

## Council Meeting – 6th September 2023

### Remaining Written Answers Provided To Members' Questions

(Re-published on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023)

#### Questions of Councillor Alexi Dimond to the Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Ben Miskell)

**Q.2 Why has the Road Safety Action Plan been allowed to slip given that Sheffield has the most dangerous roads for children below the age of 15 of any core city?**

A.2 We are currently drafting up the Road Safety Action to sit under the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership Strategy for Vision Zero. We hope that this will be ready to share by January 24. We have recently increase resources on this plan to help us produce a meaningful document that we can use to make change happen. This takes time and resources – this is something that we are very short on and why we have recently brought in additional expertise to assist us. Regarding Sheffield having the most dangerous roads, this will be addressed in the plan. We are looking very closely at the data to see where we can best place our resources to tackle this. This doesn't mean we are not doing anything in the meantime. Our officers continue to work hard to deliver targeting projects in education and engineering. We continue to work with the partners at SYMCA and the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnerships to target on-going and new project to increase safety on Sheffield Roads.

**Q.3 When will the Road Safety Action Plan be completed, and what is Sheffield's target for achieving Vision Zero?**

A.3 We are working on completing a draft to be shared for January 2024. The South Yorkshire Safer Roads Strategy outlines our Vision Zero aspiration. This aspiration is a very ambitious one, we will be looking at what is achievable in Sheffield and share this.

#### Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to the Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Ben Miskell)

**Q.1 How much of the carbon budget have we used in comparison to the recommended carbon budget set out in the Tyndall Centre report: Setting Climate Commitments for the City of Sheffield?**

- A.1 The Tyndall Centre follow an energy-only CO2 methodology for calculating carbon budgets, which for Sheffield for the period of 2020 to 2100 is 15.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO2) . To align this carbon budget with the carbon budget periods set within the UK Climate Change Act, the combined carbon budget for 2018 – 2100 is 19.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO2).

Using the energy only carbon emissions data within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's "UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics" shows that between 2018 and 2021 (the latest year data is available for), 8.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO2) was emitted (equating to 43% of the City's total carbon budget).

**Q.2 What is our current reduction in Annual Emissions compared to 2015 (as measured in the Tyndall report)?**

- A.2 The 2021 data was released in June this year, which shows a 21% reduction in emissions since 2015.

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

**Q.1 What range of grass-cutting equipment is owned and used by the Council? How many of the mowers are able to pick up grass cuttings?**

- A.1 For Highway Maintenance all machines are owned and operated by Amey. We do own a small number of mowers for the City Centre public realm and all have grass clipping collections.

Parks and Countryside have 50 machines that have the capacity to pick up grass although most are rarely used for collection. The use is predominately on fine turf and small grass areas on housing land. This number includes 3 large cut and collect machines used for cut and collect meadow management. The machines have been carefully chosen to support cutting from smaller relaxed mowing areas to large plots of over a hectare. The machinery is also sported by the use of Hi Hab to remove large scale grass collection.

Given that the Council has over 2.8 million square metres of roadside grass verges to maintain, the sheer scale of our network dictates that the vast majority of equipment used by grounds maintenance teams are ride-on rotary mowers which do not have a collection function for clippings / arisings. The amount of to-ing and fro-ing from site to the tip if clippings were to be collected from a network the size of Sheffield's would significantly impede progress of the grass cutting cycle, increasing both costs, fuel consumption, waste generated and being less productive overall as well as increasing

carbon footprint. As such the approach is to mulch and use leafblowers where required to clear pavements.

Rural verges are cut using a tractor flail on a single annual cut (more frequently on sight lines at junctions which may also be strimmed).

There has also been the recent acquisition of a “robo cut” mower which is remote controlled.

### **Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)**

**Q.1 What role does the BID play to clean up the city centre of graffiti?**

A.1 The answer supplied at the Council meeting was –

*“Written response.”*

(A written response was to follow and is awaited.)

**Q.2 What targets or service standards does the BID set in respect of this?**

A.2 The answer supplied at the Council meeting was –

*“Written response.”*

(A written response was to follow and is awaited.)

**Q.3 Has it met its own standards?**

A.3 The answer supplied at the Council meeting was –

*“Written response.”*

(A written response was to follow and is awaited.)

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

**Q. Landowners or occupiers have an obligation to control the spread of Ragwort if it poses a high risk (within 50 metres) of land used for grazing or forage production where it poses a serious risk to grazing animals.**

- (a) Does any of the Council's highways land fall into this category?**
- (b) Does the Council allow its rewilded highways land to be used to make hay or are there plans to do so?**
- (c) How does/will it ensure it is free from ragwort?**

A. (a) Yes – Amey are contractually obligated when Ragwort is reported to them to go and remove it.

(b) No – we can confirm cutting and bailing has been trialled in these areas previously, however contamination by litter items, dog faeces and pollutants made the resulting bales unusable / unsafe for agricultural purposes.

(c) Assuming this refers to any bails created from highway grassed areas, Ragwort is traditionally hand-pulled out of areas.