## Council Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

## Questions Received from Members of the Public, answered by the Relevant Policy Committee Chairs

Name of Questioner	Question	Relevant Policy Committee Chair(s)
Abid Hussain (not present at the meeting to ask his questions)	1. Could you please explain why taxis cannot use the bus gate on Surrey Street?  Answer - The Surrey Street bus gate is for the exclusive use of the City Centre Shuttle Bus, the Sheffield Connect. The primary reason for this is that the area at the top of Fargate, leading to Pinstone Street is a pedestrianised area, which requires limited motorised vehicle movements to maintain its attractiveness as a safe pedestrian environment. In addition to this, the area is routinely used for event space, such as the fairground rides and now the controversial container park. Many people are attracted to the area, often congregating near the kerb. The reduction of vehicle movements in this area therefore helps create a space suitable for these uses while limiting the risk of an incident.	Cllr Joe Otten, Chair of the Waste & Streetscene Policy Committee
	The movement (right turn from Surrey Street to Leopold Street) is a new movement, therefore pedestrians will not instinctively be aware of it. When designing the scheme this was highlighted as a specific road safety risk and given the high pedestrian flows, limiting movements to only bus movements is a key element to protecting the space. In addition to this, the Sheffield Connect drivers have been given specific directions and training for driving in this space, specifically paying awareness to pedestrian movements. It is for these reasons that uncontrolled use of the bus gate for taxis was not deemed to be appropriate. It is not open for any other purpose, except for the scheduled Sheffield Connect bus service, operated 6 times per hour at specific times of the day.	
	2. How long is it going to take to get funding approved for taxi driver regarding ULEZ?  Answer. This is dependent on when the financial	Cllr Julie Grocutt, Co- Chair of the
	Answer -This is dependent on when the financial support measures scheme is launched and the	Transport, Regeneration

availability of the vehicle. Assuming the applicant & Climate meets the eligibility criteria they will be referred to our Policy third-party finance provider who will support the Committee applicant to source an appropriate vehicle. Until the new vehicle is delivered the applicant will be able to continue to drive their existing vehicle and they will receive an exemption from the CAZ charges, even if this is several months until the vehicle is available. We will be in a position to confirm the launch date for the financial support measures soon. Cllr Joe Otten, 3. Why is there an age restriction on vehicles when there are 15 to 20 year old vehicles picking up in Chair of the Sheffield? Waste & Streetscene Answer - Vehicle age is stipulated in the appropriate Policy licensed vehicle policy (Private Hire, 9 years / Hackney Committee Carriage, 15 years). Some vehicles have been granted an extension on a case by case basis and some vehicles are licensed outside Sheffield and therefore have different age restrictions. The Fargate - Future High Streets scheme was Cllr Julie announced with the inclusion of a cycling route to Grocutt, Coenable cycling along Fargate. Chair of the Transport, On 13th October, Sheffield City Council published a Regeneration proposed traffic order to support the Future High & Climate Streets scheme on Fargate. It shows that cycling will Policy Committee not be permitted (except in limited circumstances like deliveries to shops in limited hours). Has the proposal to include cycling on Fargate been removed from the scheme? Why is this? Answer - There has been a period of concentrated design development between the concept design and the current detailed design drawings. The Concept design was drawn up in 2019 at the very outset of the bid for FHSF funding, and did not have the benefit of survey information, modelling, inputs from design and city centre management disciplines. In the City wide context, the scheme has been affected by developing detail of the Transforming Cities Fund

Matt Turner (not present

meeting to

question)

at the

ask his

programme and other transport schemes, as well as

changes to the retail and events environments.

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

- Fargate is designed to encourage events, dwell space, experience, play and not suitable for a designated cycle route.
- 2. Fargate does not have a kerbed access route. It remains at single level to provide equitable access, 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.
- 3. Fargate will not be a shared space. It is a pedestrian priority space, with limited out of hours access for servicing vehicles. The design has been presented to Sheffield's access liaison group on a number of occasions. A large open space is problematic for visually impaired people. To assist with this navigation difficulty the planting/SUDs beds have kerb upstands and there is a safe tactile paving navigation strip in place.

## Matthew Killeya

As we are all aware, people across our city are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. This includes people living in my own area of South West Sheffield. As winter approaches, we know that things are going to get much worse.

As our communities face such difficult circumstances - and given the financial pressures on main council budgets from years of government funding cuts - it has been suggested that Local Area Committees (LACs) budgets could be used to support people facing crisis.

Some LACs have made financial commitments to support people, and others have contingency funds in their plan. Meanwhile the South West LAC has made no such provision.

Labour councillors Ruth Milsom and Minesh Parekh have proposed an emergency spending review of our Southwest LAC in a letter to our committee Chair, Councillor Andrew Sangar. This has so far been stalled, with no action planned this year. I too submitted a written question on this issue, though I am yet to receive a response.

Cllr Terry Fox, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee

Do you agree that all political parties should use all available budgets to prioritise support for those that are struggling ahead of items such as planting of wildflowers and tackling dog fouling, whilst we see our people through a very challenging period? And if so, what proactive measures are being taken to adjust these budgets and to engage the public on these decisions as a matter of urgency? An answer was provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser): Sheffield City Council - Agenda for Council on Wednesday 2 November 2022, 2.00 pm 1) The most high-profile issue currently is the Isobel Cllr Bryan O'Leary closure and fate of the Rose Garden café. Can Lodge, Chair of the Charity we trust that the Council understands the Trustee Subpublic's desire to stabilise, restore and then Committee maintain the current iconic Rose Garden café building rather than any options involving demolishing the café? Can we have faith that the Council will do their utmost to re-open the café as soon as possible for the benefit of the many park users and to restore the employment of the café staff who have provided a valuable service for years? 2) The proposed Sale of the Freehold for Bole Hill Cllr Bryan Farm, which is part of the designated charitable Lodge, Chair parkland, goes against the will and wish of JG of the Charity Graves. The Council appear to believe that not Trustee Sub-Committee only are they allowed to but are obliged to sell the Freehold to the current Leaseholder, despite the Charity Commission stating that the farm should not have been sold as it is designated land, and the Trustee has no power of sale. Has the Council as Sole Trustee of this charitable parkland consulted the Charity Commission on this proposed sale? Does the Council understand that the Leasehold Reform Act excludes charitable land? Can we trust that the Council is not seeking to mislead the public in suggesting that the current

Leaseholders have the automatic right to buy the Freehold? 3) Can we trust that the Council will fulfil their Cllr Richard Williams, Chair commitment to restoring the Nurseries area of of the Graves Park to parkland? This would be at no Communities. cost the Council as the Friends of Graves Park Parks and have a design and will provide labour and Leisure Policy materials. Committee Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser): Sheffield City Council - Agenda for Council on Wednesday 2 November 2022, 2.00 pm Russell 1. I understand SCC commissioned Bevan Brittan LLP Cllr Terry Fox, Johnson to investigate and report upon the improper (misuse) Leader of the use of the exemption of Legal & Professional Privilege, Council and by both officers and Elected Members to deliberately Chair of the suppress legitimate requests for information Strategy & (particularly with reference to the street tree dispute. Resources now subject to a separate Independent Inquiry by Sir Policv Mark Lowcock) as provided for in legislation. Committee (a) On what date was this report commissioned? (b) Has this report been submitted to SCC and if so on what date? (c) When can the citizens of Sheffield finally expect publication of this report? (d) What has been the full cost of this exercise? 2. At Full Council on 7 July last year, I asked that the Cllr Joe Otten. Council commit to the removal of Clause 6.38 from the Chair of the Amey Streets Ahead PFI. This is the contractual Waste & requirement (not a 'modelling number' or 'target' as Mr Streetscene Mothersole referred to the figure in his Inquiry evidence Policy last week) that requires the removal of 17,500 street Committee trees during the PFI Contract. I was pleased and somewhat surprised that Cllr Wood answered in the affirmative. He appeared to see my request as unproblematic. Though some consternation seemed to be expressed by the then Director of Legal & Governance! However, as far as I am aware, this has not happened. (a) Why not?

(b) In the context of Amey LG and Amey plc being under new owners who may no longer wish to mitigate reputational damage as Ferrovial needed to in preparing for selling, does SCC foresee additional difficulty in fulfilling their stated commitment to remove the clause or in reduced flexibility more widely? (c) Given the history of incompetence and naivety of Sheffield SCC L&G, - evidenced in recent Inquiry testimonies - can taxpayers be confident that the City's interests will not be further disadvantaged in any negotiations with the new owners that may be required? Cllr Terry Fox, 3. Despite previous assurances, there are still delays Leader of the and excessive redactions in the Council's FOIR Council and responses. Chair of the (a) Does the Leader agree that it is in no one's Strategy & interests to return to the situation described by Resources Cllr Lodge and former Chief Executive John **Policy** Mothersole in their Inquiry evidence where the Committee Council was bombarded with and overwhelmed by FOIRs and SARs? (b) Would the Leader give a commitment to offer such transparency and honest communications in future such that the Citizenry needs to resort to these routes less frequently? Answers were provided at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser): Sheffield City Council - Agenda for Council on Wednesday 2 November 2022, 2.00 pm Rizwana 1. Can the Council assure us that they are using all CllrAngela Argenzio, Cotheir levers to end the hostile environment for migrants Lala in Sheffield Hospitals? Chair of the Adult Health & Social Care 2. Can the Council tell us what steps are being taken to assure the welfare needs of asylum seekers are being Policy Committee

	met in the accommodation asylum seekers are housed in Sheffield?	Cllr Douglas Johnson, Chair of the Housing
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