

Council Meeting – 2 November 2022

Remaining Written Answers Provided To Members' Questions (Published on 30th November 2022)

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

Q.2 Investment Zones are designed to circumvent controls achieved through planning permission and have been condemned by a range of expert wildlife and climate change charities across the country. What sites have been identified as potential investment zones in Sheffield?

A.2 (Answer awaited)

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

Q.2 Is there any evidence showing a link between the use of wood burning stoves and respiratory illness, both nationally and locally?

A.2 We do not hold local data on the impacts of wood burners. Our Director of Public Health has stated that it is too nuanced and difficult to do clinically. This is because you cannot separate the impact on health of any particular source of particulates, and even the impact on health of air quality per se is an epidemiological estimate based on published data. The 'real world' data is considered too messy to draw any conclusions. For instance, when measuring a hypothetical heart attack, was this due to cigarettes, cholesterol, particulates, other? There is no way of knowing this in routine day to day.

We don't have any decent data on the number of people who have wood burners – as there is no requirement to register or licence and no planning requirements I am aware of.

There will then be lots burning wood in other ways. Waste wood on coal fire in living room, and other, and we have no systematic intelligence on this.

However, there is reasonably good research studies that show Indoor wood stoves release harmful emissions into our homes. The key point is that wood burning indoors does increase risk individually – but it is hard to know the

extent to which this makes a difference at population level as we have no way of knowing population level exposure.

That is an individual health vs public health nuance. Even something enormously risky won't make much difference at population level if only few are exposed.

Regarding the risks indoors, and how people can minimise the risks, the University of Sheffield produced the following study and article, which you may find helpful to look at: [Indoor wood stoves release harmful emissions into our homes, study finds | News | The University of Sheffield](#)

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

Q. Cllr Iqbal stated at September's TRCC meeting that he didn't support illegally parked cars being towed away in the LTNs, so that the planned interventions could be put in. Has he had a change of heart since he ordered cars to be towed away at Rustlings Road to enable tree felling?

A. (Answer awaited)