different temporary accommodation addresses?

A.7 134 weeks. Next longest is 98 weeks.

Q.8 How many temporary accommodation placements are due to maintenance issues at the household's council property?

A.8 We have 67 decants that are attributed to repairs work:

Damp	25
Disrepair	26
Fire	12
Flood	4
Total 'repairs'	67

Q.9 How many void properties have been repaired and made fit to let over the last three months?

A.9 730 void properties have been repaired and made fit to let over the last three months.

Q.10 How many void properties are currently awaiting repairs to be made fit to relet?

A.10 There are currently 349 void properties awaiting repairs to be made fit to relet.

Q.11 How many residents are on the housing register for Council properties?

A.11 21,568.

Q.12 How many of those are in a priority band? Please subdivide this information by bands A-C.

A.12 In total 1088 households currently have a priority award. This is split between the 3 bands as follows:

- Band A – 41
- Band B – 735
- Band C - 312

Q.13 What is the average time (in days) for customers bidding on a priority band A to be offered a property?

A.13 66 days .

Q.14 What is the average time (in days) for customers bidding on a priority band B to be offered a property?

A.14 131 days.

Q.15 What is the average time (in days) for customers bidding on a priority band C to be offered a property?

A.15 112 days

Note that the data above (for questions 13-15) has been taken from lettings outcomes over the last 3 months and does not fully reflect the average length of time a household may have a priority award in a band. This is because this data only takes into account those households who have been rehoused in each band rather than all households in the band and is dependant on the types of properties advertised. Some households may have priority for a very specific type of property (due to mobility need, or size of home needed) or areas of Sheffield for support. To help better explain the current waiting time in each band the details below are the average number of days a household currently bidding for a priority has been waiting for an offer in each Band (A-C).

Band	Band	Band
A	B	C
125	202	141
Days	Days	Days

This information demonstrates the significant length of time a household with a priority is waiting for an offer.

Q.16 What communication has taken place with community groups/TARA's regarding use of their spaces for 'warm banks'?

A.16 All TARA's that deliver activities in a community building have been contacted by the Housing and Neighbourhoods Involvement team, to ask if they would be happy to be promoted as a warm space to help with SCC's approach to supporting tenants and residents through the Cost of Living (CoL) difficulties.

As a result, all TARAs have had their activities mapped with times and venues they are delivering activities, and these details have been promoted and added to the Cost of Living toolkit.

Q.17 How many cases of damp and mould have been reported in homes with district heating?

A.17 Since April 2022 there have been 88 reports of damp and mould in homes with district heating.

Q.18 How many new build properties does the Council hold that are ready to let and empty?

A.18 See below (Q19).

Q.19 What is the average time between work on a new build completing and the property becoming occupied?

A.19 This information is for new build handovers completed in 2022/23 to 10th February 2023:

General Needs (Berners Road)

6 properties are still vacant since handover – 1 of these properties is let but awaiting adaptation installations for the tenant.

Average time to first let following handover = 4 weeks.

Aim for first let from handover is two weeks but this is subject to time taken following bidding and matching to carry out final checks in line with policy.

Temporary Accommodation (Baxter Court)

No properties are still vacant.

Average time to first let following handover = 20.5 weeks.

Anticipated first let was to be 6 weeks following handover but issues obtaining formal sign-off of the pre-population fire management plans within SCC, allowing follow on completion of the fire risk assessment, delayed this to 19 weeks. This issue has been picked up and managed for new build properties of this type moving forward.

Older Persons Independent Living (Adlington/Buchanan Green)

119 out of the 140 scheme properties are still vacant since handover.

Anticipated average time to first let of property following handover = 15 weeks.

First let was five weeks following handover, as planned, and population of whole 140 properties was anticipated to be 20 weeks following handover. Building defect issues arose in January and the Service has decided to cease the letting of the remaining properties until further investigations and

remedial work are complete, in order to not unduly inconvenience new tenants. Remedial work is ongoing and final sign-off is expected on the 17th February. This will allow lettings to recommence week commencing 20th February, with final lettings now anticipated mid-April 2023.

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

The target for council property voids for 2022/23 is 1.5% and actual stands at 3.5% equating to 1,350 homes from a housing stock of 38,553.

Q.1 The 2023/24 budget shows an increase of £10M to the Repairs and Maintenance budget. Will this bring turnaround time for void property repairs back in line with target?

A.1 Yes, and this detail is included in the HRA Business Plan over the next two years.

Between April and December 2022, the completion time for repairs to void properties has improved from 80 to 35 days, with the number of properties awaiting work reducing from 532 to less than 350 in the same period. The overall time taken to relet empty properties has reduced by almost 20% over the past 9 months. Whilst the budget for the repairs service is proposed to increase in 2023/24, this reflects the increased costs of the service and is therefore not an increase compared to the budget that was actually invested in 2022/23. We are however confident that the improvement journey in the service will continue and repairs are working closely with housing to continue to reduce the time taken to relet void properties as a priority.

Q.2 Why has the 2023/24 budget show a revised overall target for voids of 2.5%, equating to almost 400 homes more than the 2022/23 target?

A.2 There are always some properties temporarily empty as people move in and out.

A revised target of 2.5% is an estimate of general needs voids that will be empty during 2023/24. The number of general needs voids has reduced from 1336 in May 2021 to its current number of 844. It is anticipated that the service will return to 1.5% void loss for the 2024/25 financial year.

Question of Councillor Alexi Dimond to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

- Q. Residents at Callow Tower blocks were promised in Spring 2022 that work would commence on CCTV late summer 2022. In November, 2022 it was forecast that work would begin in Spring 2023. Callow Tower blocks are the only Council High Rise block without CCTV and frequently targeted by arsonists, averaging at around one fire per month. Please can you advise what progress has been made on the Council's CCTV renewal programme, commit to a timescale for works to begin and communicate this to residents without delay?**
- A. A procurement process is underway to appoint a contractor to carry out the works. Once an appointment has been made, then residents will be informed when works will take place. As long as quoted prices are within our initial costings then we are still confident that we should be able to award a contract and for work to commence in Spring. If once tendered prices come back, we do not feel this is realistic we will provide an update to the local community. We remain committed to installing the new CCTV system at the Callow tower blocks as the first work content of the new programme due to the reports of anti-social behaviour and crime in the area.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 When were local MP's made aware of and given the opportunity to respond to proposed site allocations for the Draft Local Plan?

A.1 Proposed site allocations for the Draft Sheffield Plan were shared with MPs on 11th July 2022. This is the exact same time as officers shared with councillors.

This whole process was led by council officers and completely transparent. All councillors were offered offered multiple briefings by officers so they could lodge any issues they had.

Following these briefings and discussions within political groups the whole Council then met on the 14th December to vote on the local plan. All parties – Labour, Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Green – approved the plans.

I note that the only amendment top the Plan from the Liberal Democrats members was a request to remove the spatial limit for new hot food takeaway outlets near schools.

Q.2 What criteria were used to select traveller and travelling show-people sites for the Draft Local Plan?

A.2 The criteria used in site selection are set out in part 3(c) of the Site Selection Methodology (paragraphs 3.36 to 3.39) that can be found here: <https://haveyoursaysheffield.uk.engagementhq.com/draft-local-plan>. It is on the right hand side of the page under 'Supporting documents'. Essentially, sites that were suitable for development were considered alongside additional factors that are specific to the needs of Gypsy and Traveller and/or travelling showpeople sites. In summary, this included site size, flood zone, access to the strategic road network, the proposed policy zone, ownership, and topography.

For some considerable time a cross party working group have been meeting to discuss all aspects of the local plan. Two meeting were set aside to discuss the traveller and travelling show people sites which Liberal Democrat members attended.

Q.3 What other sites were considered for traveller/gypsy/travelling show people?

A.3 The full list of sites that were considered is set out in Appendix 4 ('Sites assessed for Gypsy and Traveller/Travelling Show people use') of the Site Selection Methodology, which can be accessed via the weblink above.

Q.4 Was the 2015 Sheffield Housing Land Availability Assessment and its 2016 update shared with MP's, and if so when?

A.4 We are unsure which documents this question is referring to. The Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment is a regularly updated document, with the most recent version published January 2023. This would not be directly shared with MPs as it is an evidence base document, although it is on the Council's website, as previous versions have been.

Q.5 How many requests for cycle stands has the Council received from residents over the last year?

A.5 We have had requests from 27 different streets. No one street has received more than one request.

Q.6 How many requests for cycle hangers has the Council received from residents over the last year?

A.6 Not including above, we have had four requests.

Q.7 Please provide air quality data from measuring sites within the upcoming Clean Air Zone for the last three years, including measurements for Ozone, NO₂, Sulphur Dioxide, PM_{2.5} Particles, and PM₁₀ Particles.

A.7 The Clean Air Zone is being implemented specifically to reduce Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) to beneath the legal limit of 40µg/m³ at 4metres from the roadside in accordance with the assessment criteria for demonstrating National compliance with EU thresholds. The average concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide is measured over a calendar year using over a hundred diffusion tubes across the city, it is this data that is used to measure whether current legal limits for air pollution are being met.

Analysis of the most recent full years data from 2021 shows that at 4metres Nitrogen Dioxide levels at Arundel Gate is 45.2 µg/m³ and Sheaf Street is 55.3 µg/m³. Both of these locations in the city centre are above the legal limit and a further location on Meadowhall Road is also above the legal level with NO₂ levels at 42.7 µg/m³. Our analysis and forecasts of air quality in

Sheffield indicate that without action air quality in Sheffield would continue to be above legal limits in 2023. Our assessment also confirmed that the implementation of the CAZ is required to achieve legal limits in the shortest possible time.

We will be monitoring the Clean Air Zone and evaluating the air quality impact of the scheme. In early 2024, when the annual data for the calendar year 2023 has been processed and ratified, we will undertake a full evaluation of the scheme to determine whether air quality has been improved sufficiently to meet the legal limits. We will continue to work with Defra and the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) to then determine the next steps.

We can provide further details of the monitoring locations across the city but given the scale of this data we will need to provide it in writing.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

In November I was told officers will be asked to look at the potential for the pedestrian facilities to be introduced at the junction of Carterknowle Road/Ecclesall Road South following the review and further decision on the LTN in Nether Edge.

Q.1 Is there a date for this to be done?

A.1 The Low Traffic Neighbourhood in Nether Edge does not include any outputs related to improved crossings in this location. However, this crossing point has been raised on a number of occasions, most recently through feedback on the South West Bus Corridor Connecting Sheffield Scheme and also through the Hunters Bar Living Streets Group Committee. In the short term, I have asked Officers to take a look at the signal timings to see if there is any chance of altering the inter green phasing, tying into the existing tactile crossing facilities already at this junction.

Although this has not been identified as an area for the provision of a signalised crossing as part of the South West Bus Corridors, there might be opportunities to look at this in the future should funding be made available. We want to thank the community for raising this and we will keep this on record for future implementation.

Smoke nuisance complaints have increased as more and more people are looking at installing solid fuel appliances and log burners to keep warm and to save money. Log burners are also being promoted as a

lifestyle choice and as an environmentally friendly form of renewable energy. They can be a significant source of air pollution inside as well as outside, especially when incorrectly used.

Q.2 Has the Council undertaken its review of the Council's Action Plan and Strategy around Air Quality?

A.2 Officers have undertaken an initial audit of the Council's Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan, which has identified the need for renewal to address changes within the district and also at a National level (expected in Spring 2023). Briefings on the outcomes of this process and next steps in the process are currently in development.

Q.3 Will it include consideration of domestic fuel combustion and improvement messaging / projects?

A.3 In our current plan and strategy that were adopted in 2015 and 2017 respectively, a strong focus was given to the delivery of reduction of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentration because at that time concentrations for micro-particulates measuring less than 10 micron (PM₁₀) were below Air Quality Objectives.

Therefore, measures targeted road transport because this sector was the primary source of emissions for NO₂ and aligned with Governments UK Plan for Tackling Roadside NO₂ concentrations published in 2017, though continued delivery of smoke control measures adopted as part of the Smoke Control Areas (1960-1980) are included.

In 2023, National Government are due to announce new Air Quality objectives for micro-particulates measuring less than 2.5 micron (PM_{2.5}) and include it within the legal Local Air Quality Management regime. Furthermore, a National Strategy is also due out in Spring 2023, which will consider the change focus towards PM_{2.5}. Whilst objectives for this pollutant are being set, it is acknowledged that there is no safe level, justifying the need for continued improvement. The source of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are not just from road transport and as a result of agriculture, industrial and domestic fuel. Therefore, the Plan and Strategy in development will need to respond to this and include projects and messaging with a greater focus on areas outside of road transport, such as towards domestic fuel combustion in order to bring about reductions in particulate matter.

Q.4 When will it take steps to ensure residents are fully aware of the pollution potential of wood burners before they commit to having these installed?

A.4 Development of the Clean Air Strategy and Action Plan, at this early stage, are estimated to take 12-18 months to develop, though the timeline is influenced by the adoption of new Air Quality objectives and National

Strategy.

We recognise the importance of the issue around domestic fuel combustion and the need to progress an approach on this sooner than the timeline for the Strategy/Plan, which will require a multi-departmental approach from Air Quality, Environmental Protection, Public Health and Trading Standards to develop. Therefore, the Council are aiming to develop this piece of work in parallel with Strategy/Plan process, with the target of Autumn 2023 for delivery.

Questions of Councillor Kurtis Crossland to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 Is the renewal period for a blue badge set by the local authority or by the Government?

A.1 Written response to be provided, due to officer capacity issues.

Q.2 What procedures does the Council have to monitor if tendered contracts for bus services are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act?

A.2 In South Yorkshire all tendered bus service contracts are procured and managed by the Mayoral Combined Authority as part of their responsibility as Transport Authority across the metropolitan area.

We have asked colleagues at SYMCA to confirm their approach and they have advised that they will be undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment associated with the award of tendered services and that this will highlight the impacts of any changes to services that may be proposed.

Question of Councillor Martin Smith to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

With regards to the possible changes to bus lane timings on Abbeydale Road and Ecclesall Road -

Q.1 Has the Council carried out an impact assessment on the potential consequences for businesses located on these roads?

A.1 Combined answer below.

Q.2 If so, what is the overall assessment?

A.2 As part of the Council's approval processes, a number of impact assessments (including climate and equalities) are undertaken at key gateways of the project. A decision is yet to be made on the possible changes to bus lane timings on Abbeydale Road and Ecclesall Road, but any recommendation will take account of a number of factors including public, business and Councillor feedback as well as a review of the benefits of any change.

Question of Councillor Alexi Dimond to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 During the 1970's and early 1980's, Sheffield had an equitable transport policy which prioritised affordable public transport for all which was financed by progressive local levies. What changed?

A.1 The running of the public transport network is managed by the Combined Mayoral Authority. Sheffield City Council has no control over the policies around transport.

Q.2 In your view why does Sheffield Labour consistently prioritise the convenience of motorists over public safety, equality, climate mitigation, active travel and affordable and accessible public transport?

A.2 I do not believe we do. We are steadfast in our commitment to sustainable, affordable travel as we have demonstrated for many years.

We do, however, believe that neighbourhoods must be heard and that schemes must work for local needs. For instance, we remain committed to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, but we must consult properly with residents to ensure they meet local demands rather than taking a purely ideological position on this, as Green councillors often appear to do.

Questions of Councillor Marieanne Elliot to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 When can parents of children at Carfield Primary School, who have been valiantly staffing the school street closure in the face of repeated aggression from drivers, expect to see camera enforcement installed?

A.1 The Council has now submitted its application to obtain powers to enforce moving traffic offences to the Department for Transport. Subject to confirmation that we are included in the designation order, we should obtain these powers in Summer 2023. Our application confirms that we will use these powers at three initial locations where cameras will be erected. Our application also confirms that we are seeking the authority to enforce at other locations across the city. Officers will be preparing a policy to consider further locations for potential camera enforcement where the abuse of moving traffic restrictions is a problem, School Street locations will be considered as part of this prioritisation exercise.

Q.2 What progress has been made on branding for the school streets?

A.2 Wooden planters with “Carfield School Street” signage on the front will replace the current plastic ones, these planters will house a retractable barrier tape for easy enforcement. The design for the scheme entrance has been finalised. The School Street will be made legally permanent by the end of this month (February 2023).

Q.3 When can parents expect to see new line markings on the street near Carfield Primary School?

A.3 The Council are just waiting for costs and timescales to build back from Amey. We are hoping to have it sorted on site by the end of March.

Q.4 How many complaints have been logged by the Council in relation to each of the current school streets arrangements?

A.4 Complaints.
Carfield – 4 complaints/objections were received in the first 6 months, nothing since.

Nether Edge – 2 complaints/objections were received in the first 6 months, nothing since.

Greystones – 2 complaints were received in the first 6 months, nothing

since.

Porter Croft – 0 complaints.

Byron Wood – 2 complaints were received in the first 6 months, nothing since

Anns Grove – 4 complaints

Hunters Bar – 1 complaint

Westways – 7 complaints

Athelstan – 0 complaints

Bradway – 0 complaints.

Questions of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 Do the plans for Fargate still have safe routes for both people on bikes and visually impaired people as per the original consulted upon plans?

A.1 It is proposed that safe cycle access will be provided on Fargate that takes into account all users of the public highway. Unfortunately, the Lead Officer for the Future High Street Scheme is currently on leave but we will confirm the details of the proposals and the further engagement required when they return. A briefing will also be offered to you.

Q.2 Does Fargate have a designated cycle lane?

A.2 As above.

Question of Councillor Maroof Raouf to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

**Q. In relation to the Future High Street Fund at Fargate →
At full council on 2nd November, a member of the public was told the following about Fargate:**

""""A dedicated cycle lane has not been included in the design for the following reasons:

A. Fargate is designed to encourage events, dwelling space,

experiences, and play; and is not suitable for a designated cycle route

B. Fargate does not have kerbed access route. It remains at single level to provide equitable access and promote pedestrian priority over vehicles across the whole space. In addition, kerbed access would clash with underground utilities, increase excavation and materials costs, and hamper sustainable urban drainage

C. Fargate will not be a shared space."""

In relation to A and B:

This description matches Grey to Green (Castlegate) which hosts the Pollen Markets and the proposed cycleway along Pinstone Street. The consulted upon design for Pinstone Street features the same design, volumes of pedestrians, and vulnerable users as Fargate. Is the Pinstone Street design no longer safe or will be it provided as a kerb separated cycleway, shared with delivery access vehicles?

- A. Each city regeneration project is designed individually in accordance with legislation, best practice, project priorities and in consultation with Stakeholders.

The context of and intended use for Fargate differs from Castlegate Grey to Green in significant ways. These include the status quo of the area before regeneration, the level of footfall, the cross-use of the street and the intensity of proposed events and social use. Some though not all of these points of distinction are also true of Pinstone Street.

Pinstone Street is at outline design stage. The design will be developed with consideration to all factors and users, and the best possible outcome delivered for the people of Sheffield.

Questions of Councillor Minesh Parekh to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.1 Do you believe you are getting the best value for service out of the Amey and Veolia contracts for the people of Sheffield?

A.1 There has been some issues of underperformance from the Streetsahead Contract recently which is being debated by Policy Committee and a rectification plan is in place. Overall both contracts are delivering what was originally set out to do. The Streetsahead PFI contract has provided significant investment in our highways which simply Sheffield City Council would not have been able to do. We are consistently performing above the national average for our highway condition scores. We were the first city to be fully lit by 66,837 LED streetlights, 916 miles of roads have been resurfaced, 1,800 miles of pavements resurfaced and 194 traffic signals replaced.

Our waste contract continues to see Sheffield performing well nationally. Approximately 195,000 tonnes of household waste a year (65,000 tonnes recycled or composted and 130,000 tonnes treated at the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF)). The ERF provides almost zero landfill and It supplies 60MW of thermal energy to the District Energy Network; 45km of underground pipeline to 140 buildings including the Town Hall, Crucible Theatre and the City Hall. Up to 19MW of electrical energy is exported to the National Grid (enough to power 20,000 homes) and saves around 50,000 tonnes of carbon compared to customers using fossil fuel for energy. As with the Highways contract, we needed significant investment in infrastructure which Sheffield City Council simply would not have been able to do 'in house'.

If the spillage/debris is considered a highway emergency, Amey will respond within one hour during normal working hours, overnight Amey will respond within two hours of the report. Hazardous spillages such as broken glass are addressed within 24 hours. Non-hazardous spillages are cleared with 14 days.

Q.2 What is the timeframe Amey takes to clear spillages or debris on the highway after being reported?

A.2 If the spillage/debris is considered a highway emergency, Amey will respond within one hour during normal working hours, overnight Amey will respond within two hours of the report. Hazardous spillages such as broken glass are addressed within 24 hours. Non-hazardous spillages are cleared with 14 days.

Questions of Councillor Denise Fox to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

It was Labour Councillors who provided extra money to Local Area Committees to tackle litter, graffiti and fly-tipping.

Q.1 Can you please provide details on how many fines have been issued in the last 12 months?

A.1 123

Q.2 Can you please break this down for each LAC?

A.2	LAC	Number
	Central	20
	East	18
	North East	44
	North	5
	South East	30
	South	6
	Total	123

Q.3 How do you assess your committees response to addressing fly tipping? Have improvements been made in dealing with this issue?

A.3 The Environmental Enforcement Team (part of Environmental Regulation), has used a proportion of the funds provided by the Graffiti and Fly Tipping project (G&FT) to purchase 12 overt, moveable CCTV cameras which have been deployed at various hot spots where vehicle based fly tipping was prevalent. Locating the CCTV at vehicle based hot spots has enabled the team to capture offences and issue Fixed Penalties in respect of these, and it also has had a deterrent effect of reducing fly tipping in the locations (flytipping fpns listed above).

The reduction of fly tipping is a responsibility shared by all Sheffield City Council partners and private land owners, in particular Sheffield City Council land managers need to monitor the condition of their land and ensure it is adequately maintained, and to remove fly tipping promptly. So some of the G&FT monies are being used by each LAC to “target harden” fly tipping hot spots. These locations have been finalised with LACS and works are being costed out. It is anticipated that this “target hardening” will reduce fly tipping by installing fences, boulders etc. Where capital works cannot be completed by year end, we have agreement that this can be rolled forward to ensure the works are done in 2023/24.

Waste Management is also to use some of the G&FT monies to improve the “bring” sites and deter fly tipping on those sites. Waste Management

also reduce fly tipping through the effective provision of the “bring” sites, Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and the bulky item collection, enabling and encouraging residents to get rid of their waste responsibly.

Effective education around fly tipping, particularly the duty of care placed on householders (i.e. waste should only be passed to authorised carriers), improved signage re littering and fly tipping is something all partners can contribute to, a single coherent message will have more impact. The G&FT project has plans to improve education in this respect. We are also working on an exit strategy from the project and will provide a business as usual graffiti and fly tipping prevention plan to be a publicly visible face of what we are doing on these issues.

Like most, if not all Councils, we have not stopped fly tipping but we are making it harder for people to tip and all evidence is followed up although not all evidence leads to a conviction.

Questions of Councillor Ruth Milsom to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.1 The report on Licensing of the sex industry and sex entertainment venues has been ready for some time and waiting to be heard by the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee. When is the report on Licensing of the sex industry and sex entertainment venues to be considered at Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee? It was originally set for November 2022.

A.1 It is hoped that the report will come before a meeting of the Waste and Street Scene Committee in June, 2023. However, I am concerned that there have been significant changes to the industry since covid that, together with the time now elapsed, render the consultation stale.

Q.2 Did the Chair turn away any representatives of the Sheffield taxi trade who wished to participate in and inform the Hackney Carriage Policy Review which has recently been in progress?

A.2 The consultation on the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Policy was undertaken April, 2022. All responses have been recorded and considered as part of the review.

In addition to this, I convened a taxi forum in January where representatives of drivers, operators and taxi users were able to discuss issues related to the then upcoming hackney carriage policy and other taxi related issues with licensing officers and a member of each group. One individual driver asked to attend and this was declined as the forum was already weighted

towards drivers rather than users. I would like to include more taxi user representatives at future taxi fora.

Questions of Councillor Alexi Dimond to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.1 Sheffield is the fourth largest local authority in England in terms of population, yet only ranks 48th in terms of income from parking charges and enforcement. Why?

A.1 Parking fees and charges are set to support wider traffic management objectives, not to raise revenue. Our Civil Enforcement Officers do not have targets to meet regarding the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) and are not provided with incentives based on how many notices are issued. Income from parking enforcement should be used to operate the service. Parking services use data and performance management to support the drive for efficiency. The majority of income in parking, is from fees and charges, not penalty charges. Sheffield owns and operates much less on and off-street parking than most of the local authorities named in the report. Most of the top earning authorities are in London where parking and permit charges are much higher than Sheffield.

The service has improved enforcement performance since Covid and compare to last year there has been a 6% increase in number of PCNs issued.

Q.2 What is being done to increase effectiveness of enforcement and bring income and expenditure in line with other local authorities?

A.2 We have seen improvement in efficiency after the introduction of a persistent evaders policy. The policy enables the Council to tow and impound vehicles that have persistently avoided payment on PCNs. There has been a reduction in the number of unpaid PCN's. Drivers who can no longer evade payment are less likely to contravene parking restrictions, helping improve road safety and compliance with regulations.

We are also applying to the Government for powers to enforce moving traffic. This legislation will enable improved enforcement capabilities for safety and traffic management.

The introduction of pavement parking bans in areas of the city centre has seen an improvement in compliance in those locations where it has been rolled out. After an initial high number of PCN's issued for pavement parking on launch, the number required to be issued has fallen in recent weeks.

We are also reviewing our Parking Enforcement Policy in the coming months to assess what elements of legislation could be open to us to improve enforcement. For example, this could include enforcement of dropped curbs which will support pedestrians with mobility issues and young families. Consultation on these opportunities will be launching soon.

We have also looked to increase the amount of available parking spaces in the city centre with plans to introduce managed parking locations at Carver Lane and review the hours of operation in Milton Street car park. It should be noted these additions cannot be introduced for revenue raising purposes, but to support the efficient use of space and traffic management.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.1 How many tonnes of Christmas trees have been recycled this year?

A.1 We are unable to provide a tonnage figure for the amount of Christmas Trees collected. Christmas trees are collected as part of the bulky waste collection service or in the green waste skips provided at Household Waste Recycling Centres and represent a small proportion of the waste collected.

Q.2 How many tonnes of cardboard was recycled in the last year?

A.2 In 2021/22 we collected 15,711 tonnes of paper and card, and 23,993 tonnes of glass, cans and plastic bottles for recycling. Due to the nature of collection (paper and cardboard in the blue bin, and glass, cans and plastic bottles in the brown bin), we are unable to provide individual tonnage figures for each material.

Q.3 How many tonnes of glass was recycled in the last year?

A.3 See above.

Q.4 How many tonnes of plastic was recycled in the last year?

A.4 See above.

Residents in Millhouses have recently been woken up between 2am-4am by Network Rail maintenance work, with no forewarning for residents.

Q.5 What powers, if any, does the Council have to enforce restrictions on this maintenance work?

A.5 We can control noise impact from planned maintenance work through the Control of Pollution Act 1974, this could include restrictions to hours and/or machinery. I suspect that the works may relate to the Hope Valley Upgrade but they may not (see link). [Hope Valley Link](#)

Q.6 Has the Council consulted Network Rail over this work?

A.6 We have been liaising with the contractors, Volker Rail, on this scheme and expect that residents impacted by planned works are notified well in advance. If Councillor Mohammed can provide me with more details, in particular the details of the residents affected and where they live, I can make some enquiries to see what happened on this occasion.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

At December, 2022 Full Council meeting, a question to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox) regarding the potential of heat recovery as a power source for Sheffield was redirected to you.

Q.1 Are the results of the feasibility works from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BEIS) and the Coal Authority now complete?

A.1 As part of the BEIS Heat Network Zoning Pilot Programme, BEIS commissioned the Coal Authority to undertake an assessment of mine water heat potential in the relevant pilot towns and cities.

Residents of Dunkeld Road in Ecclesall have not yet had their road resurfaced. I have been assured that they are to be consulted on plans for resurfacing this month. At the time of submitting this question the consultation has not been started.

Q.2 Has a date yet been set?

A.2 Consultation on the Council's proposals will be launched on the 15th February via letter drops to residents and online. An engagement event for residents has been organised for 22nd February, 2023.

This page is intentionally left blank