

# Agenda Item 6

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### MEETING OF THE WASTE AND STREET SCENE POLICY COMMITTEE – 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

#### COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

#### *Questions of Councillor Parekh to the Chair of the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)*

**Q.1** Please can the council provide any data on how biodiversity coverage for our street scene has changed in the last five years (2019 - 2024) and through what means the council and Amey report on biodiversity coverage on highways land.

A.1 Biodiversity coverage up until 2020 is limited to a detailed asset inventory green assets within the highway land. In 2020, SCC commissioned a report by Treecomonics, which does provide empirical data on all metrics associated with biodiversity. This is publicly available to download and review at the following web link: [Sheffield V5](#)

An updated report via Treeconomics is currently being procured. Once commissioned, this as well as a progress report from the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership being in draft at present, should both enable a comparison to be made of progress over the last few years.

**Q.2** - What impact does the weight of cars have on our road surfacing and to what extent do more large and heavy cars on our roads make resurfacing harder.

A.2 Increased traffic volume and repeated vehicle loading (especially from Heavy Goods Vehicles, bigger cars like SUV's or vehicles with new technology, for example electric vehicles due to the weight of the battery) can have an impact on our road surfacing. This can accelerate road deterioration, leading to carriageway cracking and thus leading to pothole formation over time.

The resurfacing task is not considered to be harder, with respect to maintaining the road. However, traffic management and construction logistics may be more complex, this is because of the need to divert larger volumes of traffic around construction sites and the increase in risks associated with construction traffic and its interface with public traffic.

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