

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

##### COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

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

**Q.1** Following the recent stabbings and other incidents within the city centre, what measures can be put in place to make the people of Sheffield feel safer and more secure?

A.1 Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.

**Q.2** Given the current national shortage of lorry drivers and the impact it has had recently on the supply chain, what plans do the council have to ensure continuity of services within Sheffield? Particularly to those most in need?

A.2 Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.

**Q.3** Following the recent announcement from SCT that they will cancel certain acts who do not fit their newfound values, who else would the Council support SCT in cancelling shows by:

- (a) would you support Jimmy Carr being cancelled?
- (b) would you support Jo Brand being cancelled?
- (c) would you support Jay-Z being cancelled?
- (d) would you support Eminem being cancelled?
- (e) would you support Boris Johnson being cancelled?
- (f) would you support Jeremy Corbyn being cancelled?

A.3 Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.

**Q.4** Prior to the SCT decision to cancel Roy Chubby Brown, how many complaints had the council received about Roy Chubby Brown performing about Sheffield City Hall?

A.4 Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.

**Question of Councillor Kevin Oxley to the Leader of the Council  
(Councillor Terry Fox)**

**Q. Has the Council applied for funding from the government's £30m Changing Places fund? If so, what are the councils plans to provide public conveniences?**

**A. Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.**

**Questions of Councillor Brian Holmshaw to the Leader of the Council  
(Councillor Terry Fox)**

**Q.1 At its meeting in September 2021, full council recommended that the "affordable-free zone" for developers in the city centre, where profits go out of the city and few affordable homes are built and which was first put in place in 2014, is removed. What are the steps required for this to happen?**

**A.1 Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.**

**Q.2 When is it expected that this will take place?**

**A.2 Due to illness, I will provide you with a written response.**

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

**Q.1** What progress has been made to improve public safety particularly in our parks and public spaces following the “Our Bodies, Our Streets” petition to the Council?

A.1 The Council has increased its investment and support for CCTV as well as significantly bolstering the number of council wardens to support neighbourhood-based activity to increase visibility and community engagement. We are working closely with Our Bodies Our Streets and are awaiting confirmation from the Home Office on the next round of Safer Street funding.

**Q.2** Will the Council commit to maintaining the new “Our Bodies, Our Streets” sculpture wherever it is placed, after the last one was shamelessly burnt down?

A.2 It was unfortunate the temporary sculpture was destroyed. Prior to the installation, concerns were raised with the organisers of the potential for vandalism due to the design, material used and location. We will continue to liaise with Our Bodies Our Streets and other local groups supporting women. South Yorkshire Police and local authorities have just secured £500K of Safer Streets Funding. Amongst several initiatives, this funding will provide for innovative lighting solutions which will be discussed with local groups focused on women’s safety. One will be in Ponderosa Park and Our Bodies Our Streets will have the opportunity to offer input into this.

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

**You announced in a tweet, a policy change covering the issuing of licences for ice-cream sellers in Sheffield parks and that you hope to extend this to highways. This has appeared on a Facebook site, CleanAirSheffield which ran a thread on ice cream vans in parks and on highways in May this year**

**Q.1** Will you clarify your definition of ‘polluting vehicles’?

A.1 The issue regarding diesel fumes from ice cream vehicles was raised with us by parents with toddlers. They were concerned about diesel fumes from ice cream vehicles that were running constantly affecting their children’s health.

**A peer reviewed report on the BMJ website states**

There is emerging evidence that air pollution impacts on children’s neurological system and development. For example, associations between exposure to air pollutants and reduced IQ and neurocognitive ability such as working memory, autism and reduced brain-derived neurotrophic factor are widely reported.

Parents wanted to know that the Council were not going to ignore the issue but seek to address it.

We are looking at the alternatives and seeing what technical solutions may be possible.

We will do nothing without taking the views of Ice Cream vendors seriously. We are taking our responsibilities seriously not dodging them.

**Q.2 Will you explain why this decision has been announced on a social media site instead of through the Council?**

A.2 Eighteen weeks ago, I commented on a Facebook site where residents, several known to me, were expressing concerns for children's health and I said I would look into solutions for the problems they had raised. I did not announce a decision, I stated an intention to look into their concerns.

**Q.3 When were ice cream vendors informed of this decision?**

A.3 Ice cream vendors have not been informed of this decision because there has not been a decision.

**Q.4 Has an impact assessment been carried out?**

A.4 No, there has not been an impact assessment because there has not been a decision or recommendation.

**Q.5 How many ice cream vendors will be affected by this decision?**

A.5 There has not been a decision.

**Q.6 How many vendors will be forced out of business by this change in policy?**

A.6 There has not been a change in policy.

**Q.7 What public consultation has taken place?**

A.7 There has not been any consultation because there is no proposal to consult on.

**Q.8 What measures will be put in place in the parks by the council to help vendors make the transition to operate in a pollution free manner?**

A.8 We are looking at how we can work with operators to transition towards more clean air options over the next few years.

**Q.9 If these are planned will these be in the locations that vendors wish to operate so that their businesses are viable?**

A.9 There is no detail available to answer this question as there has not been a change in policy and current vendors/operators will continue to operate within the terms of their current licence.

**Q.10 Do you propose to put the same conditions on the many vendors and street event providers in city centre locations and beyond despite the lack of electric charging points in many places where events take place?**

A.11 There is no detail available to answer this question as there has not been a change in policy and current vendors/operators will continue to operate within the terms of their current licence.

**Q.12 How much advance notice do you intend to give them?**

A.12 There is no detail available to answer this question as there has not been a change in policy and current vendors/operators will continue to operate within the terms of their current licence.

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

It is a requirement of the Local Plan that there is a review of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people sites whether they be permanent, transit or temporary.

**Q.1 How many additional permanent pitches have been added in the period 2015/16 – 2020/21? (Identified as a need for 57 in 2015).**

A.1 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood.

**Q.2 Will there be a review of the permanent sites in the Draft Local Plan for the**

**periods 2021/22 – 2026/27 and an indicative review for 2027/28 – 2032/33, and what are the numbers?**

A.2 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood.

**Travellers requiring transit or temporary facilities are visiting the city annually during July and August. Site hardening to prevent access to public parks and leisure facilities is costly and unnecessary if properly managed temporary or transit facilities are identified for the travelling community**

**Q.3 You stated in September that “transit provision is currently being reviewed, but no plans at this stage”. Will the outcome of this review be included in the Draft Local Plan?**

A.3 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood.

**Q.4 Will a call for land availability for transit or temporary provision be made, and what would be the target timescale for bringing a facility of this nature into operation?**

A.4 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood.

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

**Q.1 What plans are afoot to reopen the Library Theatre for use by community theatre groups?**

A.1 We are keen to re-open the library theatre and are working with Property and Facilities Management (P&FM) team to come up with a ventilation system that meets HSE’s recent advice and the Government’s Autumn and Winter plan advice, which is to ensure good ventilation of indoor spaces where people meet.

The Library theatre is housed underground in the Central Library building and has no natural ventilation, it does have an extraction air handling system which will require assessing against the new requirements. Once P&FM have advised on whether additional measures to aid ventilation are possible, we can plan for a reopening probably at reduced capacity.

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

**Q.1 Have you made a decision for your portfolio whether the continued use of Glyphosate will be banned in Sheffield's public parks?**

A.1 At the Cooperative Executive Meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021, approval was sought for the Co-operative Executive to review the use of glyphosate on land managed by Sheffield City Council and make reductions in its use in a managed and targeted way.

RESOLVED: That Co-operative Executive:-

1. Agree to review and reduce the use of Glyphosate on land managed by Sheffield City Council in a managed and targeted way;
2. Agree that Parks and Countryside cease using Glyphosate on surfaces in the new season (April 2022) and assess the impact of these changes (using this work to help guide further changes across the city);
3. Agree that two cemeteries (Norton and Beighton) undertake Glyphosate free trials for 2022;
4. Agree that two Glyphosate free trials are undertaken on Housing land. Further detail on these trial areas will follow, as will full consultation and communication with Ward Councillors and residents;
5. Agree that a Glyphosate free trial take place on land managed within the Streets Ahead contract in Brincliffe – exact details to be discussed and agreed;
6. Agree that communication work be undertaken across the city highlighting the importance of these changes, why they are needed and how residents can participate;
7. Agree that consultation work be planned and carried out as the impacts of the changes become known to allow residents to share their views; and
8. Agree that a further report detailing the outcomes of these trials be brought to a future Cooperative Executive meeting for consideration.

Glyphosate will therefore cease to be used on soft surfaces within Parks and Countryside in the new season. Whilst Glyphosate will still be used on hard surfacing (due to no appropriate alternative being available currently), this will be reduced where possible.

**Q.2 Who is the Council intending to consult over a ban on Glyphosate in Sheffield's Public Parks?**

A.2 As above. It should be noted that at this stage, Glyphosate will not be banned.

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

**Q.1 In the spirit of supporting better health and well-being and producing more organic food for self-consumption, I understand there is a significant demand for allotments in the City. Could you please advise how many allotments there are in the city provided by the City Council? And what is the vacancy rate if any?**

A.1 The Council provides approximately 3,435 lettable allotment plots in the City. The vacancy rate varies across sites where demand fluctuates. Currently the sites where there are vacancies are as follows:

- 21 vacancies at Corker Bottoms, and 11 on the waiting list
- 23 vacancies at Parson Cross, and 11 on the waiting list.

**Q.2 Is there a forward plan in place to increase the number of allotments in the City, if not why not?**

A.2 We are aiming to complete a review of our existing Allotment Strategy by the Spring/Summer 2022, this would incorporate any increases in provision if they have been agreed following the necessary consultations with local communities and the Allotment Advisory Group.

The Allotment team prioritise scoping potential sites on existing land within the management of the Parks and Countryside Service as this would keep costs down. We do not have sufficient resources to buy further land to provide allotments. We would welcome opportunities to explore potential land not currently in our direct management.

**Q.3 Can I ask if this matter will be prioritised and officer time allocated to increase and enhance allotment provision in the City which has a significant effect on Health and Well being of people?**

A.3 The Allotment Service is primarily funded through the collection of rents. Currently, officer time equates to approximately 2.8 FTE. The remainder of the budget funds site improvements, materials, waste disposal etc. This has been increased to meet additional demands placed on the team through COVID. Further officer time could be allocated to increasing and further enhancing allotment provision, but this would impact available spend on other areas of the service.



**Question of Councillor Mark Jones to Councillor Alison Teal  
(Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing  
Parks and Leisure)**

**Q. Under the last Administration, the Council rolled out successful ‘school street’ programmes – benefitting children especially. Given the impact of poor air quality on Pitsmoor and Fir Vale - could you please highlight if any school street programmes are being proposed for these areas and what active travel solutions is the Council pursuing to help reduce poor air quality for the many school aged children of Burngreave?**

A. The current school streets program is based on scoring schools against a set of established criteria (location suitability, ModeshiftSTARS accreditation, KSI data, road type, air quality, school engagement and support, effect on local residents and businesses etc) the highest scoring schools are being looked at first. The available Council staff resource is small and the processes still very new and time consuming. We currently have four permanent schemes and would like to have another four in place in the new year. One of which is Byron Wood Primary school who successfully ran a one-day road closure event last term and officers are working with the school to see if it can be developed into a more permanent scheme.

The Council has a small team of Active Travel Officers who work with schools across the city, aiming to increase the number of active journeys to school (walking, scooting and cycling). This is through the DfT’s National Accreditation scheme – ModeshiftSTARS. Through working through the scheme and with dedicated skilled Officer support schools can tackle parking issues and create an active travel culture within school. This is free and available to all schools – please get in touch with [rosie@pwlcpjoints.com](mailto:rosie@pwlcpjoints.com) or [Kathryn.harrison@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Kathryn.harrison@sheffield.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Sheffield City Council are also working in conjunction with Living Streets who are rolling out their Walk Once a Week scheme WOW – again this is free for schools to participate in for further details please email: [jim.shaw@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:jim.shaw@livingstreets.org.uk)

**Questions of Councillor Mark Jones to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management) (to  
be answered by Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for  
Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure)**

**Q.1 Can you provide us with assurances that all possible agencies are being consulted in providing interventions to help the individuals frequenting the grounds of Burngreave Vestry Hall?**

A.1 We have contacted Angela Greenwood at Ecclesfield Police Station along with PCSO’s and police officers who cover the Burngreave area. There is also a local hostel local to Vestry Hall that we have made contact with to see if they can provide

support to the individuals. We are also contacting other support services within the Council to see what in addition can be provided.

**Q.2 Can you undertake to work with Planning and Facilities Management to have appropriate gating installed to safely secure the entrance to Vestry Hall, to ensure that this fire exit remains free of sleeping materials and drug paraphernalia that make building egress unreliable and unsafe?**

A.2 We are looking at various options to restrict access into the front area of the building including locking the perimeter gate, installing signage, increasing height of gates, working with CCTV public space surveillance, installing a push bar onto fire exit external gate to stop access to the old front entrance.

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

**Q.1** Could you please provide details of the allocation of the £2M fund for the Sheffield COVID Business Recovery Plan, including for each of the 10 small and 11 large projects: the successful bidder, district/local centre, ward, and scheme value?

A.1 The Recovery Fund allocation is described as follows:

1. those projects approved where contracts are in place (these are listed in the table at appendix 1)
2. projects that have been approved and are currently in the process of contracting, therefore final funded amounts cannot yet be given but are listed below ahead of announcements being made in full:
  - Walkley district centre (up to £200k)
  - Broomhill district centre (up to £200k)
  - Hillsborough district centre (up to £200k)
  - Firth park district centre (up to £200k)
  - Totley district centre (up to £50k)
3. projects that are still in development and yet to be finally approved. These will be communicated, and publicised once contracts are in place.

It should be noted that not all of the pipeline projects may develop into final bids so the position may therefore change, once finalised these will also be in the public domain.

**Q.2** Will these details be put in the public domain through the website, and will all business groups across the city be notified?

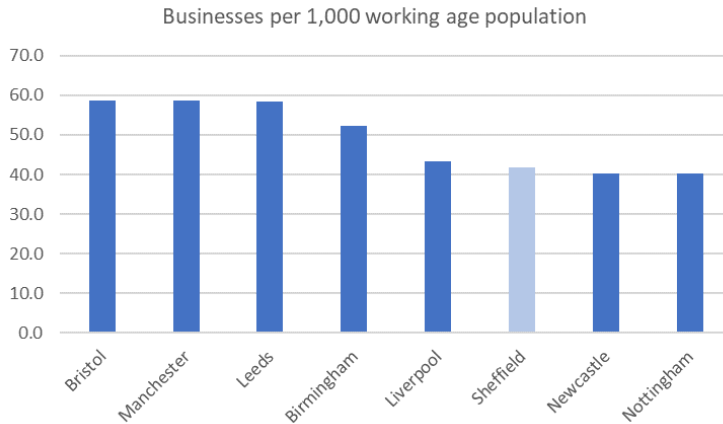
A.2 Yes, when agreements are in place the projects will be listed on the website and stakeholders updated.

Some of these details are already in the public domain, via a Cooperative Executive Report, the Economic Recovery Fund webpage and press releases about the events that were funded as part of the Summer in the Outdoor City campaign. The remainder will be published on the webpage and through press releases once project details are finalised (through the contracting process).

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

**Q.1** Why does Sheffield have the lowest growth rate in business stock and the lowest job density of all the core cities in England?

A.1 There are 16,075 businesses in Sheffield, the equivalent of 42 businesses per 1,000 population. This puts Sheffield 6<sup>th</sup> of core cities in business density.



In 2019, 2,315 new businesses started – this equates to 6.01 business start-ups per 1,000 working age population, the lowest among the core cities. There has been growth of 30% in the business stock and 45% growth in start-ups since 2011, however in comparison to other core cities, this is low.

The data indicates our business base lacks dynamism – the highest growth cities have high starts ups, high failures, high growth and high levels of business churn. Sheffield has good survival rates, and the second lowest business failure rates across the core cities (5.4 per 1,000 WAP). Analysts have linked this to a legacy of a post- industrial employment culture, and a need to address entrepreneur culture.

**Q.2 How many retail units does the Council own and rent out across the city?**

A.2 228 including six in the Heart of the City and four in general. The remainder are on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) estates and held in HRA account

**Q.3 How many of these retail units are not fully accessible to people with disabilities?**

A.3 All Heart of the City and general premises are accessible. Where Sheffield City Council (SCC) is liable for compliance (ie where SCC controls common parts of the retail premises or where SCC is the tenant) the premises are accessible. Liability for compliance on HRA premises which are leased rests with the tenant. Not all of these premises will be fully accessible

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

**Q. Have the repairs needed by Council resident Mr Guite that were reported on in the press now been completed?**

A. Yes, the roof was repaired on 31/08/21 and the redecoration was completed on 07/09/21.

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

**Q.1 What is the current number of outstanding or incomplete council house repairs?**

A.1 The number of overdue repair orders is 6,315.

**Q.2 What was the average waiting time for a council house repair issue to be resolved over the last year? and what was the longest wait?**

A.2 The average waiting time for a responsive repair was 19 days. The oldest order relates to a fire stopping job from 2018. The service has attempted to gain access for this order and an outstanding gas service since this period. This matter is with Legal Services as the tenant is not using the property as their main residence. A legal injunction was obtained in December 2020 and legal services are pursuing this matter.

**Q.3 What was the average waiting time on the council house repairs phone line before answering? and what was the longest wait?**

A.3 The average waiting time for council house repair calls and the longest wait for the last three months is illustrated in the table below:

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
Average wait	15m:37s	23m:09s	29m:35s
Longest wait	62m:56s	76m:16s	91m:53s

**Q.4 How many repair issues have been 'closed' in the last year as a result of not being able to make contact with a resident?**

A.4 The number of repairs and maintenance jobs cancelled so far this year is 6824, representing 5% of all repair jobs.

**Q.5 How many times in the last year is the Council aware it has broken the Homes Act of 2018 as a landlord?**

A.5 The Homes Act of 2018 came into force for new tenancies in March 2019 and then for all existing tenancies in March 2020.

Many of the letters of claim relating to disrepair make reference to a breach of the Fitness for Human Habitation Act (Homes Act), but the findings of the experts following investigation do not find a breach, or where they make reference to a breach under the Act, appear to not understand what a breach of the Homes Act is and what actually amounts to a property being “so far defective in one or more of those matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition”

This issue and legislation are still largely untested in law. Consequently, the Legal team are only aware of one case where we have accepted a breach of the Homes Act to date.

There are presently a couple of cases where we have arranged a decant of the tenants from properties as alleged issues potentially fall within Homes Act breaches, but these are still at very early stages and awaiting investigation by experts.

In the case where we accepted a breach, the expert had determined that the property was not habitable due to damp and mould. It was caused by a lack of insulation rather than a disrepair.

This is where the Homes Act creates this extra layer of responsibility on Landlords in ensuring habitability of properties, but we then get into legal arguments over improvements and disrepair, practicability in relation to the age of properties as well. So, we are really in largely untested waters.

For completion, the case where we accepted breach was settled out of court before a final hearing.

**Q.6 Can you give me as much detail as possible on all breaches of the Homes Act 2018 since it was introduced?**

A.6 Covered in above answer

**Q.7 How many Council Housing residents are currently in temporary accommodation due to maintenance issues at their primary residence? How many have been over the last six months? and the last year?**

A.7 Since April 2020, 89 placements in temporary accommodation (TA) have been made for Sheffield City Council tenants, the reason for the placement cannot be extracted from the HSP reports or Abritas so we are unable to give the number due to maintenance issues. Since June 2021, Rehousing Services have made only two requests for TA due to the condition of a property for tenants.

**Q.8 What is the longest time a resident has been in temporary accommodation whilst their primary residence was repaired in the last year?**

A.8 Using the same data, the longest stay in TA was 17 nights for a Sheffield City Council tenant, however the reason cannot be extracted. The cases Rehousing Services placed, one tenant was placed for one night and the other was placed for four nights.

**Question of Councillor Tim Huggan to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)**

**Q. The Council passed a motion of Council for a trial Food Waste Collection to be introduced at the meeting Full Council meeting in July 2021, the answer to my question in September 2021 indicated that you were delaying it until told to do so by the Government. What other measures to combat the Climate Emergency are you also intending to ignore or delay?**

A. As previously explained the Council is keen to secure the additional funding that will be made available by Government with the new requirement for weekly food waste collections.

If the Council introduces a food waste collection ahead of the required change, no additional money will be received from the Government.

We cannot ignore the stark financial challenges facing the Council, and the fact that since 2010, Sheffield's budget has had to absorb Government funding cuts, and meet increased costs amounting to £475 million, which has meant a 31% real terms decrease in the Council's spending power. As the Council faces a significant challenge to balance the forthcoming budget, we think it is more prudent to wait for the additional funding to be provided.

The carbon benefits of treating food waste separately are usually quoted in comparison to landfill. The carbon benefit of separate food waste treatment in Sheffield is considerably less than these benchmarks as less than 1% of our waste is disposed at landfill and food waste is processed at our Energy Recovery Facility.

**Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Alison Teal  
(Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing  
Parks and Leisure) to be answered by Councillor Paul Wood  
(Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)**

It is a requirement of the Local Plan that there is a review of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people sites whether they be permanent, transit or temporary.

**Q.1 How many additional permanent pitches have been added in the period**

**2015/16 – 2020/21? (Identified as a need for 57 in 2015).**

- A.1 The 2015 assessment covered the period 2015-2020, so a new assessment was undertaken in 2019 for the period 2019-2024. This estimated a need for 44 pitches in Sheffield. From the 2015-2019 assessment no new permanent pitches were provided in Sheffield. The number of pitches reduced from 57 to 44 because of fewer New Age Travellers living on the unauthorised encampment at the time, fewer Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar needing pitches, and less demand from newly forming households on existing pitches and concealed households i.e., adults living with parents.

Household growth was calculated on the 44 pitches in 2019 to account for demand in the below periods. However, a new assessment will be required in 2023/24.

Pitches needed 2025 – 2029	47
Pitches needed 2030 – 2034	50

- Q.2 Will there be a review of the permanent sites in the Draft Local Plan for the periods 2021/22 – 2026/27 and an indicative review for 2027/28 – 2032/33, and what are the numbers?**

- A.2 Yes, our intention is to allocate sufficient permanent sites in the Draft Local Plan to meet the level of need identified in the most recent assessment that was completed in 2019. The latest assessment covers the period 2019-2024, so the supply of pitches will be monitored and additional sites will be brought forward in future reviews of the Local Plan if necessary.

**Travellers requiring transit or temporary facilities are visiting the city annually during July and August. Site hardening to prevent access to public parks and leisure facilities is costly and unnecessary if properly managed temporary or transit facilities are identified for the travelling community**

- Q.3 You stated in September that “transit provision is currently being reviewed, but no plans at this stage”. Will the outcome of this review be included in the Draft Local Plan?**

- A.3 The need for transit sites will be covered in the next G&T Accommodation Assessment and any need that is identified will be addressed in the first Local Plan review. However, we are considering whether a separate need assessment for transit sites is required before then and a transit site could be brought forward through a planning application before the first Local Plan review if necessary.

- Q.4 Will a call for land availability for transit or temporary provision be made, and what would be the target timescale for bringing a facility of this nature into operation?**

- A.4 The ‘call for sites’ that is undertaken periodically as part of the Local Plan process enables sites for any type of use to be put forward as potential sites for



development. No sites were put forward as potential gypsy and traveller sites (temporary or permanent) when the most recent call for sites exercise was undertaken in 2019. The need for transit sites needs to be reassessed and consequently no timescales have been agreed for bringing a site into operation.

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

**Q.1 Can you provide assurances that all possible agencies are being consulted in providing interventions to help the individuals frequenting the grounds of Burngreave Vestry Hall?**

A.1 To be answered by Cllr Alison Teal

**Q.2 Can you undertake to work with Planning and Facility Management to have appropriate gating installed to safely secure the entrance to Vestry Hall, to ensure that this fire exit remains free of sleeping materials and drug paraphernalia that make building egress unreliable and unsafe?**

A.1 To be answered by Cllr Alison Teal

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

**Q.1 Given the situation in Afghanistan, what more can Sheffield Council do to ensure Afghans are not homeless and destitute in our city?**

A.1 Sheffield has pledged to support the relocation of 70 individuals on the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme and 44 individuals on the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). These are the two schemes in place to support refugees and relocation of Afghan's who worked for the military in Afghanistan. As part of the re-settlement, families receive wrap around support to support their resettlement and, support for education, health, accommodation and local community support. We will not shy away from our responsibility and to do everything we can as a City of Sanctuary.

The Home Office remains responsible for asylum seekers until a positive decision is taken. All accommodation for asylum seekers is provided as part of the Home Office asylum contract.

**Q.2 How many refugees in Sheffield are currently homeless (including those sofa-surfing, in temporary accommodation and rough sleeping)?**

A.2 No refugees to our knowledge. As outlined above support is in place for refugees and asylum seekers on Home Office funded programmes.

Housing solutions have 83 open cases from asylum cases who have received a positive decision and notice to leave Mears accommodation.

**Q.3 Of these, how many are from Afghanistan?**

A.3 As above we are not aware of any homeless refugee cases. Housing Solutions requirements around recording are determined by national government requirements, we are unable to provide this information as we do not record nationality, we do record ethnicity and eligibility reason.

**Q.4 How many asylum seekers are currently homeless in Sheffield?**

A.4 Unknown. There should be none in the pending decision phase as they all receive support including a basic allowance and accommodation.

**Q.5 Of these, how many are from Afghanistan?**

A.5 We don't hold this information but as indicated above, accommodation should be available to all asylum seekers pre decision provided by the Home Office through its asylum contract. Homelessness should only be an occurrence post decision if an asylum seeker doesn't seek safe return through the Home Office back to their country of origin.

**Q.6 In the last three months, how many refugees (with refugee status) have had applications for homelessness duty and / or temporary accommodation rejected after the council has decided they do not have a priority need?**

A.6 All refugees who meet the homeless tests of being; homeless or threatened with homelessness, eligible for assistance and have a local connection will be offered either a Prevention duty or Relief duty under the Homeless Reduction Act (depending on their circumstances). Housing Solutions then has 56 days to take reasonable steps to help the applicant secure that suitable accommodation becomes available for their occupation for at least 6 months whether they are in 'priority need' or not.

Zero 'no priority need' decisions were made at the full decision stage (at the end of the 56 day period) in the past 3 months, this was largely due homelessness being resolved under prevention or relief duty before we needed to make a full decision at 56 days. We have awarded full homeless duty to 7 households in the past 3 months.

We do not have reportable information as to when we do not owe a duty to provide temporary accommodation due to the household not being in 'priority need'.

**Q.7 What additional support is provided to these refugees to access the private rental market and obtain a deposit?**

A.7 All refugees arriving in Sheffield come on the planned refugee scheme where the Sheffield City Council team secures accommodation in the private sector and supports the families for three to five years.

**Q.8 Does the Council have plans to block rubbish chutes in any or all of its high rise blocks?**

A.8 Yes. We plan to close chutes as part of a wider programme of improvement work in high rise blocks. The process for the closure is still to be finalised and will be done in consultation with residents.

**Q.9 If so, when is this due to happen?**

A.9 The initial programme is scheduled to start on site in January 2022 and will include four high rise blocks, the three Deer Park towers in Stannington and Hanover tower at Exeter Drive. The remaining 20 tower blocks will be part of a future programme delivered over the next two-five years.

**Q.10 How many complaints has the Council received regarding infestations of flies due to the rubbish chutes?**

A.10 We are aware of two properties that have contacted Housing and Neighbourhood Services on several occasions about fly issues. These properties are located at Callow Place and Robertshaw Block. We have recently heard of a second complaint within the Robertshaw Tower Block, but the main complaint was around a chute blockage.

At Callow, we have been told of four other addresses that are also experiencing fly issues. but the type, cause and extent of problem is yet to be assessed. These addresses have been referred to Environmental Services for inspection and appropriate treatment.

**Q.11 At which blocks have these complaints been received?**

A.11 Callow Place in South and South West Area and Robertshaw Block in City and West Area.

**Q.12 Will the Council commit to leafleting tower blocks to get a sense of the scale of the problem?**

A.12 Yes, we are working through an appropriate structure survey form and, also, if there is any general advice we can give to residents.

**Q.13 I've been raising the issue of the state of the road, and railway bridges on Chesterfield Road on behalf of residents since July 2021. To date, it seems that no action has been taken to clear bird droppings and litter, neither has any preventative work been carried out. When can residents expect action to be taken to remove bird droppings and preventative measures such as meshing to be undertaken?**

A.13 Preventative work is the responsibility of Network Rail, we'll contact Network Rail to raise the issue. Residents can report the issue of droppings on the footway via the Sheffield City Council web forms, we suggest this is reported as litter. A report has been raised with Amey to clear the footway of any bird droppings.

**Q.14 Further to this, what powers does the Council have to request that Network Rail maintain and paint the railway bridges on Chesterfield Road and elsewhere in the city?**

A.14 Maintenance and painting of the Chesterfield Road rail bridges are Network Rail's responsibility. Providing the bridges are safe for highway users, no action would be taken. If the condition deteriorates, Sheffield City Council would take action, although Network Rail's inspection and maintenance regimes are considered to be robust and no safety impacts on highway users have been noted.

**Q.15 Will the Council commit to exerting pressure on Network Rail to address the above?**

A.15 The issue will be raised with Network Rail.

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

The School Crossing Warden at Lydgate Infant School on Lydgate Lane has not been replaced for quite some time. Clearly this is quite concerning for parents as this is a particularly busy road. The area around the school has become really busy with traffic and anti-social parking.

**Q.1 Could you give an undertaking the matter will be given immediate attention as Lydgate in one of the largest Infant Schools in South Yorkshire?**

A.1 Thank you for your question. The post of School Crossing Patrol Warden for Lydgate Infant School remains on advert on the Councils website. We have received enquiries from three prospective candidates and discussed the role with them, only one of them requested an application form, which was sent out but has not been received back as yet.

The school has been issued with a large banner to display advertising the post on the school entrance railings and a flyer advert to be sent out to parents. It is understood that the flyer was also included in the school newsletter.

Our Active Travel Officer is in the process of approaching local shops in Crosspool to ask them to display the flyer about the job vacancy.

**Q.2 Youth Service Provision in Crosspool is almost non-existent. Could I please request that provision for this area is assessed and delivered, and an officer allocated to oversee this work?**

A.2 We are currently reviewing all areas within person visits, this naturally takes time but there is a commitment to ensure equitability as the service as designed and grows. Crosspool will be reviewed as part of this.

**Questions of Councillor Alexi Dimond to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)**

**Q.1 Will Sheffield Council liaise with Mears Group (which holds the Home Office contract to house asylum seekers) to ensure that there is no disruption to children's education when they are moved around the city?**

A.1 Sheffield City Council have regular contact with Mears when appropriate to explore issues and provide solutions to individual or group concerns and will continue to do so in the future. When an issue or problem is identified both Children's Social Care and Communities are informed and liaise to ensure that support is provided. This is also shared with the Gateway Team in Education and Skills so action can be taken to ensure settled education is provided.

**Q.2 Will the Council commit to providing bus fare or transport for all Sheffield-based asylum-seeking children who face a move to a new school within the region?**

A.2 The Council already provides zero-rated bus passes to a number of asylum-seeking families to ensure their children are able to access school. If a family is moved to new accommodation which is in excess of the walking distances set out in policy and government guidance (up to two miles for 5-7 year olds, up to three miles for 8-16 year olds), they will be eligible for bus passes.

Parent/carers can apply via the Sheffield City Council website, however, in order to provide extra support to these vulnerable families, we will also accept information sent directly to the Service Manager. The Service Manager can be contacted by email [paul.johnson@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnson@sheffield.gov.uk)

**Questions of Councillor Sue Alston to Councillor Julie Grocutt  
(Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement  
and Governance)**

**One of the roles of the Transition Committees is to test ways of working and to try aspects of a committee system during this year before the committee system is introduced.**

**Q.1 How do the members of the Transition Committees formally feed their views into the development process?**

A.1 The Chairs of the four temporary Transitional Committees (TCs) are members of the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee, (which I Chair) is overseeing the Council's transition to a committee system. When the Governance Committee membership was proposed, one of the ideas behind having TC Chairs there was to make sure decisions about the future committee system would be fully informed by the experiences of Transitional Committee Members this year. A series of meetings between the (cross-party) group of Transitional Chairs and their Vice Chairs after each round of TC meetings has been scheduled to assist with this, and I know all the Transitional Committee Chairs are in the process of deciding how to make space for individual Transitional Committee members to share their views with them along the way too.

There will also be opportunities for all members to feed directly into the Governance Committee's work on this and other aspects of the new committee system. Don't forget that ultimately, all the significant decisions about the new committee system will come to Full Council for a decision in the form of a revised constitution, but we sincerely intend that by the time the proposals make it back here next year, the voices of individual members – and of the public and stakeholders – will already have been heard and factored into what is put before Full Council.

**Q.2 Is there any obligation on the part of Transition Committee Chairs to gather the views of all Committee members or to discuss experience as part of their committee agenda?**

A.2 Nothing has been predetermined about the way that individual Chairs could gather input from their committees in order to feed into the design of the new committee system. This is up to individual TC Chairs. I'm interested to see whether we get some different options tried out by different Chairs - since the whole point of these committees is to experiment, try different things, and by doing so help us learn about how to run committees effectively.

**Questions of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Julie Grocutt  
(Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement  
and Governance)**

**Q.1 In August, the Dore Neighbourhood Plan was approved in a referendum with 93% in favour. The BBEST Neighbourhood Plan was similarly approved earlier in May. Do you support the establishment of Neighbourhood Plans?**

A.1 Our officers have supported both the BBEST and Dore Forums as they developed Neighbourhood Plans in their community. The BBEST Plan was adopted by the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and the Council will consider the Dore Plan on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. We recognise the importance of supporting people in shaping the area in which they live and hope to see more Neighbourhood Plans developed in the future.

**Q.2 One element of Neighbourhood Plans is that 25% of CIL money is to be retained in the area of the Neighbourhood Plan. Are the mechanisms in place for this to happen?**

A.2 There is no mechanism in place to retain 25% of CIL in Neighbourhood Plan areas. The decision was taken by Cabinet in October 2018 to distribute monies collected for Neighbourhood CIL based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation approach. This remains the current arrangement.

**Q.3 If the answer to the previous question was no; why has this not happened already? and when will it be put in place?**

A.3 When the current process of allocating CIL monies was agreed back in October 2018, Sheffield did not have any Neighbourhood Plans in existence, and as such the process did not allow for them.

Now that we have two recently approved Neighbourhood Plans, we are establishing an internal working group to determine how CIL monies might be allocated to areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.

**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Julie Grocutt  
(Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement  
and Governance)**

**Q.1 Within Sheffield, how many dwelling units have full planning permission but are not yet built?**

A.1 As at 31st March 2021, there were **13,400 dwellings** with full planning permission for housing and which have not yet been completed.



**Q.2 What is the Council's planned date of publication for a draft local plan? And when does it plan to bring a final local plan to this Council to adopt**

A.2 The delay to the Local Plan has mainly been the result of changes to Government planning policy and practice guidance, although the pandemic has also had an impact. We will be seeking approval for an updated timetable (Local Development Scheme) at the Cooperative Executive meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

In more detail:

- The Government has changed the way it calculates housing need – the changes were introduced after last year's Local Plan Issues and Options consultation last autumn. The changes to the Government's standard methodology for calculating housing need has led to a 35% increase in Sheffield's figure. The city's housing need figure for the next 18 years has increased from 40,000 homes to over 53,000 homes. This potentially has big implications for how many new homes might have to be built on greenfield sites and Green Belt.
- We believe that this decision is politically motivated – government are wanting to protect Tory shires in the South from development – rather than based on actual housing need
- We need time to look at the implications of accommodating the higher housing need figure instructed by government, and that the administration needs to consider fully the different spatial options.
- We have been clear throughout all of this – we need to deliver the right homes, in the right places – protecting our greens spaces and ensuring that there is the right infrastructure in place, or planned for, to support communities
- The impact of pandemic has caused delays - the Issues and Options consultation last year took place 2 months later than planned due to staff having to work from home, etc – that has had a knock on effect on the timetable.

**Q.3 Over the last five years, how many dwelling units received full planning permission as the result of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate?**

A.3 274 dwellings have been approved on appeal over this period, across 17 schemes. The Sheffield Planning Service have an excellent record in terms of appeal outcomes that reflects the quality of decision making at officer level and at Planning Committee.

**Q.4 When will an update to the 2018 City Centre Plan be published?**

A.4 We are working towards producing the plan by the end of the year as stated in the 2021/22 One Year Plan.

**Q.5 When will construction work begin on the public realm improvements to Fargate and the High Street that are being financed by the Future High Streets Fund?**

A.5 We are currently in the design and procurement phase for works on Fargate. Construction work is due to start August 2022.

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

**Q.1 How much annual budget has been allocated to each Local Area Committee (LAC) in their first year?**

A.1 The money that has been allocated specifically to LACs in the first year is £100k each i.e., £700,000 in total.

Additional monies have been allocated at ward level to double the ward pots as follows:

LAC	Area	Doubled Ward Pot
1	SE	30,600
2	S	33,900
3	SW	13,800
4	C	26,400
5	N	25,100
6	NE	54,100
7	E	46,100
		<b>230,000</b>

Funds will also be available for each LAC to tackle Fly-tipping and Graffiti these funds will link to the city-wide Fly Tipping and Graffiti project.

**Q.2 How much of the budget for each LAC is unallocated money that the LAC will be able to direct as it wishes?**

A.2 The LACs cannot spend anything 'as it wishes', as it has to be in line with the Priorities which are currently being established through significant engagement and consultation with their LAC residents. Therefore the budget will be spent on priorities determined by their communities supported by data and intelligence.

**Q.3 What are the sources of the budget that will be allocated to each of the LACs?**

A.3 The £700,000 and additional ward pot money has been allocated from reserves as per the executive decision taken on 17/8/21

<https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2865>

**Q.4 How much of each LAC's budget will be spent on administration costs?**

A.4 None of the £700,000 has been set aside for administration costs and, as above this money has to be spent in line with the LAC priorities.

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

In recent years parking restrictions were brought into force on Clarkehouse Road banning all parking. Despite these restrictions there are numerous places where blue badge holders might legally park. The problem is that in so doing they obstruct the cycle lane, which according to council officers is only advisory and not enforceable. However, the council and government websites say that cycle lanes cannot be parked in by blue badge holders.

**Q. What will the cabinet member do to overcome this anomaly and so ensure people with reduced mobility can access the Botanical Gardens and King Edwards swimming pool with confidence?**

**A. Clarkehouse Road has an advisory cycle lane, is covered by double yellow lines and has a peak hour loading restriction.**

This means people with a blue badge could legitimately park on the double yellow lines for up to three hours provided this is outside the times of the loading restrictions and they do not cause an obstruction. However, this clearly causes an obstruction by blocking a cycle lane, albeit an “advisory” one.

Should any blue badge holder not feel comfortable parking on Clarkehouse Road they could park on one of the side roads off Clarkehouse Road, on either yellow line restrictions, in unrestricted areas or in non-permit holder only parking bays. If visiting the Botanical Gardens, they could park in blue badge parking provided within the Botanical Gardens or on yellow line restrictions or the non-permit holder only parking bays on Thompson Road.

Whilst this scheme was introduced under a previous Administration, it will be helpful in future if cycle lanes are not shared with parking.

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

In response to a question on Resident Only Parking in July, you stated that “There are clear financial and administrative implications on the residents so there clearly needs to be a very strong rationale to implement such a scheme and with the support of the residents most affected.”

**Q.1 When you live on a street next to a suburban railway station which has no parking, in the centre of a district shopping centre, where of the 71 houses in a 200-metre-long cul-de-sac there is a request for 50 residents only parking spaces, does that not qualify as “strong rationale”?**

A.1 Residential Parking Schemes are better implemented across a wider area rather than just one street, so the issue is tackled rather than moving it to another location. There is a programme of work on Parking Schemes that is currently being progressed and, when complete, other schemes can be considered and taken forward.

**Q.2 When will the Parking Strategy be reviewed to enable exceptional circumstances to be considered outside the City Centre and environs, and what criteria would be used, such as return on investment?**

A.2 There is significant pressure on the whole of the Transport Service at this current time, with major project work within extremely tight timescales, national policy and legislative change as well as changing local priorities. The Parking Strategy will be reviewed at a point in time when the existing Strategy is nearing the completion of its implementation.

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

**Q. Is the Council obliged to carry out an Equalities Impact Assessment for changes to public transport routes or other related changes to local infrastructure?**

A. No.

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

**Q.1 How many electric charging points does the Council intend to install for motor vehicles in**  
**(a) the next three months**  
**(b) the next 12 months**  
**(c) the next three years?**

A.1 As a Council, we are currently installing a network of 27 Rapid Electric Vehicle chargers (which includes 10 specifically for use by taxis), and we are exploring options to expand, including with the potential addition of fast chargers. Rapid chargers can fill an electric vehicle battery to 80% in 45 minutes. We are also working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) on further charging points. This is subject to formal business case processes, including a funding commitment from the MCA, a procurement routes and confirmation of costs.

I want us to have a good programme of electric charging points. To do so, we will have to liaise with Northern Powergrid to ensure that we have the capacity on the network to deliver high numbers of charging points.

We are looking to develop a strategy to direct how, as a city, we provide for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the future, subject to resources being approved. The real opportunity is, where we retain Council car parks, for them to become the filling stations of the future and for us to provide a new service for local people and to realise a new revenue stream to help support Council services.

- Q.2 How many electric charging points does the Council intend to install for electric bicycles in**  
**(a) the next three months**  
**(b) the next 12 months**  
**(c) the next three years?**

- A.2 Electric bikes don't require dedicated charging points: they charge off a standard 3-pin plug.

There is currently a proposal for the creation of a Bike Hub in the centre of the city. This is going through the formal design and approval stages but within the brief, is the specification for electric bike charging. It should also be noted that the bike hub will be able to accommodate adapted bikes, therefore providing the city centre with an inclusive cycle parking facility.

- Q.3 When does the Council intend to have its planning policy ready regarding electric charging points for new planning applications out for consultation?**

- A.3 The Local Plan, including guidance on parking provision, is currently well out of date. As we develop our new Local Plan, we have the opportunity to ensure that new developments in future incorporate the appropriate infrastructure and when the revised Local Plan is ready for consultation, it will include a positive policy on this. A revised Local Development Scheme (the Local Plan timetable) is due to be considered by the Cooperative Executive on 20th October 2021.

We also await further guidance from the Government following their delivery plan for 'Transitioning to zero emission cars and vans' which was published in July this year and includes a commitment to lay regulations in 2021 to mandate EV charge point provision in new homes.

- Q.4 Residents in Crosspool have no Crossing on Manchester Road going west from the junction with Sandygate Road until the end of the built-up area of Crosspool as you leave the City. This area needs a crossing point for an increasingly busy stretch of road for schoolchildren, walkers, residents and**

**cyclists. Would you support a new crossing along this stretch of road?**

A.4 As you will know from previous requests, we have many requests for crossing facilities across the city and only a finite budget. Therefore, these schemes need to be prioritised in the locations where there is the greatest need. Data from this location does not indicate that there is an accident problem to be addressed, unlike other areas of the city.

**Q.5 How many safe storage cycling facilities are planned in our District shopping centres in**  
**(a) the next three months**  
**(b) the next 12 months**  
**(c) the next three years?**

A.5 Officers are currently exploring options around the provision of cycle storage. This includes not only district centres but primarily residential areas. In the first phase, the provision of cycle parking in the 10 district centres, as defined by the Local Plan is being investigated.

There is of course the option of allocating Local Area Committee funding and Community Infrastructure Levy funds if available.

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

**Q. Why have Sheffield City Council not followed other local authorities in undertaking pilot schemes to develop on-street electric car charging technology?**

A. Finding charging solutions for residents who do not have access to off street parking is not straight forward. As well as cost, one problem is that on-street charging spaces would either remove existing on-street parking or be occupied by a single vehicle, often making it unavailable to other users.

There have been a number of trials across the country looking at potential ways in which this could be addressed, which we are reviewing in terms of the issues and potential options available. This will feed into our strategy which will take this into account to direct how, as a city, we provide for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, subject to resources being approved.

## **Question of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Executive Member for Health and Social Care)**

**Q. What plans does the Council have in place to provide adequate public convenience provision in the City Centre, especially for the elderly, people with young children and the disabled?**

A. The Council has worked with the Sheffield Business Improvement District over the last five years to increase access to toilet provision in the city centre and improve signposting to toilet provision. This resulted in the LAVS scheme where business such as shops, cafes and public buildings opt into a scheme to allow access to anyone needing to use toilet facilities without needing to purchase anything from the establishment. Businesses receive a contribution towards maintenance and cleanliness of the facilities from Sheffield BID. Unfortunately, some of the businesses signed up to the scheme were affected by the pandemic and have since shut down. In response, the Council has put some temporary toilet facilities in as a short term measure to bridge the gap while hospitality and retail businesses reopen and the BID attract new LAVS members

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

*In September, The Star reported that 58.6 per cent of adult requests for care in Sheffield were turned down (compared with 27.5 per cent in England) and further that 195 people in 2019-20 died while waiting for care. Please could you provide:*

**Q.1 A breakdown of why requests were turned down?**

A.1 The larger figure of 'No services provided' for Sheffield is largely a categoric recording issue.

The figures referenced in the September article in The Star were taken from the NHS Digital Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Report, England – 2019-20; Table 1: Summary figures regarding Adult Social Care activity and finance, 2019-20.

NHS Digital advised that the outcome of 'no support provided' should "not be seen as reflecting negatively on the local authority, but more as a statement about the type of request for support that was made." Please note that this relates to activity between 1st April, 2019 and 31st March, 2020, so is using information that is 18 months out of date.

Each request for services is considered individually to determine the individual's long and short term support needs and the most appropriate way of meeting those support needs, which may or may not be through the provision of Council funded services.

The outcome of "No support provided" is recorded when individuals do not require



local authority support to meet their support needs.

The Star article only provided part of the information contained in the data and therefore missed what the data actually tells us. The full comparison between Sheffield and the England average is given below and shows that the outcomes for Sheffield are similar to the rest of England for actual support services provided (long term paid support provision and short term support). The only real difference between the figures are the classifications as to non-paid support provided. For example, the extra England reported “Ongoing Low-Level Support” is matched by Sheffield’s “Short Term Care : other short term”. The main remaining difference which is providing the Star’s headline, is simply just that other Local Authorities (LA) are recording that people were not provided with support by the LA but were signposted to other non-LA services. Sheffield records most as simply “No services provided”. The main reason Sheffield has a higher number recorded under this “No Services Provided” rather than the alternative option, which is essentially the same thing in terms of LA support provided, is that our Mental Health commissioned provider does not split between these 2 similar categories on their recording system. So essentially the Star’s headline is simply created by the reporter not reporting the whole picture and an admin difference to how no LA support required is classified in this data return by different LAs.

	England	Sheffield	Difference
Short Term Care: to maximise independence	13%	11%	-2%
Long Term Care: Nursing	1%	1%	0%
Long Term Care: Residential	1%	1%	0%
Long Term Care: Community	7%	6%	-1%
Long Term Care: Prison	0%	0%	0%
100% NHS Funded Care	1%	0%	-1%
End of Life	0%	0%	0%
Ongoing Low Level Support	15%	2%	-13%
Short Term Care: other short term	5%	19%	14%
Universal Services/ Signposted to other services	28%	2%	-26%
No Services Provided - Deceased	2%	1%	-1%
No Services Provided	28%	59%	31%

If in future, if the Star would like to run any data related headlines by us prior to printing it, then we would be happy to support them and help them to avoid printing inaccurate information.

**Q.2 A comparison of new adult care requests in Sheffield by age band since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic?**

A.2 The below table shows the total number of new requests for support received between 1st March, 2020 and 30th September, 2021 by age banding (based on

their age at the point of contact).

Please note that a person may have multiple requests during the period, and this is the number of requests not people.

Age_Band	Number of Requests
<18	59
18-24	881
25-34	881
35-44	981
45-54	1397
55-64	1755
65-74	2366
75-84	4344
85-94	3436
95+	337

**Q.3 How many of these might be categorised as referrals due to self-neglect?**

A.3 Requests for support are not categorised in this way. If self-neglect has been identified, then this would be recorded as a safeguarding referral.

During the period 1st March, 2020 and 30th September, 2021 there were 761 safeguarding referrals made where self-neglect had been indicated. Of these, 301 were identified and progressed to a safeguarding episode where ongoing support was needed to reduce a risk to the person.

This support does not necessarily include council funded services.

**Q.4 A quarterly breakdown comparison by category and age band of Sheffield Adult Safeguarding cases, including self-neglect giving rise to care and support needs cases, handled since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic?**

A.4 Quarterly view of safeguarding referrals which led to new care and support needs by age banding:

Age Banding	Q4-2019/2020	Q1-2020/2021	Q2-2020/2021	Q3-2020/2021	Q4-2020/2021	Q1-2021/2022	Q2-2021/2022
18-24	1			1			
25-34						1	
35-44					2	1	6
45-54		1			5	2	1
55-64	3	2	6	3	25	5	3
65-74	5	6	15	6	11	5	6
75-84	7	10	17	17	25	21	13
85-94	4	12	6	7	18	14	11
95+		1		2		1	2

Quarterly view of safeguarding referrals which led to new care and support needs by risk category. Please note that multiple risk categories can be identified within a single referral so the below chart will not match the numbers displayed above for age banding.

RISK_IDENTIFIED	Q4-2019/2020	Q1-2020/2021	Q2-2020/2021	Q3-2020/2021	Q4-2020/2021	Q1-2021/2022	Q2-2021/2022
DISCRIMINATORY_ABUSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOMESTIC_ABUSE	1	1	2	5	5	2	5
FINANCIAL_ABUSE	2	3	7	8	8	11	4
MODERN_SLAVERY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
NEGLECT	5	11	19	14	27	15	10
ORGANISATIONAL_ABUSE	1	1	8	3	5	3	0
PHYSICAL_ABUSE	9	13	13	0	17	5	5
PSYCHOLOGICAL_ABUSE	0	9	6	5	10	8	2
SELF_NEGLECT	4	10	10	8	36	19	12
SEXUAL_ABUSE	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
SEXUAL_EXPLOITATION	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Q.5 Please could you provide me with the most recent available data on the number of registered carers in Sheffield?**

A.5 There are currently 13,328 registered adult carers in Sheffield.

**Q.6 Please could you provide me with the most recent available data the number of professional carers?**

A.6 Based on Skills for Care, Adult Social Care workforce estimates for 2019/20 based on data returns from independent sector care providers, there are approximately 11,500 people working in the adult social care sector employed by the independent sector in Sheffield. Around 8,600 of these provide direct care.

**Q.7 Please could you provide me with the most recent available data the number caring for relatives?**

A.7 We do not hold this information for every carer in Sheffield, but recent estimates would be approximately 98.7% of carers care for a relative or their spouse. This would equate to approximately 13,150 carers.

**Q.8 Please could you provide me with the most recent available data the number of those who are under 18 and caring for parents?**

A.8 We do not hold information on the total number of young carers in Sheffield caring

for parents. However, we do know that there were 315 young carers of statutory school age (Y0-Y10) in August, 2021.

### **Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Executive Member for Health and Social Care)**

**The Carers' Strategy Update and Commissioning Plan brought to Cabinet in March recommended that it tenders for and awards a contract for a service that supports adult/parent carers.**

**Sheffield Mencap and Gateway's sub-contract to provide a 'Keep in Touch' service to a large number of mainly older family carers of adults with a learning disability in the city, and support them to plan for the future is due to end on 31st December 2021. It was only made aware of the details of the Service Specification for the new commissioned service in July 2021 when documents were released onto a local government tender portal**

**Q.1 Why were Sheffield Mencap and Gateway not made aware of Council plans to bring in changes to the service?**

A.1 The Council are currently tendering for services to support Adult Carers. The tender would have been made available to all organisations upon going live on the procurement portal - YorTender/Procontract  
<https://procontract.due-north.com/register>

The specification for the new service remains largely unchanged from the previous specification. We have strengthened the requirements about carer identification, building resilience early in the carer journey and partnering with health system to reach carers before crisis.

**Q.2 Sheffield Mencap and Gateway were not invited by any of the bidders to the new carers contract to be a sub-contracting partner during the tender response period which ended on 31st July 2021. Why not?**

A.2 The Council are unable to comment about any organisation or their bids. Details are confidential because this information is commercial in confidence to the organisations and a tender process is still ongoing.

In addition, the Council cannot appear to instruct, lead or influence a bidding organisation's subcontracting intentions as this conflicts with the requirement to compete work under the Public Contracts regulations 2015.

The Council's duty is to evaluate how well a provider's submission meets the specification and award the contract to the provider that offers the best combination of quality and price.

**Q.3 Sheffield Mencap and Gateway supports some of the most elderly and vulnerable carers in the city. How will this specific and much-needed element of carers support continue to be provided given the impact it's loss will have on the carers and those with a learning disability they care for?**

A.3 I would like to reassure you that we understand the difference carers make in our communities and want to continue caring for our carers. Carers are an integral part of our health and social care systems and play an essential role in our communities by providing indispensable care and support to some of the most vulnerable in our society.

There are at least 60,000 unpaid carers in Sheffield, and we know this number has grown through the pandemic.

We expect, immaterial of who the successful organisation is, to continue to have a quality Service that supports carers and their families.

We know that every family is different, their needs change throughout the caring journey. The Service will continue to work alongside the carer tailored to their personal circumstances and situation.

As the successful organisation starts to implement the new service, they will be required to work alongside carers of all circumstances to ensure they understand the needs of all carers.

**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Cate McDonald  
(Executive Member for Finance and Resources)**

**Q.1 With regards to Section 106 funding agreements across the whole city, how much funding remains unspent and how many funding agreements remain fully or partially unspent?**

A.1 £18.978m currently remains unspent of which £14.725m is committed to specific projects and programmes either in delivery or earmarked for development and £4.253m still to be committed.

This amount relates to 233 agreements that are fully or partially unspent.

**Q.2 What is the Council's planned date of publication for a draft local plan? And when does it plan to bring a final local plan to this Council to adopt?**

A.2 To be answered by Julie Grocutt.