Sheffield City Council

Council Questions	Wednesday 7 July 2021 2.00p.m.

1. **Leader of the Council** (Pages 1 - 8)
   Councillor Terry Fox

2. **Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management** (Pages 9 -14)
   Questions to Councillor Paul Wood

3. **Executive Member for Education, Children and Families Questions to** (Pages 15 - 21)
   Councillor Jayne Dunn

4. **Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance** (Pages 22 - 30)
   Questions to Councillor Julie Grocutt

5. **Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport** (Pages 31 - 40)
   Questions to Councillor Douglas Johnson

6. **Executive Member for Health and Social Care** (Page 41)
   Questions to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond

7. **Executive Member for Finance and Resources** (Pages 42 - 43)
   Questions to Councillor Cate McDonald

8. **Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing, Parks and Leisure** (Pages 44 - 48)
   Questions to Councillor Alison Teal

C I T Y O F S H E F F I E L D

M E T R O P O L I T A N D I S T R I C T

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 7TH JULY, 2021

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

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

Q.1 **At the last full Council meeting I asked you the following question - "Would you support the addition of local travel concessions to holders of the Senior National Concessionary Travel Pass?" In my supplementary follow up question, I asked you to write to Dan Jarvis to press him to change policy. Have you written to Dan Jarvis, if so, could you please provide me with a copy of the email/letter?**

A.1 Yes happy to provide you with a copy.

Q.2 **What are your views on proposals by Meadowhall expansion?**

A.2 The current application is still under consideration.

Q.3 **Do you share the concerns expressed by the Director of City Centre Development against the £150million Meadowhall Expansion?**

A.3 The current application is still under consideration and any concerns expressed will be offered serious consideration.

We always need to ensure wider impacts associated with any large scale development proposals are considered fully and wish to see Sheffield City Centre and Meadowhall thrive in the future.

Q.4 **What support has the Council provided to EU Citizens seeking "Settled Status"?**

A.4 Our awareness raising started in October 2018. We worked with local Roma leaders, Roma Support Group and the 3million to promote awareness of EU Settlement scheme amongst the Roma Slovak community in Sheffield, culminating in a public meeting hosted at Oasis Fir Vale School in November 2018 attended by over 200 people.

At the same time our Looked After Children (LACs) service took part in the national pilot scheme for registering relevant LACs.

We continued to work with other authorities through Migration Yorkshire to develop best practice around this whilst identifying the best approach and resources to use in Sheffield.

From June 2019 we contracted with Darnall Well-being and Firvale Community Hub as an extension of the Sheffield Community Investment Deal programme to do outreach work and awareness raising around the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Both had a track record in supporting the relevant communities in neighbourhoods where there were significant numbers. They ran support sessions each week in Darnall library, Firth Park library, Fir Vale Community Hub and Central Library, with six bookable appointments in each session.

Throughout the last two years, our support has been available to anyone who needed it but we targeted our face to face work on those neighbourhoods with the largest numbers of people who might need support to access the online application process.

From August 2019 EU citizens were able to have their ID documents verified at Howden House.

In September 2019, a poster advertising the support available was circulated to all schools and we started working with Citizens Advice Sheffield to ensure support was available for those who needed higher level immigration advice.

We began to work with the press in October 2019, with Radio Sheffield helping make people aware of the need to register. This has continued consistently since, culminating in a proactive communications campaign in May and June 2021 involving use of social media and digital billboards across the city.

In September 2020, we secured funding from Home Office as a “Grant Funded Organisation” which enabled us to extend our contracts with Citizens Advice Sheffield, Darnall Well-being and Firvale Community Hub. The initial contract was from October 2020 to March 2021 but was extended to September 2021. To date, through this contract, we have supported over 2,000 people to apply to the scheme.

Q.5 How many businesses have relocated to Sheffield from elsewhere in the UK in each of the last three years?

A.5 As has been confirmed before, it is not possible to answer this question. A business may relocate to Sheffield without our involvement or knowledge.

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 Will the Youth Services Operating Model be presented to the next meeting of the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee?

A.1 Yes, more than happy to do this.

Q.2 Does the Operating Model identify where new youth clubs are planned to be brought into operation?

A.2 Not yet, mapping is currently being undertaken to ensure we will be filling gaps and avoiding duplication in the city. We are currently following a timetable to get youth clubs reopened following covid, there is a wealth of activity planned over the summer. New ongoing provision will start from the September term.

Q.3 Will the Scrutiny Committee be briefed on the Achieving Change for Early Help initiative, and what is the target completion date for achieving pay harmonisation for the former Sheffield Futures staff?

A.3 We are happy to brief the Committee on the Early Help Achieving Change.

The early help proposal is still being discussed and developed with trade unions and an achieving change process is not anticipated until the Autumn, at which time it would be formally launched with staff and unions and a period of full consultation would commence. As stated, we are working with the unions on the Early Help proposal that affects several services, including most Youth Services staff, and the plan is to consult those staff later in the year on a range of changes including a move to Council terms and conditions. For the remainder of the Youth Services staff not included in this Early Help review, we are not allowed under the terms of the transfer to harmonise their terms and conditions; however, if the trade unions make such a request we will work with them.

Q.4 Will there be a clear indication of how the additional £2M spend has been allocated across the various activity areas?

A.4 Plans are currently being drawn up for approval.

Q.5 In the Interim Consultation Report on Issues and Options for the Local Plan carried out in September/October 2020, well over 70% of respondents identified Option A with no new Green Belt development

as their preferred option. Which option has been used in the development of the Draft Local Plan?

A.5 We developed Option A to protect green belt from development and set out that protecting the green belt was a top priority. The Draft Local Plan is still being worked on, the views expressed in the responses referred to will be a significant factor in these discussions and it remains a priority to protect the green belt.

Q.6 The consultation on the Draft Local Plan was due to commence in July this year. Is it still on schedule?

A.6 We will be publishing a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) shortly. The current LDS (published in November 2019) timetable has been delayed because of the pandemic. That delay will have a knock-on effect on subsequent dates set out in the LDS.

Q.7 Will there be a further update on the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and Green Belt Review before publication of the Draft Local Plan?

Updates of both documents will be available when the Publication (Pre-Submission) Draft of the Local Plan is published for consultation.

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

Can I please have written answers to the following questions that remain unanswered from the Full Council meeting on 16th June. (These were previously submitted to Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Executive Member for City Futures, Development, Culture & Regeneration, and you committed to getting a reply).

Q.1 In the Interim Consultation Report on Issues and Options for the Local Plan carried out in September/October 2020, well over 70% of respondents identified Option A with no new Green Belt development as their preferred option. Which option has been used in the development of the Draft Local Plan?

A.1 We developed Option A to protect green belt from development and set out that protecting the green belt was a top priority. The Draft Local Plan is still being worked on, the views expressed in the responses referred to will be a significant factor in these discussions and it remains a priority to protect the green belt.

Q.2 The consultation on the Draft Local Plan is due to commence in July this year. Is it still on schedule?

A.2 We will be publishing a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) shortly. The current LDS (published in November 2019) timetable has been delayed because of the pandemic. That delay will have a knock-on effect on subsequent dates set out in the LDS.

Q.3 Will there be a further update on the HELAA and Green Belt Review before publication of the Draft Local Plan?

A.3 Updates of both documents will be available when the Publication (Pre-Submission) Draft of the Local Plan is published for consultation.

Q.4 How many meetings with John Lewis has Councillor Iqbal attended since they announced their proposals to close their city centre store?

A.4 All meetings are being conducted at officer level.

Q.5 How many times have Council Officers attended meetings with John Lewis since they announced their proposals?

A.5 Six times to date.

Q.6 What actions are planned to recover the money paid to John Lewis following the deal Councillor Iqbal announced last year that would "secure their store in the city centre"?

A.6 Negotiations are ongoing regarding the financial payment to the Council to enable John Lewis to surrender the lease.

Q.7 How many electric charging points are being installed for private vehicles as part of the Heart of the City project?

A.7 There are no private vehicle on street parking places in the Heart of the City Scheme. There are a small number of private parking spaces under Grosvenor House. This building, when designed and built, did not envisage the need for EV charging at the time. However, the Building has been built to accredited US sustainability standards. The only public parking for private vehicles is in the existing NCP Car Park. Studies have been done to assess the retro-fitting of that car park with EV charging points and this is a matter the project team will be discussing with NCP.

Q.8 How many retail/business units are currently vacant in the city centre and what percentage of the total estate does that represent?

A.8 Total Units = 897
Total Independent retailers = 363 (40.4%)
Total Vacant = 121
Vacancy Rate = 13.49% (for comparison April 19 = 12.8% / April 20 13.63%)

Q.9 Following the successful bid to the Future High Streets Fund for redeveloping Fargate, when will construction work start?

A.9 Design Work has started. The purchase of 20-26 Fargate is in progress. Works to help activate the use of the upper floors of buildings is to start from Q3 of this year 2021. Public Realm works to start Q1 2022 (following design, tendering and contract award).

Questions of Councillor Anne Murphy to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 Can you share your thoughts on the suggested moving of the ring road from the front of the Midland Railway station, to the South Street Park side of the station?

A.1 The Sheaf Valley Masterplan set out a long-term vision for the station and surrounding area. It included many different phases of possible work across transport, regeneration and public realm improvements – the final element of which raised the possibility of switching the tram and road network so that the ring road ran around the back of station, not the front. The report simply showed that such a switch was engineeringly possible and gave an indication of what it might look like, but it did not commit the Council to ever progressing it as a scheme and no more work has been instigated to do so. Given the importance of air quality and climate change to the city, it is clear that element of the regeneration Framework is not something the Council supports and therefore no further work will be pursued on the idea of moving the road.

Q.2 Can you share what opportunities there are now for the Heart of the City and what public transport issues can be developed?

A.2 I will provide a written answer to this question.

Question of Councillor Karen McGowan to the Leader of the Council (Councillor

Terry Fox)

Q. **Like many other Sheffielders I grew up shopping at Cole Brothers, which later became part of the John Lewis Partnership. Shopping there was always an occasion. I know I speak on behalf of thousands of people when I say I am hugely disappointed that the shop will not be reopening following the Covid lockdown.**

Can you inform me what actions the Council have taken to endeavour to keep John Lewis in the City?

A. Sheffield City Council did all it could to retain John Lewis over a number of years and agreed a new lease arrangement with John Lewis that secured the retailer for the future and committed them to a major refurbishment of the store, announced just last August.

Retail can't exist in isolation, as it once did. Sheffield City Council recognised this and in 2018 designed a masterplan that was built to work with, or without, large retailers like John Lewis.

While John Lewis leaving the city centre is a blow, Heart of the City has been designed to help the city adapt to losing major retailers.

The new lease agreed with John Lewis means the council has control of the building to enable new plans to be drawn up for the site.

Question of Councillor Peter Price to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q. **17th July, 2021 is the 30th Anniversary of the Opening Ceremony of the World Student Games. I understand that Richard Caborn and The Olympic Legacy Park Limited, together with Westfield Health, our Universities and the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, plus others, are organising an event to mark the occasion and they will be linking this to announcement of some exciting activities and initiatives.**

Are the City Council making any input to the organisation, joining the celebrations and perhaps helping to bring this to the attention of the Sheffield community?'

A. In 1991, Sheffield hosted the Universiade, otherwise known as the World Student Games. The Universiade (the word is made up of University and Olympiad) is a sporting event for students in higher education.

The funding for the games enabled new facilities to be built to host the games, including Don Valley Stadium (now the site of the innovative Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park which is home to Sheffield Hallam University's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre), the Ponds Forge

International Sports Centre, and the Sheffield Arena (with 10,000 seats and exhibition centre). The Lyceum Theatre was renovated as part of the cultural element of the bid. Over 3,000 athletes from over 100 nations took part in the Games which ran from 14 - 25 July 1991.

The Games left the city with outstanding sporting facilities and a sporting culture which saw continuing investment and developments such as the English Institute of Sport, a Sport England-Lottery funded initiative and landed Sheffield its reputation as the City of Sport.

30 years later, the current contractual relationship for these Facilities – currently operated by Sheffield City Trust (SCT) are coming to an end in 2024 and the Council is currently working to develop the future vison for Sport, Leisure and Entertainment in Sheffield, in conjunction with partners and informed by the Sport England Facility Planning modelling. This provides the Council with an opportunity to review the current arrangements and explore options to invest in modernising our Sport, Leisure and Entertainment facilities.

In addition to the review of leisure facilities, the Council is also developing a Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure Strategy that will set out the Councils ambition for sport and physical activity (Active Sheffield) and which will build on the legacy started by the World Student Games in 1991. (This is in early draft and further consultation with members, stakeholders and customers will take place in due course).

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Executive Member for City Futures: Development, Culture and Regeneration) (to be answered by Councillor Terry Fox (the Leader of the Council)

Q.1 I understand some people keep wild and exotic animals as pets for example poisonous snakes, spiders, monkeys, lions, tigers and other such animals.

Could you please let me have details of how many such animals are registered in Sheffield?

A.1 There is only one such animal registered in Sheffield.

Q.2 What monitoring do we have in place to ensure they are safe and have the right environment? Also, that they do not pose a risk to the general public.

A.2 Under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act of 1976, a licence issued by the Local Authority is required to own one of the animals listed in the Act. The conditions of the licence ensure the animal is secure and is correctly looked after, and inspections are carried out to ensure this.

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

Q.1 How many empty Council homes are there currently in Sheffield? How many homes have been empty for six months, one year and three years respectively?

A.1 Total VAV (Properties for reletting) voids at the moment **1246**
Total VUN (Properties not for reletting) voids at the moment **10**
Of these:
7 are over 3 years
1 is between 2 & 3 years
2 are between 1 & 2 years
Number of VAV voids empty over 3 years **0**
Number of VAV voids empty over 2 years **4 (between 2 & 3 years)**
Number of VAV voids empty over 1 year **74** (**between 1 & 2 years)**
Number of VAV voids empty over 6 months **186 (between 6 months and 1 year)**

Q.2 How do you plan to consult residents on further plans for demolitions to outhouses?

A.2 The Council has received letters of concern from Residents, so the Housing Team are going to suspend any demolition of outhouses until we have managed to discuss any concerns with residents. This work is therefore on hold.

Questions of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 How many guttering repair cases are currently open?

A.1 343 open

Q.2 Of these, how many have been open for more than three, six, and 12 months, respectively?

A.2 185 - 3months
110 - 6months
48 - 12 months
We are currently working through the older jobs first. Performance is being impacted by heavy rain throughout May.

Questions of Councillor Alexi Dimond to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive

Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 How large is the current backlog for repairs to Council properties?

A.1 At the start of COVID there was a backlog of 6302 Repairs.
At the end of June there is a backlog of 4110 Repairs.

The Service has reduced the backlog by 2192 Repairs in addition to managing a 25% increase in demand post lockdown.

Q.2 How many outstanding repairs are classed as "urgent"?

A.2 At the end of June 38 outstanding repairs are classed as urgent.

The average completion time for urgent works is currently 10 hours.

Q.3 What is the average waiting time for a call to the Council Housing Repairs phone line?

A.3 May:14mins 07seconds, June: 15mins and 37seconds

Q.4 A resident in Gleadless Valley has reported frequent break-ins at the block where he lives due to a magnetic lock that, and I quote, "could be kicked in by a child". I have also raised this issue with the repairs department, but as yet the situation is unresolved. At the time of submission of this question, the block has been accessible to the public for the last eight days. How many times does a faulty lock on a door to a block of flats need to be "repaired" before the lock or door is permanently replaced?

A.4 We have ordered a new door that is specially designed to withstand being kicked in. However, lead times are currently three months. Repairs management are contacting the Manufacturer (Bamford Doors) to try and speed up the delivery. We will also review what temporary measures we can put in place and speak to investment colleagues about a door renewal programme.

Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q How many static and/or park licences for ice cream vans are currently valid in the City?

A.1 Here is a list of active street trading consents in Sheffield:

Consent type	Number Licensed	Expiry/Renewal Date	Location
PARKS ICE CREAM	3	30th November	Weston Park
			Endcliffe Park
			Millhouses Park
STATIC ICE CREAM	6	30th November	Woodfall Lane
			Endcliffe Park Round about
			Rustlings Rd - top of Endcliffe Park
			Outside Millhouses Park, Abbeydale rd South
			Rivelin Valley Rd
MOBILE ICE CREAM	1	31st March	City Wide
STATIC CITY CENTRE ICE CREAM	2	30th November	Bottom of Fargate
			Peace Gardens
SCHOOLS ICE CREAM	0	31st March	

The Licensing Service also currently have 2 pending applications (i.e. not yet granted) as follows:

- Mobile Ice Cream Applications – 5
- Schools Ice Cream – 1 (at Birley Community Primary School)

Q.2 How many of those were granted for sites within 400 metres or less away from schools and/or playgrounds?

A.2 2 x Parks Consents for Millhouses Park and Endcliffe Park.
2 x Static – Outside Millhouses Park and Rivelin Valley Road.

Q.3 Do those licences allow licensees to leave their engine running? If yes, on what public health basis?

A.3 With ice cream vans such as these, the engines are normally running as it is the only power source used for the ice cream itself and their cool store/freezers.
We have previously written out to ice cream consent holders encouraging them to turn off their engines whilst waiting stationary and consider an alternative power source.
The Licensing Service will be looking into steps to address emissions from polluting vehicles to assist Sheffield City Council in its commitment to improve air quality in the next review of the street trading policy (to commence this year).

Question of Councillor Bernard Little to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member

for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q. What is the average time people phoning the housing lettings number (293 0000) have to wait for the phone to be picked up?

A. We are not currently able to split call waiting times down to the individual skills sets such as Housing Lettings (and also there are two different numbers that people might use to reach this team). However, the overall average wait time for all calls to the Housing strand of the Contact Centre during June 2021 was eight minutes and 12 seconds. We expect that this figure will improve over the coming weeks and months as a number of recently recruited staff are now fully trained

Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 What steps are being taken to expand household recycling to include food waste, wider plastic recycling (outside of just bottles) and tetrapaks?

A.1 The Council has recently responded to the Governments consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England, supporting the requirements for increased plastics and tetrapak collections from households.
We have also supported the proposal by the Government for Extended Producer Responsibility. This is much needed to ensure the additional costs to local authorities for increasing recycling collections are met by those companies producing what ends up being our waste. But also, to massively invest in reprocessing facilities for these materials in the UK. Such facilities are seriously lacking and within this investment the materials will continue to be waste.

Q.2 What steps are being taken to reduce our waste input to the incinerator and to cease using it? Noting its carbon footprint and the Council's commitment to addressing the climate emergency?

A.2 The Energy Recovery Facility continues to make a significant contribution to reducing the city's carbon impact, diverting waste from landfill – our landfill rate is one of the best in the country regularly being less than 1% each year. In addition, our investment in District Energy also means the most efficient use of the energy generated reducing the use of fossil fuels for heating buildings in the city.
Working with Veolia the City Council will investigate options and emerging technologies for carbon capture to further reduce the impact of managing the city's waste.

Q.3 What actions have been taken or are being taken following the Council resolution in the March 2021 Full Council Meeting, passing the "Demanding An End To The National Cladding Scandal" motion, as amended?

A.3 Janet Sharpe, Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods and colleagues have met

with Leaseholders and discussed the resolution in detail. The Council has also:

- Continued to discuss on a weekly basis the financial and emotional matters affecting private leaseholders in the city and, what additional Government Funding support can be accessed either by the Council, leaseholders or their Management Agents.
- Agreed to collate relevant information that the Council holds and make sure this is readily available for leaseholders
- Awarded Government Grants available to remove Waking Watch arrangements (and costs passed on to Leaseholders) through the installation of fire alarms to make sure safe evacuation can take place in the event of a fire and, give more time for building owners/ management agents to place future improvement works to address any cladding and fire protections required.
- Designed a new Leaseholder Web page with all information about the buildings that the Council holds, latest updates on funding available from Government, how to access mainstream services to support leaseholders, single place/portal where leaseholders can log an enquiry, FAQ's and FOI responses so that our leaseholders in the city have one place to go for the latest information. This should be available to access from summer 2021 and we are keen that leaseholders using the new web site will provide any feedback to ensure this works well for leaseholders.
- Direct contact within the HNS Private Sector Housing Team for any additional Leaseholder, Management Agent or Owners request for assistance.

Question of Councillor Lewis Chinchen to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q. It was confirmed in a response to a question from Councillor Sophie Thornton at Full Council in June that 60 trade applicants were being interviewed to fill the vacancies in the Repairs and Maintenance Service. Has any progress been made with regards to recruiting successful applicants? If not, when will successful applicants be recruited by and are any measures being taken to quicken the application process?

A. There are currently no vacancies within the Repairs Service. Last week the Service recruited 43 trade operatives.

Questions of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Paul Wood (Executive Member for Housing, Roads and Waste Management)

Q.1 In March, the community in Arbourthorne was outraged when a memorial bench dedicated to Kelly Brewster, who was a Sheffield victim of the Manchester Arena terror attack, was destroyed by arsonists. This was an act of criminality that caused revulsion throughout Arbourthorne.

It also damaged the Arbourthorne Social Centre, which is home to the local Tenants and Residents Association (TARA).

Could you confirm when the bench will be replaced and the damage caused to the Social Centre be put right?

A.1 Housing Team immediately secured the funding for its replacement and, to provide a more sturdy replacement to reduce the risk of any future damage. A new bench and memorial plaque was installed just before the 14th June, 2021. The replacement bench is metal and the standard we install in our parks to mitigate the risk of fire again.

The repairs were completed by the 26th May, 2021 and this was replacement guttering and facia that had been damaged by the fire. The external wall and floor was also pressure washed to clean the area and remove remnants from the fire





Q.2 Earlier this year the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny

Committee was told by Council officers that work to integrate the reporting of issues by users of the Fix My Street app was underway. This was to allow for reports to flow directly into Council systems and speed up reporting and resolutions.

Could you please kindly provide an update on the progress of this piece of work?

A.2 We're pleased to confirm work is underway to improve online reporting for Streets Ahead issues. However, rather than simply increase costs to the Council of using more of the Fix My Street functionality, the Council is proactively working to improve its own forms. This will achieve better value for money than incurring an increased annual charge from Fix My Street.

Reporting Streets Ahead issues via this route enables reports to pass through the Customer Service Systems and then on to the Amey system automatically, saving time for customers and creating a record for Customer Services should a customer want to follow up their enquiry. Reports submitted via this channel will be dealt with on a much quicker, more accurate basis.

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

Q.1 At the last Full Council meeting I asked you a question about young people excluded from Sheffield schools. You provided me with an initial answer of 42 secondary and 13 primary school young people, but agreed to provide a more detailed written response. Could you please provide myself and other City Councillors with that written response?

A.1 See response below

Q.2 Since January 2021, how many young people have been excluded from Sheffield schools? Could you please provide a breakdown per month and by school.

A.2 Answers were sent directly by email to Councillor Mohammed on the 30th June, 2021. The breakdown given by officers was not to be released into the public domain.

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

Q. It has been widely reported that school meals could be at risk due to a shortage of UK lorry drivers. Can you please assure Sheffield schools and parents that you have robust contingency measures in place to ensure a healthy and balanced diet is provided to all Sheffield school children under all circumstances and not the diet quoted in a national newspaper last week "Sheffield City Council to write to schools warning they may have to rely on emergency standby ingredients such as FISH FINGERS and DRIED PASTA to feed their pupils"? Surely this cannot be a serious contingency plan.

A. The statutory duty for providing school meals rests with schools and their governing bodies. The School Catering Contract let by the Council, currently has 93 schools who choose to participate in it, with other schools managing their own provision or under contract with other private sector education caterers.

Taylor Shaw provide the service for this contract and has a secure and extensive supply chain, backed by its parent company, Elior, which is one of a group of companies that engages with and advises Central Government. Their supply chains and therefore menus are sufficiently flexible to be able to plan for emergencies as well as short term disruption to their food supplies. Ordering extra stocks can and has taken place and menus can be adjusted.

The shortage of haulage drivers is affecting Bid Foods who are a large catering distributor of dry and frozen goods, but so far only in the London and South East area. Unfortunately, the media report was incorrect as fish fingers and dry pasta

would in theory be some of the goods that are affected as these are the foods that Bid Foods provides.

Daily checks are in place to ensure that the situation is tracked but so far there have been no problems with food being delivered, including dry and frozen goods, to schools in the School Catering Contract. There are enough stocks of food placed in each school to be able to make changes to planned menus if and when necessary. There are no reports of any problems with fresh produce.

Questions of Councillor Peter Garbutt to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

Q.1 What measures are in place to ensure supplies for school children and other vulnerable groups remain uninterrupted?

A.1 The statutory duty for providing school meals rests with schools and their governing bodies. The School Catering Contract let by the Council currently has 93 schools who choose to participate in it, with other schools managing their own provision or under contract with other private sector education caterers.

Taylor Shaw provide the service for this contract and has a secure and extensive supply chain, backed by its parent company, Elior, which is one of a group of companies that engages with and advises central government. Their supply chains and therefore menus are sufficiently flexible to be able plan for emergencies as well as short term disruption to their food supplies. Ordering extra stocks can and has taken place and menus can be adjusted.

Q.2 Looking further into the future, can you inform us what measures are in place to maintain the supply of food in Sheffield in the case of shortages due to climate-stricken crops and livestock and/or breakdowns in the transport infrastructure?

A.2 The measures already mentioned are set up to give an early indication of where changes may need to me made. Currently, Taylor Shaw are testing new foodstuffs to bring onto menus at some time in the future, with many of these plant-based.

Climate-stricken crops and livestock/transport infrastructure requires wider discussion by the Council.

Question of Councillor Christine Gilligan to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

Q. In light of the Council signing up to the climate emergency, what consideration has been given to local procurement? If we are to meet our

commitment to zero carbon by 2030, we have to think about reducing food miles. Supporting local businesses/suppliers is also building local sustainability.

A. The current supplier of school meals for the School Catering Contract, Taylor Shaw, sources suppliers who come predominately from the Yorkshire region, with 25% of food spend from within a 50-mile radius of Sheffield – such companies as Underwoods Meat Company, John Palins Fruit & Vegetable and Longley Farm.

Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

In relation to the school meals contract:-

Q.1 Will single use plastic tubs be used for fruit desserts and yoghurts etc?

A.1 The service uses re-useable coupe dishes for desserts and yogurts as well as Vegware products, which is a recycled material that can be composted after use.

Q.2 Will single use plastic drinks bottles be used?

A.2 The plastic bottles in use are made of recycled plastic that can then be re-used and eventually recycled.

Q.3 What is planned to deal with tetrapaks?

A.3 Tetrapak are currently researching a fully organic container which is being trialled in the EU at present. It is anticipated that rollout will be during 2022, with the smaller 189ml drinking milk carton used in the School Milk Contract to be rolled out by December 2022.

Q.4 Will the suppliers from overseas be replaced by UK sources?

A.4 We are not aware of anything specific, but the majority of goods are from within the UK at present.

Q.5. What is being planned to independently evaluate the service?

A.5 The service is evaluated by the Council's School Food Service, with additional support from Trading Standards and Environmental Health. There are no plans to source an independent audit process outside the Councils' own experts.

Q.6 How many schools will be evaluated through the contract life and how often?

A.6 All schools will be evaluated annually by Taylor Shaw as a contract requirement which have to be submitted to and checked by the Council. Taylor Shaw's parent company Elior, commissions an independent audit company that conduct an annual programme of audits. The School Food Service audits at least 20% of schools on an annual basis. Trading Standards are also engaged by the School Food Service on an annual basis to evaluate product quality such as high-risk foods such as meat and milk. Environmental Health carry out regular inspections of schools per month for food hygiene / safety compliance.

Q.7 Will the ingredients list be published?

A.7 This is not a requirement and currently no plans for this at present.

Q.8 What information is made public regarding allergens, additives, GM and radiated food?

A.8 The contractor fully meets that Food Information Labelling Regulations regarding allergens and additives. The Council's own contract standards exclude most additives in line with the EU recommendations, with the exclusion of all GM and irradiated foods.

Q.9 What information is made public regarding sugar, salt, aspartame?

A.9 The contractor meets all Government requirements with regards to sugar and salt levels. This information is not currently required to be published

Q.10 Will the nutritional information of each meal be made public?

A.10 This is not a requirement and currently no plans for this at present

Q.11 How is the carbon footprint of each meal calculated?

A.11 This is not known at present.

Q.12 How much will Taylor Shaw Ltd (TS) be paid per meal?

A.12 The primary meal charge will be £2.05 and the secondary meal charge will be £2.10 from 1st August, 2021.

Q.13 How much does the Government pay for a Free School Meal?

A.13 A Universal Infant Free School Meal is funded by the Government @ £2.34, with

funds going directly to schools. Funding for FSM is provided by schools from their budgets.

Q.14 What community outreach will TS undertake during the length of the contract?

A.14 Taylor Shaw has a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme which includes working with FareShare Yorkshire regarding waste food and offers Litter Picks to schools as part of their environmental awareness campaigns. We are currently working with them to organise the support their CSR programme will bring to Sheffield schools as part of the new contract.

Q.15 Will TS initiate any composting of unused or wasted food?

A.15 Taylor Shaw already use Millgate Waste Services that removes food waste and treats it, turning it into biofuel and compost. They are introducing a programme in the coming months that will analyse waste used in the production of the meal to cut down as much as possible on kitchen waste.

Q.16 What work was undertaken to reduce the number of tetrapaks in the new school milk contract?

A.16 Research was carried out by the School Food Service with help from colleagues in Waste Management and the previous milk provider into how the industry was responding to recycling of cartons and alternative packaging. However, the industry has not yet found any suitable carton that can keep the contents safe and wholesome, as well as convenient for schools. Schools were also asked to give us their feedback on the use of cartons and other means of delivery. Both these elements were factored into the contract specification of the new School Milk contract. As said before, Tetrapak are aiming to roll out fully organic cartons by December 2022 to the education milk sector.

Questions of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families)

You will be aware that the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, led by Josh MacAlister, has published its interim findings. It found a system under significant strain with an increasing number of families being investigated, more children in care and costs spiralling.

It notes that deprivation was a key factor among families needing help and that many of those who asked for support found assessments and investigations added to their stress.

The review also noted that nationally, the number of inquiries into whether a child is at risk of significant harm - known as section 47 inquiries - has more than doubled since 2010, rising to 201,000 investigations in a year. But the report said 135,000 of those led to no child protection plan.

Q.1 Given the focus on this within the report, how many section 47 inquiries has Sheffield City Council carried out each year since 2020 and how many of these have led to a child protection plan?

A.1 In the financial year from 2020–2021 there were 2,151 Section 47 enquiries. Of these, 123 were placed on a child protection plan in the same time period.

Q.2 Will Sheffield City Council be making a submission for the final report of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care?

A.2 As a Local Authority, we continually review our plans both in response to reviews and emerging information, but also from listening to the children and families in our city, working with partners and using data.

Q.3 In light of the interim findings, what changes, if any, do you expect will be made within Children's Social Care in Sheffield?

A.3 Prior to the publication of this report, we had already begun the review of our Early Help offer, this includes the development and delivery of a strategy to children and their families. This is reflective of elements of the report where it has identified the clear need to offer support to enable families to succeed.

We continue to recruit to social work posts to support families, alongside carrying out our statutory duties which does include investigation (S47), being a corporate parent for children who are looked after.

We want to have a skilled and confident workforce who are able to deliver the right services at the right time. This means that any decisions to undertake an investigation are joint decisions (in accordance with Working Together) and we will always try and support families and keep them together as it is safe to do so.

We have an established quality assurance framework to ensure that our responses to families are the right ones and completed in a timely way.

We would hope to contribute to the report.

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

Q. In contrast to the answer you gave at the June Council meeting to my question on ventilation, the guide sent to Members and officers "COVID19 building user guide" makes only one weak mention of ventilation. In addition, I have found a number of windows closed in the Town Hall that ought to be and could easily be opened. Can you explain this discrepancy and what will you do about it?

A. There are a number of windows in the Town Hall that cannot be opened due to condition and these have been permanently closed, however we do have the Town Hall Attendants walking the buildings and opening doors and checking rooms on a regular basis to assist with air flow and air exchange.

We do ask employees using their offices and workspaces to open windows whilst they are in occupation and we have recently updated our COVID Building User Guide to reflect the latest Public Health guidance on ventilation and use of fans (attached). Staff using spaces can open/close most windows themselves and temperature, noise and pigeon access at times could mean that people choose to close them. The Facilities Management staff on site will look at keeping windows open and if people want windows open that they cannot access, they have a responsibility to ask us and we will be happy to help.

We have also increased our servicing frequencies across the Sheffield City Council estate for air conditioning/air handling plant from six monthly to quarterly. We are continually considering this issue and updating our approach as and when the guidance evolves. As mentioned, Sheffield City Council have issued guidance on electric fans to the workforce and we will doing more work on ventilation internal communications in the coming weeks.

In terms of what we can add to previous answers on ventilation maximisation, adding CO 2 monitors would involve a ventilation redesign to upgrade all the current equipment (bearing in mind CO2 is not the only factor in a ventilation design). We would need a ventilation specialist to see if a current equipment can be retrofitted or needs a complete upgrade.

Ventilation advice (answer from 10th June)
Maximising air exchange in the best way possible for each site to minimise Covid-19 transmission risk. The Town Hall has high ceilinged rooms, and opening windows so natural ventilation and lower room occupancy is one way that ventilation can be managed on this site. We have given advice not to use electric portable desk fans or portable air conditioning units. Where buildings have mechanical ventilation, we advise 6 ACH (air changes per hour) and MERV 13 or HEPA filters on well-maintained units. We advise over-riding settings which adjust for lower room occupancies so that the maximum air exchange is achieved.

A number of sources of evidence as the basis for this advice:

SAGE - EMG Role of Ventilation in Controlling SARS-CoV-2 Transmission. Pdf

ECDC - Europa Publications data/heating/ventilation/air/conditioning/systems Covid-19

HSE - Coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/assesssment-of-fresh-air

WHO - Coronavirus-disease-covid-19-ventilation-and-air-conditioning since20January2020

Gov.uk - Government/publications/covid-19-ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus/ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19#ventilation-in-the-workplace-and-non-domestic-settings

Question of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and Governance)

Q. June is Pride month. What is Sheffield City Council doing to mark the occasion and promote an inclusive Sheffield for LGBT+ people?

A. Through June we have flown the rainbow flag at the Town Hall to publicly indicate our commitment as an organisation and city to be a place where LGBT+ people can feel safe, accepted and flourish. We have marked Pride on our social media accounts such as highlighting local LGBT+ organisations such as Andro and Eve, SAYiT and E.D.E.N Films in social media posts and we also promoted an excellent series of Pride-related events organised by Sheffield Libraries and their partners https://shefflibraries.blogspot.com/p/pride-month.html

Internally within the organisation our Staff Equality and Inclusion Network (SEIN) has presented the history or Pride to its members which included a quiz to mark the month and the organisations' Safe Space and Allies Network has pulled together information on the intersection of LGBTQ+ and BAME communities, including information on support organisations, this has been shared on the Council's intranet for all staff to access. We also have ongoing internal e-learning provided by Skillsbooster on understanding LGBT+ identities and supporting LGBT+ colleagues which all staff are strongly advised to complete.

We launched a 'LGBT+ Covid Experiences Survey' during Pride month in conjunction with the organisation, LGBT+ Sheffield to get the Sheffield LGBT+ community's experiences of the pandemic and what they require now that we're moving into a recovery stage. This survey closed recently and the results are now been analysed and prepared to be presented to senior managers and cabinet members in the Council to inform our approach to supporting the LGBT+ community moving forward.

Office Accommodation – User Guide

Working Safely during COVID – 19

Introduction

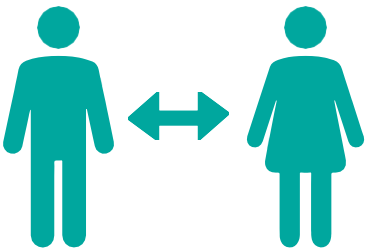
This document is to help all managers, staff and users of Sheffield City Council office accommodation understand and adopt the key principles put in place to protect their health, safety and well being during COVID – 19.

The safety and wellbeing of building users is our paramount concern. This guide seeks to maintain that safety and wellbeing by describing the measures put in place to enable everyone to work safely whilst in the workplace.

We can confirm that, in compliance with government guidelines, an appropriate COVID – 19 risk assessment has been carried out in respect of those premises where staff will operate from. A copy of the relevant Risk Assessment and Declaration of Compliance is available on request via **COVID19.Premises@sheffield.gov.uk** – a copy of the Declaration of Compliance poster will be displayed within building receptions.

The Facilities Management Team continues to maintain each of our office buildings to enable them to support staff performing critical functions. This includes the undertaking of statutory inspections, systems checks and ensuring that all necessary equipment is in safe working order.

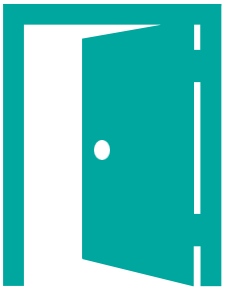
Social Distancing at work



All staff should maintain social distancing whilst in the workplace wherever possible.

Social distancing applies to all parts of a building, not just the place where people spend most of their time, but also entrances and exits, break rooms, canteens and similar settings. These are often the most challenging areas to maintain social distancing.

Access to offices



Access to each of our office locations will be controlled to ensure only those required to attend to perform critical functions will be able to do so, and, numbers in attendance at any one time will be monitored to ensure that density of occupation is limited to safe levels to maintain social distancing protocols.

Arrival Experience



Posters have been installed in entrance and reception areas containing positive messages and reminding staff of safe working protocols;

- Workplace hygiene - frequent handwashing, availability of soap, sanitiser, disinfectant wipes
- Avoidance of touchpoints where possible
- Information on the regularity and scope of the on-going cleaning regime
- Protocols for the use of restrooms/toilets and kitchens/refreshment points i.e. queuing/social distancing, touchpoint cleaning etc.

Access control restrictions may be in place to limit access to those staff in critical services that have been designated by their services as needing to attend their office to work.

The direction of pedestrian traffic will be designated and signposted in primary circulation routes, including one-way routes where practical. Distance increments (2 metres) are marked on the floor, to help building users maintain safe social distancing as they negotiate their way around the building.

There are queue management arrangements in place in lift lobbies via floor markings, together with signage both outside and inside each lift car describing how they are to be used and how often they are cleaned.

Visitors are discouraged from attending our office buildings. Staff should make alternative arrangements wherever possible.

Cleaning



An appropriate cleaning regime specific to the COVID – 19 situation is undertaken at each workplace with particular attention paid to those areas that staff may touch with their hands (touchpoints).

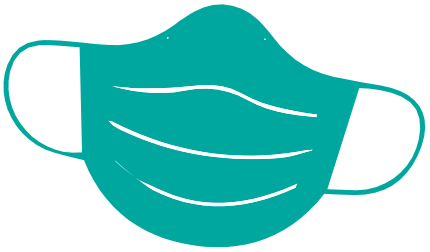
If a building has been closed, before it is re-opened for staff occupation the Facilities Management Team will provide;

- All necessary consumables (hand sanitiser, antiseptic wipes, soap, toilet paper, hand towels etc.). Stock levels will be monitored to ensure availability when required
- An increased focus on high intensity touchpoints such as door furniture (handles, push plates), wall furniture (light switches, sockets), IT equipment, sanitary ware, kitchen appliances, vending machines etc.
- A deep clean of the entire facility
- An available stock of cleaning products and consumables to ensure continuity of cleaning once a building re-opens

Whilst a building is operational the Facilities Management Team will;

- Make cleaning visible on site through regular day-time cleaning. This will help ensure that appropriate standards of cleaning are met and provide reassurance to buildingusers
- Conduct deep cleans where necessary to address any specific issues orconcerns
- Install signage to show when an area was last cleaned
- Make self-cleaning packs available in each office area to allow staff to wipe down their own spaces
- Introduce hand sanitisers at key locations, including areas where touchpoints are unavoidable e.g. lift lobbies

Personal Protective Equipment



Staff may, depending upon the service they deliver and the PPE category they fall into, have used items of PPE that required disposal.

Where PPE has been used as a precautionary measure this can be disposed of via general waste, but should be double bagged.

Where PPE has been used in an area where there is a known or predicted case of COVID-19 or has been used when in properties/areas where it is known individuals are shielding or self-isolating then this should be double bagged and treated as clinical waste.

If employees do not have access to clinical waste bins then please use the waste transfer station at Manor Lane.

Space Planning and Office Use



The office environment, although largely unchanged in respect to the layout of furniture, will be different from the pre COVID – 19 norms.

There is a restricted use of individual workstations (desks), in that not all will be available for use. Those that are available will be indicated as such with a label showing a **green tick**. Those desks not to be used will be indicated as such with a label showing a **red cross**. See examples below;

By restricting the number of desks available appropriate separation and compliance with social distancing requirements can be maintained. The way offices are used may differ, depending on the way in which service delivery is undertaken.



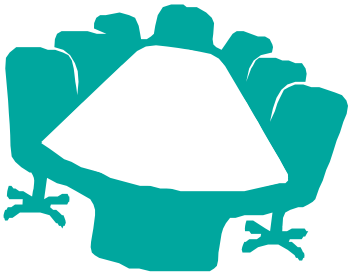
- The principles of Workplace may be suspended (the shared office environment) by dedicating particular workstations (desks) to individual members of staff
- The principles of Workplace could continue, with workstations within a designated area, being available for staff in the same service to share, with those individuals who will share named on the desk label by their manager.



Whichever service delivery model is utilised, staff are respectfully requested to observe the clear desk policy (if they are to be away from the desk for more than two hours and at the end of each working day – the desk is left clear of all but fixed equipment, to allow the cleaning regime to be effective). Equally, staff are respectfully requested to adopt good housekeeping principles, to keep the office environment in a clean and tidy condition, by maintaining all surfaces (window ledges, the tops of tambour units and cupboards) clear of peripheral storage. This will enable the cleaning regime to be as effective as it can be.

Wherever possible, the environment has been arranged to enable touchpoints to be avoided. Where safe to do so, doors will be kept open (propped, wedged, hold-back devices etc.) so that staff do not have to come into contact with the door whilst negotiating their way around the building. For comfort and ventilation, staff are encouraged to open office windows where this is possible. In these circumstances, window latches will be included in the regular touchpoint cleaning regime.

Meeting Rooms



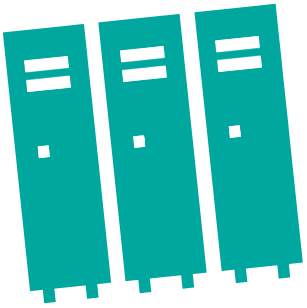
Only building based users can use meeting rooms (i.e. no external visitors).

The capacity of larger meeting rooms has been reduced (by removing chairs and rearranging the furniture) to ensure social distancing can be maintained. Similarly, smaller meeting rooms have been taken out of use.

Signage that indicates the revised capacity of meeting rooms has been installed in accordance with an assessment to preserve the social distancing requirement. Where possible, staff are encouraged to use alternate means of conducting meetings (e.g. Zoom) to

make it easier to maintain social distancing protocols.

Other Confined Spaces



Many office environments have facilities contained within relatively confined spaces, for instance print/photocopy rooms or staff locker rooms.

Signage that indicates the maximum capacity of these spaces will be placed at their entry points.

Welfare Facilities



All welfare facilities (toilets, showers, kitchens, refreshment points etc.) will be available as normal.

However, access to each of these spaces and the numbers of staff in each space at any one time will need to be sensibly and sensitively controlled to allow social distancing protocols to be observed.

Signage has been erected at the entrance to each of these areas to help support this by indicating the reduced capacity of the space so as to maintain the required social distancing.

It may be difficult at times to know whether someone else is already in occupation of a space e.g. a toilet area. Staff are respectfully requested to use their discretion in these circumstances, and to adopted a “knock and shout” approach to ascertain whether others are using the facility.

In Male WC’s all urinals have been taken out of use. Staff are respectfully requested to use the WC cubicles only.

Staff using WC cubicles should remain inside the cubicle until a wash hand basin is available to use, to avoid unnecessary contact with other users of the facility.

If one has entered a toilet area to find that the available number of cubicles are in use, please withdraw from the room, to allow those using the cubicles to exit and wash their hands.

This will minimise the possibility of unnecessary contact with other users of the facility.

When using showers and associated drying rooms, staff are respectively requested to observe good housekeeping and keep these areas clear of clothing, towels etc. by using the lockers provided.

Staff canteen areas are not operational and colleagues are encouraged to bring their own food and beverages with them, and to remain on site wherever possible whilst at work.

Other shared facilities e.g. Quiet Room and the Multi-Faith Prayer Room remain available for staff to use, but access will be restricted in accordance with social distancing protocols.

Emergency Procedures



The fire evacuation for each location will have been reviewed prior to re-occupation. Please ensure that you check and familiarise yourself with your nearest evacuation route and collation area.

Where, to allow staff to work safely, areas of a building have been locked off, thereby altering previous evacuation routes, revised building inductions will be undertaken to familiarise staff with the nearest available evacuation route.

Managers will need to ensure that sufficient staff are available to be trained to perform the functions required in an emergency evacuation (e.g. area sweepers). Similarly, managers will need to ensure that appropriate First Aid arrangements are available for their staff (be this directly or via other building occupants – part of the workplace risk assessment process. If in any doubt about the availability of trained First Aiders, please liaise with Facilities Management in the first instance). The council has updated its guidance on First Aid provision and encourages First-aiders to read the latest guidance for first responders published by Public Health England. First aiders should continue to use normal PPE protections for first aid, plus where possible, it is recommended that they do not perform rescue breaths or mouth-to-mouth ventilation; perform chest compressions only.

A review of any employee reasonable adjustments should be completed prior to or as soon as an affected employee attends the workplace. If adjustments to the workplace are required as a result of such an assessment, the relevant manager should liaise with the Facilities Management Team to implement them. Should the member of staff be the subject of a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP), consideration must be given to the appropriate PPE provision to those staff that might render close assistance in the fulfilment of that plan.

A separate “Manager’s Guide” is available to give further guidance in these and other areas.

On-going Communication



As more staff return to work, the use of the office environment and the protocols to do that safely may change.

The Facilities Management Team will endeavour to keep all staff well informed of those changes in advance, by utilising whatever communication channels are most appropriate; signage, posters, announcements, intranet, Building User Group meetings etc.

Similarly, staff may wish to seek further advice and guidance about the COVID – 19 secure environment. A dedicated email address has been set

up for that purpose **COVID19.Premises@sheffield.gov.uk**. This email account is continuously monitored by the Facilities Management Team who will endeavour to respond to any enquiry within two hours of receipt (during normal office hours).

This document can be supplied in alternative formats, please contact 0114 123 4567

Sheffield City Council • Facilities Management Team
www.sheffield.gov.uk

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Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q.1 How many fines were issued to taxis for unauthorised use of bus lanes or bus gates in last three years?

A.1 In the last three years, there have been 31,101 PCN's issued to taxis and other vehicles, which are authorised to use bus lanes. There is a process in place with Sheffield City Council's licensing team where the data is automatically shared with Parking Services once a vehicle and driver have been licensed. This is added to an exemption list and uploaded to the camera system. There isn't the ability to put the same process in place with other licensing authorities, so many of these PCNs are issued and then cancelled when drivers supply evidence to prove they are licensed.

Q.2 How many reported incidents of motor vehicles parking in cycle lanes were there in in the last three years?

A.2 There are 28 incidents recorded with Parking Services.

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

Q. There is currently no policy in place to address parking issues for residents experiencing significant problems accessing on-street parking where they live. Resident-only parking on certain streets has been historically approved. How do residents apply for an assessment for Resident-Only Parking, and what criteria apply?

A. As part of the Council's Parking Strategy, we are currently seeking to develop a number of new parking schemes and re-look at existing ones. According to the existing programme, these are focused on large areas where there is considerable impact resulting from non-residents using residential streets for informal parking. This is outlined in the Parking Strategy document.

Areas like Kelham Island, Park Hill, and St. Vincent's are being targeted first, given the major impact on commuter parking outside the core city centre which is having significant impacts on safety and indirectly promoting car use. Any new schemes would need to be considered against the financial viability to implement, and the costs that parking schemes impose on the residents

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.

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

Q. How does the Council intend to work with the South Yorkshire Mayoralty to prepare an Enhanced Partnership Plan and Enhanced Partnership Scheme for transport in line with the Motion passed by Council in March 2021?

A. The Council currently has a number of governance structures in place which enables matters relating to public transport operations to be discussed. There are both Officer and Member led meetings set up, including South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authorities and Bus Operators.

There are specific boards set up to make decisions on the matters arising from Enhanced Partnerships and I am committed to ensuring that through this process, the needs of our current, future and potential bus users are taken into account.

Questions of Councillor Sue Alston to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q.1 Can you give me a timescale for when the 20mph zone for Greystones, which starts/finishes in Nether Green, will be extended to cover the rest of the Nether Green area?

A.1 **See below**

Q.2 Can you also give me a timescale for 20mph zones for both the Endcliffe area and for Upper Fulwood, approximately the area bounded by Hallamshire Road, Hallam Grange Crescent and Redmires Road?

A.2 Both of the areas outlined are included within the proposed Fulwood 20mph area (Ref: SW08). This area has been included within the current draft programme of the Road Safety Fund. The consultation and design work will be carried out this financial year and, subject to the consultation, construction will be next financial year.

Q.3 Following the campaign by staff at the Northern General Hospital (NGH) to have a safe cycle route from the city centre, do you have any plans to prioritise this route? If so, can you give a timescale?

A.3 The Council is currently taking forward a number of active travel proposals through the Connecting Sheffield programme. This is very much the first step but naturally as this programme develops there is opportunity to connect other locations across

the city. NGH is not only a key destination for patients and visitors, but have a large number of workers, so naturally it is on my radar for future investment. Given the scale of funding required, we will be looking to develop a scheme at the next available opportunity.

Q.4 The steep section of Glossop Road in Broomhill has had cones along one side to widen the footpath for some time. The effect of this is to push any large vehicles coming down the hill onto the opposite side of the road. This in turn pushes traffic coming up the hill into the cycle lane. Given the steep hill cyclists tend to travel slowly up this hill. I have rarely seen anyone use the coned off area to walk on. When will this 'temporary' measure be reviewed?

A.4 The removal of the cones are planned to coincide with the 19th July deadline for lifting restrictions on social distancing. The scheme itself has been designed and managed so it conforms with the requirement of highway widths. There have been no reported injuries regarding this arrangement and the use of the footway has been heavily utilised during peak hours, with school pupils and surrounding employment.

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q.1 There has been a lot of concern around Crosspool regarding safe crossing points and traffic in general. The areas of particular concern are Manchester Road outside the Tesco and Lydgate Lane/Cross Lane to name a few. Can you assure me and the residents of Crosspool that this matter will be addressed immediately and not give the standard answer of there are a lot of such requests and the budget does not allow us to address the matter? I will also ask you to accompany me on a walk around these particular locations and allocate an immediate budget to address this issue of public safety.

A.1 There are a lot of such requests and the budget does not allow us to address all of them.

There are existing pedestrian crossings, along Manchester Road and Fulwood Road, on the routes to schools in the area, although I appreciate these may not provide the most direct route for all students/residents. I am sure you will appreciate the Council receives many requests for road safety measures and crossings from local residents. Ideally, we would like to be able to respond to most of them. However, the budget for highway improvements is extremely limited which means that only a small number of schemes can be built each year.

The limitations on our resources mean that we have to assess and prioritise locations for measures according to certain criteria, which includes for example

how difficult the road is to cross, traffic speeds, and how many pedestrians use the route. One of the most important of these relates to the prevention of accidents, particularly those recorded as serious or fatal. Although we cannot know where the next accident may occur, it is more likely to happen at a location having a history of previous accidents than one with few or none. In this way we can focus on locations where measures are most urgently needed. The criteria we use to assess pedestrian crossing requests include the pedestrian accident history; the degree of fear and intimidation; as well as how much any improvement would assist access to any local amenities/centres. This is in accordance with Department for Transport guidance and would need to be aligned to the funder's requirements. We try to carry this assessment out for new requests, on a desk-top basis, on a quarterly basis.

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q. To what extent and with what objectives do you intend to use new powers that may be available to the Council to fine motorists for minor driving offences?

A. The legal framework of what powers will or won't be devolved is not clear at this moment in time. However, the use of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 will allow Local Authorities to enforce moving traffic offences, like banned turns, yellow hatching and weight restrictions. These restrictions are not minor offences, but calculated moves to disobey the highway design which have very serious safety risks. We have a statutory duty to ensure the safe and efficient flow of all highway users (including pedestrians) and the ability to enforce these will help keep our roads and public spaces safer.

Question of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q. Regarding the safety review (promised December 2020) into the junction at the top of Greenhill Avenue:-

(a) Has it been carried out?

(b) What were the findings?

(c) What will be done to address safety concerns?

A. Officers have spent time in being out on site to study the operation of the junction as well as looking at the evidence related to previous incidents at this junction.

Poor driver behaviour when undertaking the right turn into Greenhill Avenue was

witnessed. However, we have put in a give way and a triangle to reinforce the correct use of the road.

We are looking at amending the way the signals work so that traffic heading toward the roundabout is stopped sooner when the outbound pedestrian crossing is called. This should reduce the conflicts. This will be trialled first, as this is likely to create additional delays to the right turn and could result in the right turn queuing back into Meadowhead Roundabout more often and for longer, which would need to be very carefully considered.

Question of Councillor Cliff Woodcraft to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure) (to be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q. The Botanical Gardens are a well-loved open-air facility within the city. Within the last few years, parking restrictions were brought into force on Clarkhouse Road, banning all parking. This is particularly harsh on the disabled. Prior to this, it was possible to park on a wide stretch of the road, from where my constituent was able to push his mother in a wheelchair to the Gardens, especially the facilities near to Clarkehouse Road. There is very limited parking on side roads, which is usually taken. Does the Council have any plans to make provision for parking so that the disabled can access the Botanical Gardens again?

A. Double yellow lines were put on Clarkehouse Road in May 2019. This was to ensure the free and safe flow of traffic and to improve visibility into Clarkehouse Road out of side roads. Any disabled persons badge holder can park on these double yellow lines provided this is outside the times of the existing loading restrictions which operate between 8am to 9:30am and 4:30pm to 6:30pm Monday to Friday.

Shortly after the double yellow lines were put in, we were made aware that a bus stand outside of the Botanical Gardens was stopping badge holders from parking close to the entrance. Subsequently changes were made to this restriction to allow badge holders to park there when the bus stand wasn't in use. Badge holders can park here outside the times of the loading restrictions and the 3:30pm to 4:00pm time that the bus stand is in operation.

In effect, the double yellow lines on Clarkehouse Road have increased the opportunity for badge holders to park here as space that was previously taken up by long stay parking is now covered by a double yellow line on which badge holders can park on. There is also parking available on the side roads off Clarkehouse Road, at the other end of the Botanical Gardens on Thompson Road and there are two disabled persons parking spaces in gardens. As such, we have no plans to provide any dedicated disabled person parking on Clarkehouse Road at this time.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure) (to be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Liberal Democrat Councillors have previously brought to the Council's attention that diesel generators operated by events attractions in the pedestrianised areas in the city centre such as Fargate, The Moor and the Peace Gardens, emit unacceptable levels of pollution. Even some operators have been unhappy with this situation and have asked for suitable alternatives such as electric power supplies to be installed.

With the promise of the end of lockdown and events and attractions returning to the city, I am sure Councillors, the wider public and the small businesses themselves, would welcome knowing what has been done to provide a clean energy source for the operators in the City Centre. Can you tell us:-

Q.1 How many electricity supply points are already installed in the pedestrianised areas of the city centre which will be available to events attractions and traders?

A.1 2 x 3 pin sockets, 13 x 16 amp single phase, 2 x 32 amp single phase, 2 x 32 amp 3 phase

Q.2 Where they are located?

A.2 **Devonshire Green –**

1.Entertainment supply (within wall adjacent Forum outdoor seating area)
2x 16amp single phase (blue socket)
1x 32amp single phase (blue socket)
2.Black supply box adjacent industrial units at bottom end of green:
4x 16amp single phase (blue socket)
1x32amp single phase (blue socket)

Peace Gardens –

1.Plantroom:
Top of stairs -
2x 32amp 3 phase
Lower plantroom, below hatch -
6x 16amp single phase
1x 16amp single phase
2x 3 pin plug sockets

Q.3 Whether there is a programme in place to add to the existing network in the

city centre, where to and when can we expect this to be completed?

A.3 As new public realm spaces are planned in the city centre, use of that space is considered. If appropriate for event or commercial use, servicing requirements will be designed in, including power. The plans for the redevelopment of Fargate and High Street through the Future High Street Fund will be the next to have power provided. The scheme is forecast to complete by the end of 2023

Q.4 Whether there are plans in place to extend the network beyond the city centre?

A.4 There is no specific programme to provide power for events across the city, however, there are power outlets in some of the City parks that are suitable for events.

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

Q. How many Parking Charge Notices/Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued for each month since January 2021 for (a) idling and (b) parking offences, on
Shay House Lane, Stocksbridge and on Naylor Road, Oughtibridge?

A. None on those specific roads.

As part of the process for issuing FPN's, drivers must be asked to switch off their engine if observed Idling. If they comply, no FPN can be issued. There are also exemptions in the legislation for people to idle in extreme temperatures.

Questions of Councillor Ruth Milsom to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Whilst recognising that other transport-related elements of Sheffield's journey to 'zero carbon' (such as improving active travel infrastructure) are of great importance, I'm sure you will agree that it is now an urgent priority to identify and implement solutions for electric vehicle charging in residential settings citywide. There is no one-size-fits-all remedy to the problem of charging an EV when your home does not have off-road parking; we must consider all available options (such as lamp-post charging points, pop-up bollards, induction pads, cable gullies) and also keep a keen eye for emerging technologies.

Q.1 Do you support the idea that urgently pursuing on-street residential charging solutions should have parity of status in the Council's overarching planning

for the removal of fossil fuel powered vehicles from our roads?

A.1 In order to achieve the reduction in emissions needed from the transport sector, and also improve health, the proportion of trips made by car needs to reduce significantly with a shift to more active modes. The remaining car trips need to be decarbonised and the infrastructure to encourage and support this shift needs to be put into place.

In order to support transformative change, a range of solutions is required, including the development of more walkable neighbourhoods, cycle routes and charging options at workplaces, destinations and in communities.

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.

With the availability of new, fast public chargers, it is now more feasible for those who still have a private car to take their electric vehicle to refuel in much the same way that motorists with petrol cars take theirs. As a Council we are currently installing a network of 27 Rapid Electric Vehicle chargers which we are also exploring options to expand, including with the potential addition of fast chargers in the future. Rapid chargers can fill an electric vehicle battery to 80% in 45 minutes.

Q.2 Does the Council currently have access to any Government funding to support installation of on-street residential charging solutions where homes lack off-road parking; and/or are there any immediate plans to apply for such funding under the Government's 'On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme'?

A.2 We do not currently have any funding granted that would allow for the installation of on-street residential charging solutions. The Government's 'On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme' is available to bid into and we have carried out some preliminary work looking at areas where this could be used to trial such solutions. However, there are the usual issues of short timescales for delivery, match funding being required (funding available is for 75% of the capital costs of procuring and installing the chargepoint and an associated dedicated parking bay (where applicable)), as well as ongoing operational costs. We do keep an eye on what options are available.

Q.3 Do you support an approach to identifying on-street residential charging solutions that drills down to hyper-localised resident consultation, and a default strategy of street-by-street planning?

A.3 In principle, it is important that the views of EV users, both existing and potential are incorporated within the roll out of any delivery strategy (as well as those who would prefer to see the streets freed or private parking). Such user-by-user engagement will pick out the hyper localised positions and that would allow us to

inform what the right solution will be, following options assessment and trials of potential solutions. This is all subject to resources for very detailed local consultation. No doubt the Local Area Committees will be able to assist.

Q.4 Will you commit to considering all available technologies in any feasibility studies and informing the general public about them in any consultations, as well as inviting ideas for innovative solutions from members of the public?

A.4 In a very general sense, yes. All ideas for innovation are most welcome.

Q.5 Do you agree that studying and learning from the experiences and findings of the 'Go Ultra Low Cities' scheme is vital to our pursuit of the most appropriate and 'frictionless' (i.e. zero-effort consumer interface) residential charging solutions? If so, what measures will you implement to ensure that we enjoy maximum benefit from lessons learned by vanguard cities?

A.5 Learning from the experiences of the Go Ultra Low Cities, and others, as they trial potential solutions is very important and we continue to engage with the Energy Savings Trust through their local government support programme, other local authorities directly and the Office for Zero Emissions (OZEV) to ensure that we are kept up to date and involved in discussions.

Key overall lessons from the Go Ultra Low cities experience include the importance of leadership and political buy in, collaborative working, involvement of stakeholders, the sharing of knowledge and ideas and engagement / marketing, as well as consideration of other sustainable modes as solutions are developed. Available internal resources are also key. They have found that there is no single solution that fits all.

The fact remains that, whilst zero-effort attempts to tackle climate-change are positive, the reality is that some behaviour change does need to be encouraged, even if it means slightly less convenience for the few in exchange for greater good for the many.

Question of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q. Research by Friends of the Earth found that Sheffield Station Taxi Rank had the second highest level of nitrogen dioxide, and the annual average (91/7 µg/m) was more than double the recommended safe limit of 40 µg/m.

As you will know from your extensive work in the area, nitrogen dioxide is a pollutant which mostly comes from traffic fumes and, along with other pollution such as particulate matter, is linked to health issues such as lung and respiratory diseases and early deaths.

Significant amounts of emissions from taxis in Sheffield occur when the engines of our ancient Hackney Carriage fleet are idling.

Sheffield Station is very close to my ward, with residents in Norfolk Park forced to breathe in these dangerous pollutants and I am very concerned about this.

What measures do you think are needed to improve this issue at the Station and what can you and Council officers do to encourage East Midlands Railway (EMR) to extend the No Idling Zone, within the station roadway that it manages, and how could that be enforced?

A. Just for clarity, one of the main drivers for the high volume of NO2 at Sheffield Midland Station is due to the proximity of the trains idling at the platforms and the umbrella effect on the station concourse itself. We have through many discussions with the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Transport for the North explained that the poor rolling stock is in desperate need of upgrade, and that includes modern ways of powering, such as electrification of Sheffield Station and the Midland Mainline.

With specific response to taxi idling, which I agree is an issue, we are working with East Midlands Railway to find an operating procedure that will look to tackle this. I have in the past asked East Midlands Railway management to use their powers of management over the areas of road space they control to take at least some steps to control taxi engine idling. Our licensing team also have enforcement powers. A joined-up approach is needed, and I would support further development of this.

Question of Councillor Dawn Dale to Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Q. The Government is currently conducting a trial of rental E-scooters. This has been taken up in many cities, including York and Birmingham, to help reduce pollution and get people out of cars and taxis. Would you be supportive of investigating whether Sheffield should participate in this trial?

A. The deadline for the trial has passed, I believe it was Autumn 2020. At the time, with no policy position, on this, the Council took the pragmatic step of taking a watching brief on the trials – monitoring social media, press reaction while also talking to one or two of the operators. The Council also had a brief contact with officers at York during the early stages of their trial. The trial is ongoing and we are expecting a report from Government later this year, which will indicate whether this type of scheme can be rolled out across the country.

Question of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Executive Member for Health and Social Care)

Q. Last month, residents in Norfolk Park presented a petition calling on Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to reject proposals to close Norfolk Park Doctor's Surgery and relocate it out of the area. Would you pledge to write to the CCG and express your desire to see the surgery stay in Norfolk Park?

A. I am very supportive of the campaign run by Norfolk Park residents and backed by their local Councillors. I have met with the petitioners from last month's Council and written to the CCG to raise their concerns and express my desire to see this valued service remain in its community.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

Q.1 At the last Full Council meeting, you stated that there had been 54 Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA) between 2016-2020. Could you please provide me with a breakdown of these Agreements by department?

A.1 The information that is held and used to produce this summary does not include department name. To obtain this information would require us to access each person's personnel file and/or payroll record, and it is not possible to complete this task within the timescales available. Reporting is further complicated by the number of organisational structural changes which have taken place over this period.

Q.2 How much income has the City Council received to date from the concession contract for the city centre Wi-Fi service?

A.2 £59,674 inc. VAT.

Questions of Councillor Brian Holmshaw to Councillor Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

Q.1 As of July 2021, is the Mount Pleasant building on Sharrow Lane owned by Sheffield City Council or has it been sold or leased?

A.1 It is anticipated that the lease will be completed in the next two weeks. There have been some slight delays due to the completion of legal procedures.

Q.2 If sold or leased, who to?

A.2 Hermes Care.

Q.3 What plans are there for the Mount Pleasant building in terms of a care home?

A.3 The buildings will be used as a 30-bed specialist elderly care home with day care and specialist nursing care. The proposal also plans to restore and open up the gardens of Mount Pleasant with a secure sensory area to the west of the main house.

Q.4 What other options have been discussed?

A.4 The property has been considered for reuse by Council services but was not deemed suitable at the time. It was openly marketed, and five offers were assessed

including a range of proposals for residential development and a proposal from a community-based organisation.

Q.5 Are there plans for the Mount Pleasant site to be re-marketed?

A.5 No.

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

Q. As you are aware there has been a lot of public concern around the potential loss of a green space and a public right of way at Cobden View Road. Can you update the residents of this area and me of the position on the matter and will you meet the residents to listen to their views?

A. The small area of green space off Cobden View Road is neither in Council ownership nor a public open space. The path across it is not a formally recorded public right of way (PROW), although it appears to be well used by the public. There is currently no possibility of claiming the green space as public open space, given that it has been identified as a piece of land appropriate for development.

The current planning application (reference 21/02711/FUL) is the subject of a formal public consultation exercise. Immediately adjacent residents have been notified by letter of the proposal; site notices have been displayed and the proposal has also been advertised in the Sheffield Telegraph.

Any representations received will be taken into account in the assessment of the application, which is currently in its early stages. The Council's PROW Officer has recommended that the path across the site should be formally closed if planning permission is granted to build across the path. This is the procedure to be followed for a path on a development site that is deemed unnecessary whether it is a formally recorded PROW or just a well-used path.

Questions of Councillor Cliff Woodcraft to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure)

Q.1 I have received an email from a constituent regarding the use of snares to trap badgers and other such animals. Please could you let me know the Council's position on this practice?

A.1 We do not have specific reference to snares within our leases but do have a prohibition on blood sports across the estate. The expression 'blood sports' shall mean the hunting pursuit chase or stalking of any animal or bird or the killing of or causing of injury or suffering to the same. Tenants are however required to control vermin/pests by legal methods. Further to this, you may be aware that that while snares are not an illegal method of pest control, the snaring of badgers is, as they are a protected species. We are currently reviewing our approaches to land management on the rural estate and are looking to promote sustainable land management practices working with like-minded tenants. We will consider this issue as part of the review of our current lease arrangements.

Q.2 The Botanical Gardens are a well-loved open-air facility within the city.

Within the last few years, parking restrictions were brought into force on Clarkhouse Road, banning all parking. This is particularly harsh on the disabled. Prior to this, it was possible to park on a wide stretch of the road, from where my constituent was able to push his mother in a wheelchair to the Gardens, especially the facilities near to Clarkehouse Road. There is very limited parking on side roads, which is usually taken. Does the Council have any plans to make provision for parking so that the disabled can access the Botanical Gardens again?

A.2 To be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure) (to be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport)

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Q.1 How many electricity supply points are already installed in the pedestrianised areas of the city centre which will be available to events attractions and traders?

A.1

Q.2 Where they are located?

A.2

Q.3 Whether there is a programme in place to add to the existing network in the city centre, where to and when can we expect this to be completed?

A.3

Q.4 Whether there are plans in place to extend the network beyond the city

centre?

A.4

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

Q.1 Regarding the capital approval for enhancements to the public realm in the city centre at the Co-operative Executive on 23rd June, and following the Our Bodies, Our Streets debate at Council on 16th June, how will the process for actioning those enhancements be adapted to meet the agreement reached in that debate, specifically on community engagement and co-design?

A.1 After meeting with the Police Commissioner, Dr Alan Billings and representatives from Our Bodies Our Streets (OBOS) in addition to a meeting focused on ideas for the third round bid for Safer Streets funding with officers, it became clearer that some aspects of OBOS proposal could more easily be implemented and trialled through Safer Streets funding. Whereas suggestions like ensuring a woman's perspective be incorporated into the design process needs to become a part of broad considerations of the impact of public space design on women's safety. Several excellent ideas were put forward on community engagement. Officers are currently examining options and assessing the likely costs. We will submit the best ideas which are also affordable into the Safer Streets funding bid.

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

Q.1 When will the new bin sited in a wrong place parallel to Woodfield Road on Bolehills be moved to a more suitable position?

A.1 We do not consider this bin to be sited in the wrong place. We have more bins in place due to the litter pressures we have been experiencing. This is one that is located close to where people may choose to sit. We understand that some may not want a bin near where they sit, but equally we have to, where possible, provide the bins where people are, where litter is produced.

Q.2 Does the Council have any intention to prepare and publish a consultation on a mowing strategy for Sheffield's Parks that consults with users of those parks and local residents alike?

A.2 We are currently reviewing our mowing regimes in consultation with our Co-operative Executive Members. This will enable us to ensure that we are able to

respond in the most appropriate ways to both the needs of park users, local residents and the Council's commitment to respond to the recently declared nature emergency.

Questions of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure)

Q.1 I have been informed by Officers that due to the need in the area for quality green space, they have been in discussions with Legal Services for a considerable period on the options to bring the land back in to Sheffield City Council ownership for Parks to maintain. I understand that this has led to numerous complications around liabilities and payments.

Recently residents have been in touch with me to express their concern about a lack of grass cutting in the park. As an interim measure, the Council has been checking the play area, emptying litter and dog bins, and will be cutting path edges to keep access open.

Will you do all that you can to help expedite the transfer of parkland and a playground to the rear of Myrtle Crescent in Arbourthorne from PPM (formerly George Wimpey), since the developer left the site in 2007?

A.1 This is a complicated legal matter and it is important that all the necessary processes are followed correctly.

Q.2 Many people across Sheffield have discovered outdoor swimming over the past few years. The SOUP (Sheffield Outdoor Plungers) group now has over 2,000 members on Facebook.

Would you join with me in welcoming the public health benefits that outdoor swimming brings and pledge to hold a meeting with a cross party group of councillors and members of the outdoor swimming community to talk about how Sheffield City Council can safely support this?

A.2 Outdoor swimming is extremely popular across the country and the health benefits are being enjoyed by growing numbers of people in Sheffield and elsewhere. We are supportive of outdoor swimming where it can be done safely.

We are aware of requests to allow outdoor swimming at Crookes Valley Park but unfortunately there are many risks that mean the lake is not suitable for casual swimming, including water quality and testing, the depth at around 30ft in the centre, unknown objects under the surface, cold water temperatures and very limited views from the main road that could delay reporting of incidents. For those wanting to take part in outdoor swimming we suggest finding swimming locations where swimming is permitted and can be carried out safely.

I am happy to join a cross party group to look at outdoor swimming.

Question of Councillor Mike Chaplin to Councillor Alison Teal (Executive Member for Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing Parks and Leisure)

Q. Many councillors use our local libraries to hold their face-to-face surgeries with members of the public. With my colleagues, I usually hold a surgery at the Learning Zone in my Ward. We are ready to offer this service as soon as that Library can re-open. When will our Council and Community libraries be allowed to re-open?

A. We are keen to have our libraries open as soon as possible and are awaiting the decision from Government regarding what restrictions will be lifted after 19th July. A proposal will then be put to Covid Response Group regarding increasing access to libraries for the public and Councillor surgeries. Risk Assessments and appropriate social distancing measures will still be needed, so we anticipate some work to put these measure in place will be required after 19th July. All updates to library services will be available on our web pages at http://shefflibraries.blogspot.com/p/live-library-status-tracker.html