

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020

#### COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

#### *Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)*

**Q.1 Is the Administration satisfied with the Council’s preparations for Brexit?**

A.1 Yes. The Council appointed a lead officer, as required by Government - the Executive Director of Resources, who has co-ordinated risk assessments internally in the Council and with partners and liaised with regional arrangements that report up to MHCLG

**Q.2 Will you summarise the latest work that has taken place in the Council to prepare for Brexit?**

A.2 A report to the October meeting of the Economic and Environmental Scrutiny Committee summarises the main areas of risk and action taken. Work has continued largely along the same lines, but the general election result means that a “No Deal” scenario is off the table. Government has stood down its emergency preparations (Operation Yellowhammer). In Sheffield City Council, we are monitoring the situation, but see no major internal risks. We are, however, continuing to support two key areas in the city: we are funding additional trade advisers for Sheffield firms via the Chamber of Commerce and are ensuring that Sheffield people (both employees and wider citizens) can access the EU settlement scheme (EUSS)

**Q.3 What funding or other assistance has the Council received from central government to assist with Brexit planning and preparations?**

A.3 £305,000 in central government funding

**Q.4 What assessment has been made of the amount of EU funding to Sheffield that is expected to be lost on leaving the EU?**

A.4 The Government has confirmed that it will guarantee all projects that would have been funded by the EU under the 2014-2020 programme period. Government has indicated that should EU funded programmes no longer be available after Brexit, they will be replaced through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). No details of this are currently available.

**Q.5 Do you support the provision of public funds to Peel Holdings, the operators**

**of Doncaster Sheffield Airport?**

A.5 The 'Public Funds' you refer to relate to the Local Growth Fund, Sheffield City Region have provided a repayable loan to Peel Holdings, not a grant as is implied in your question.

**Q.6 What discussions have taken place with Sheffield City Region in connection with heritage in relation to their proposed arts, heritage and culture plan?**

A.6 The Sheffield City Region (SCR) on 27<sup>th</sup> January received a report on the SCR Arts and Culture Strategy and noted its contents.

**Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to the Leader of the Council  
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

**Q. What information is to be sent out with Council Tax bills this year? Who makes the decision on the statement to the public what is included? Who works on the content?**

A. The letter is sent from me so I am the lead Cabinet Member for the letter, the communication service are the Council service area responsible.

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to the Leader of the Council  
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

**Q.1 The new Street Tree Strategy has clearly shown that the majority of trees already felled across the city, did not need to be felled. Do you agree that the Injunction was a mistake, and a misuse of public funds?**

A.1 We are pleased that since March 2018 when the programme of work was paused we have been in detailed discussions with Sheffield Tree Action Group (STAG) and other groups, for a long period of time. As a result of this we have developed a new approach of which you are aware and there is significant progress that has been made.

**Q.2 Given that no trees were felled after the Injunction Renewal, granted for 18 months, do you agree that this was a misuse of public funds?**

A.2 See answer above

**Q.3 The PFI contract requires the Council to pay to fell 17,500 street trees, regardless of whether the trees are felled or not. Would you agree this is a misuse of public funds?**

A.3 Question to be answered by Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

- Q.4 In answer to a question by a member of the public, Mr Justin Buxton, you claimed that you spoke on the telephone to Justice Males during a hearing concerned with a potential breach of the Injunction. Justice Males, being an experienced High Court judge would not have agreed to speak to you, given legal conventions. Will you admit that you deceived Mr Buxton, and apologise? (Video evidence is available of your answer to Mr Buxton)**
- A.4 During a court hearing Mr Justice Males asked whether the leader of the Council agreed with the application being made. A council solicitor spoke on the phone to me and the solicitor communicated this to counsel for SCC in Court who communicated that onto the Judge.
- Q.5 At one point during the committal hearing of three tree campaigners (Calvin Payne, Alison Teal, and Siobhan O'Malley), Justice Males asked for clarity regarding who was giving approval for seeking committal. The court was adjourned while SCC's barrister sought confirmation. The name given after consultation was Julie Dore. However, on more than one occasion, the claim has been made that council officers took the decision to seek committal of campaigners. Will you admit that, as Leader, you were responsible, and that you deceived the public, and apologise?**
- A.5 I answered numerous public questions on this matter at the time (around 18 months ago) including in the council chamber, the answers I provided at the time were correct and I refer you to them, I have not deceived the public.

**Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

- Q.1 There is an increasing concern that due to a maintenance backlog, there is a risk that many public buildings could be in danger of closure due to a lack of essential maintenance. I am concerned particularly with schools which are under local authority control. Can you please let me know which schools and buildings are in immediate danger?**

- A.1 There are no schools or other civic buildings which are in immediate danger of closure due to a lack of essential maintenance.

Where incidents have occurred e.g. power outages, heating system breakdowns, roof leaks etc. officers have ensured that these have been dealt with in a timely manner, to minimise their impact and maintain business continuity.

There is a continuing cyclical programme of condition surveys undertaken across both the schools and wider civic estate to understand what level of investment is required to maintain these buildings in a satisfactory condition.

The outcome of these surveys informs the investment decisions required.

It is true to say that the funding available to address the investment required to

maintain the estate in a satisfactory condition presents an ongoing challenge. However, officers continue to work as effectively and efficiently as possible to ensure that the funding that is available is spent judiciously on those buildings with the highest investment priorities.

**Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) – to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

**Q. Youth provision is becoming an increasing issue in the city. Further provision is needed in the City. What plans are in place for increasing provision?**

A. The Leader of the Council has been conducting a review and we are looking at ways to increase provision in the city and we will be bringing forward a new proposal in the next few weeks, which will ensure young people are at the heart of delivery

**Question of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change) to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

**Q. Where is tendering up to for new school dinner contract so far?**

**A. SCHOOL CATERING CONTRACT 2020 – 2025: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The Council has put forward its 'COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS' in the Specification. The section which seeks to address the climate crisis is mainly covered in the Organisational Section. Potential bidders have all the documents now and will be required to demonstrate their approach in a series of Method Statements. They will cover two main areas – Environment and Sustainability and Food Surpluses  
The questions that Bidders have to answer and that they will be judged on are:

**Environment and Sustainability**

- How will you support the council and individual schools in achieving environmental and sustainability targets?
- What innovations can you bring to this area?
- How will you help the council to achieve its aim to become a zero carbon city by 2030?
- How will you contribute to reducing our reliance on plastics, and in particular the removal of single use disposable ware?
- Explain your strategy and action plan for a sustainable, forward thinking menu plan that contributes to a zero carbon service and that can be enjoyed

by pupils in all education phases.

### **Food Surpluses**

- What initiatives can you bring to deal with food waste that meets the Council's zero carbon target?
- How will you support the council and individual schools to maximise the full take-up of school meals for all children and young people?

Describe how you would support schools who are working with families in need in relation to surplus food or food that could be used in the lunchtime service.

**Q. How have the KPIs of the effect on the climate crisis being represented by those tendering?**

A. When the Council begins to performance manage the new school catering contract, there will be two Key Performance Indicators that will demonstrate the contractor's ongoing commitment to working with the Council and schools to be a zero carbon city by 2030. These are:

- Three single use plastic items and disposable-ware to be eliminated from the food preparation stage as well as customer service
- Packaging shall be made from recyclable sources or any packaging used is to be capable of being recycled.

As some of this work is in development and the successful contractor will be reliant on supplies to the catering industry, we have asked for two key things to be achieved by August 2021. The contractors will be judged each following year as to whether they are still meeting these targets, for both the preparation stage and provision to the customer.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety) - to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

**Q. What steps have been taken to identify the scale of the problem of asbestos in Sheffield's schools and the likely scale of cancer clusters amongst former pupils?**

A. Each of Sheffield's schools will have been subject to an Asbestos Management Survey to locate, confirm, quantify and risk assess any asbestos containing materials that could be damaged or disturbed during normal activities and foreseeable maintenance work. Each are site specific and provides guidance on prioritising remedial work and management actions.

Resulting from the findings of each survey will be the creation of an Asbestos Register, a site based document providing evidence of and giving guidance to Asbestos Duty Holders, Asbestos Appointed Persons (school governors/head teachers) managing any person involved in an activity or physical work that may

disturb asbestos containing material present in the building.

Accompanying the Asbestos Register, each school will have an Asbestos Management Plan, setting out how the risks from any identified asbestos containing materials will be managed by the Asbestos Duty Holders and/or Asbestos Appointed Persons.

Although cancer is increasingly common, it can look like there are 'cancer clusters' when several people living in a particular area develop cancer. However real clusters that are proven to be associated with an environmental or occupational carcinogen, are extremely rare. Specific cases in Sheffield have been investigated and found not to be a cluster. It is impossible to rule out future suspected clusters. We consistently take advice from Public Health England on either identification of clusters or investigation of clusters. This remains the position that we would take.

**Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q.1 I understand that you want the asylum housing contract to revert to the Council. When was that decision published?**

A.1 No decision has been made on the Mears Contract. The Mears contract is a Home Office contract. The Council is however, concerned about some aspects of how this is working in Sheffield presently and meetings have taken place with Mears to improve the quality of and the range of homes where vulnerable Asylum Seekers are living and this week we had a productive meeting with Mears.

**Q.2 What was the response from the Home Office to the City Council's request to terminate the contract with Mears?**

A.2 There has been no meeting with the Home Office on this matter. We have arranged a meeting to ensure the current contract being delivered by Mears is delivering as set out in the Home Office contract and to also discuss the future arrangements.

**Q.3 I am aware that provisions are in place to avoid placing people in the Earl Marshall Guest House and the Council is working at pace to build more suitable accommodation for families and those in need. When will this alternative accommodation become available for use by the City Council?**

A.3 Bed and Breakfast Accommodation is only used in an emergency when no other accommodation is available and is used for the shortest possible time whilst an alternative is found.

Approximately 10 sundry properties have been identified that we intend to add to our Temporary Accommodation units that will be suitable for families over the next six months.

We will also shortly be commencing work on refurbishing a large property that will provide an alternative to Bed and Breakfast for single women and women with children. This will accommodate up to 11 households who need emergency housing and will be staffed 24 hours by Sheffield City Council staff who will manage the property and give support to residents.

We are looking into the feasibility of providing a similar arrangement as an alternative to Bed and Breakfast for men.

As well as utilising existing stock, we are actively looking to acquire up to 50 units of accommodation that would be suitable for use as Temporary Accommodation that can then be used as general needs housing when we have built new provision. We hope to complete the new build of Temporary Accommodation by 2023. This is included in our Stock Increase Programme and we are currently in the process of selecting sites. The new facility will have 24 hour staffing and will also provide the alternative to Bed and Breakfast as it will include emergency provision and assessment spaces.

**Q.4 When will the City Council stop using the Earl Marshall Guest House?**

A.4 The Council will continue to seek to reduce the use of Bed and Breakfast Accommodation by improving homelessness prevention and by always looking to other alternatives before it is used. By putting in place the above arrangements we believe that B+B will be rarely used in future. We only ever spot purchase B+B or hotel accommodation and will need to continue to retain the ability to do so for people in emergency situations where we do not have an alternative in order to fulfil our statutory duties. This is in full compliance with the Statutory Code of Guidance on use of B+B.

**Q.5 In the last 5 years, year on year:**

- (a) **How many single women and women with children have been placed in the Earl Marshall?**
- (b) **What is the average stay in the Earl Marshall?**
- (c) **What is the longest a family have been placed in the Earl Marshall?**

A.5

(a) Placements into the Earl Marshall Guest House by household type, where the lead applicant is female (one household may be placed more than once over the five years):

<b>Hosehold type</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
All other Households	28	11	17	48	32
Couple with dependent children	7	1	13	10	12
One Person - Female Applicant	111	133	86	233	229
One Person (Female) w/ dependent children	68	48	64	111	99
<b>All</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>372</b>

(a) Average stay per year in Earl Marshall Guest House, all households;

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average stay (days)</b>
2015	1
2016	2
2017	3
2018	7
2019	7
<b>All</b>	<b>5</b>

- (b) 2015: 19 days
- 2016: 32 days
- 2017: 24 days
- 2018: 86 days (household refused alternate accommodation offers)
- 2019: 41 days



**Q.6 How many burglaries were there in Sheffield in each of the last four years?**

A.6 The figures below are for Burglaries (residential, sheds or business/open spaces) recorded by South Yorkshire Police (SYP) in Sheffield. Police recorded figures are dependent on victims reporting the burglary to the police. An increase or decrease in number of offences may be impacted by factors other than the number of burglaries committed (e.g. crime recording rule changes).

2016 – 4226

2017 – 5743

2018 – 5440

2019 - 5517

**Q.7 How many robberies were there in Sheffield in each of the last four years?**

A.7 The figures below are for Robberies (Personal and Business) recorded by SYP in Sheffield. Police recorded figures are dependent on victims reporting the robbery to the police. An increase or decrease in number of offences may be impacted by factors other than the number of robberies committed (e.g. crime recording rule changes).

2016 – 658

2017 – 891

2018 – 813

2019 – 805

Although domestic burglary and robbery are likely to be relatively well reported / recorded, there is likely to be some impact on figures from crime recording rule changes in recent years and improvements in recording.

**Q.8 Are you confident that South Yorkshire Police are doing all they can to reduce the number of burglaries and robberies in Sheffield?**

A.8 Yes, the District Commander for Sheffield, Chief Superintendent Stuart Barton, has been clear that burglary reduction and reduction in robberies are key priorities for the city. The Community Safety Partnership has established Priority Theme Groups to bring together a partnership response led by Sheffield City Council and SYP and these elements are part of issues being worked on and plans put in place. There are also various initiatives already taking place across the city such as Operation Shield in Gleadless Valley.

**Question of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q. Can you clarify if and why another meeting has been called with residents of the Hanover TARA before the report is published? The residents have clearly indicated that they want a meeting after the report has been published and they have had the time to read it, so that they can ask relevant questions.**

- A. We are committed to the promise we made in December of only meeting with residents when the report is published. Officers are planning for the meeting by liaising with local representatives about the timing and venue for a meeting but no invitations have been sent out for a meeting.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q.1 When will you publish the delayed report into the Hanover Tower cladding failures?**

- A.1 The report is being finalised and we are arranging to meet with the Hanover Residents on the 17<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the final report.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

**Q. Will it be ensured that there is a common culture amongst council services providing help for rough sleepers and people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, that avoids what can currently be a zero tolerance approach if people miss appointments? Noting that people in this situation are often vulnerable and have complex situations, and refusal by the Council can ruin long periods of attempting to build trust, and is reminiscent of Tory welfare attitudes.**

- A. Sheffield City Council Housing Solutions service provides help, support and advice for people in the city who are at risk of homelessness or homeless in the city. Sheffield City Council also has a team that works specifically with rough sleepers. Sheffield City Council Housing solutions service does not have a zero tolerance approach to missed appointments and in fact, actively rebook appointments and ensure the customer knows about the appointment and often accompanies them to it.

The service try and make it easier for people to attend appointments by ensuring people can be seen at different locations, such as drop in sessions in the Job centre, Archer project, Bens Centre, Fitzwilliam Centre and people can be seen in hospital or in their home or temporary accommodation if applicable. There is also outreach activity where people go out onto the streets to work with rough sleepers offering support and advice. The team also offer telephone appointments for people who may not want to do a face to face interview. The aim of the service is to make it as accessible as possible for people to receive the help and support they need.

Many of the people the service work with are vulnerable and have complex needs and it is recognised that sometimes there may be a lack of trust or some other issue where people do not feel comfortable attending appointments, The teams work hard to build that trust and get the customer to engage with the service. There is no limit on the amount of interventions an individual can have with the

service or the amount of missed appointments.

**Question of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Paul Wood  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)**

- Q. How many women and families have been housed in the Earl Marshall in the last two months?**
- A Since 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019, 40 households where a woman was the lead applicant. Nine had children, eight households placed more than once in that period.

**Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)**

- Q. Youth provision is becoming an increasing issue in the city. Further provision is needed in the City. What plans are in place for increasing provision?
- A. (Question to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills).

## **Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1. Please list the meetings held as part of the Big City Conversation. For each meeting, please list the date, the location, number of attendees and who from the Council was in attendance?**

The following events have been held since October 2019. These were widely publicised, were supported by and were open for all Members to attend.

Officers supported the events on a rota basis (1-2hr slots) with colleagues from teams including the following involved in talking to people across Sheffield:

- Business Support
- Communications Service
- Community Services
- Policy and Partnerships

A number of Councillors have attended the events.

- 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - Local Democracy Week - Moor Market stalls
- 30<sup>th</sup> October – Public event at Town Hall facilitated by Nigel Slack.
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 - Official Launch with Leader and Deputy Leader on tram routes
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Christmas Market Stall – Fargate
- 9<sup>th</sup> December – Crystal Peaks
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Sainsbury's Archer Road
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jan - 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 – 150 BCC postcard boxes sent to libraries, GPs and community centres across the city.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020, Woodhouse Forum, Woodhouse Library, Skelton Lane, S13 7LY, 7pm - 9pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020, Asda Store, Handsworth, S13 9LR, 12 noon - 4pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020, St James Retail Park, S8 8BR , 10am -12 noon
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020, Asda Store, Parsons Cross, S5 8NH, 12 noon - 2pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020, Hillsborough Exchange, S6 4HL, 11am - 3pm

**Q.2 Are there any more meetings due to be held? If so where and when?**

A.2 Upcoming Big City Conversation discussion groups are:

- Sheffield Futures – 2 x youth clubs – 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb
- Somali Women's Group – 7<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Burngreave Library – w/c 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

Sheffield Hallam University are also consulting groups of students throughout Feb & March as part of a Politics / Project Management module.

The results of this will be available in April.

**Q.3 How have the meetings been advertised?**

A.3 Big City Conversation events have been advertised extensively through a variety of routes, including: local magazine advertising, social media, council website at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/bigcityconversation](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/bigcityconversation), and through the GovDelivery email platform.

**Q.4 How many feedback forms have been received? Please list the amount via the feedback boxes or online?**

Latest figures from BCC (as of 03/02/20) are as follows:

- Survey – **2194** responses
- Inbox enquiries / comments – 29 in total
- Moor – 433 postcards
- TH Event –Christmas stall– 249 postcards
- Crystal Peaks - 56 postcards
- Archer Rd - 111 postcards
- Woodhouse forum – 19 postcards
- Stocksbridge Fox Valley – 45 postcards
- St James' Park Jordanthorpe / Norton - 29 postcards
- Hillsborough Interchange – 49 postcards
- Town Hall Reception – 10 postcards

**Q.5 In total, how many residents have partook in the Big City Conversation?**

A.5 At least 3,275 people have engaged in the Big City Conversation – including those who have contributed and completed surveys and postcards and others who we have spoken to.

**Q.6 In total, what has been the cost of the Big City Conversation?**

A.6 **£9,366 in total** (£1,137.88 in actual costs – event costs etc; and £8,228.32 in estimated costs from communications material, advertising etc).

**NB.** this does not include staff time. The Big City Conversation is a priority project for Sheffield City Council. As such, a number of members of staff have been supporting this project over the past few months, from across a range of areas within the Council.

**Questions of Councillor Peter Garbutt to Councillor Terry Fox  
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1 Have instructions been given to officers to take account of the Climate Emergency when producing the budget for 2020/2021?**

A.1 Members are working with Officers to develop a number of (capital) schemes to assist with the Council's response to climate change. All officers are aware of the

Council's position.

**Q.2 What instructions have been given to officers to take account of the Climate Emergency when ordering goods and services?**

A.2 The Council's Ethical Procurement Policy takes a number of factors into account, including the wider social value offered by our supply chain. The use of the Social Value Portal is considered in every procurement strategy to quantify and measure the additional social value in terms of environmental, social and economic contributions brought by our providers according to the principles laid out within the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Terry Fox  
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1 The Council's policy on the disposal of Council-owned land at less than the best consideration reasonably obtainable, is due to come up shortly. What are the main elements of the policy that are being planned for?**

A.1 The policy will revise and update the Council's current policy 'disposal of land for less than best consideration Local Government Act 1972: general disposal consent (England) 2003' approved by cabinet on 12th November 2003. The policy will provide a clear statement of the terms under which the Council may consider the sale of land and property at an under value within the context of the legal framework within which it must operate. It will set out the governance arrangements and the information required in order to inform decision making.

**Q.2 When do you anticipate this decision actually being taken?**

A.2 After the Cabinet has considered and approved the Corporate Asset Management Plan.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Paul Wood  
passed to Councillor Terry Fox**

**Q.2 How much has the Council spent on fire risk assessments in council buildings each year in the last 5 years?**

A.2 Year 15/16 = £88,187.00  
Year 16/17 = £82,708.00  
Year 17/18 = £98,298.00  
Year 18/19 = £150,008.00  
Year 19/20 = £130,181.00

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Terry Fox  
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1 How much money has been spent on the Big City Conversation to date, and**

**how much more public funds will be used for this project?**

A.1 As per previous answer, around £9,000 has been spent to date and we are estimating a total cost of around £16k (excluding staff time).

**Q.2 Is the Big City Conversation relevant to the forthcoming referendum on governance?**

A.2 Yes. Information from the Big City Conversation has been used to inform the development of the proposals due to be considered by Council on 5 February. These proposals will be the basis upon which people will cast their ballots at the referendum in May. It will also help to guide the development of new locality arrangements to ensure that they focus on both the topics that people are most concerned about and are designed in ways that enable and support people to get involved and have their say.

**Q.3 How will the information being gathered from the Big City Conversation be used?**

A.3 Information from the Big City Conversation will be used in a number of ways. It will help to inform the design and focus of renewed citizen engagement and locality arrangements as part of the overall review of our governance, ensuring that these respond to the way that people want to get involved in local decision making, and are focused on those issues that are most important to them. The information will feed into more specific work on those things that residents are most concerned about, and will help to ensure that the organisation's overall strategic priorities are focused on the most important issues in different communities. Because information has been collected by postcode and protected characteristic, we will also use the data to analyse whether there are particular concerns amongst different groups of residents and consider how these might be best addressed.

**Q.4 At a time of limited funding, is the Big City Conversation going to lead to improvements for the residents of Sheffield? If yes, how?**

A.4 Yes. As described in the response to the above question, the Big City Conversation means that we have a rich picture from across the city about those things that the people of Sheffield like best about their communities, areas that need to improve, their view of local public services, and the extent to which they wish to get involved in shaping decisions locally. This is valuable information which can be used to shape and improve services, inform approaches to partnership working and help determine priorities at a city wide and local level.

**Q.5 What will the cost of the referendum to be held in May 2020 be?**

A.5 Our best estimate is that the additional cost of the referendum will be around £167k more than the cost of holding a dual local government and Police and Crime Commissioner election.

**Q.6 The community group It's Our City spoke to 26,419 residents of Sheffield**



**specifically about Governance. Do you agree that this provides an indicative sample of public opinion on the subject of governance?**

- A.6 Whilst the petition included the signatures of 26,419 residents, this only represents just over 5% of the electorate. The referendum will provide the best sample of public opinion on this matter.

**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal  
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

**Q.1 With regards to the project to improve Fargate & the High Street:**

**A.1 (a) How much external funding is being sought in the business case submitted to the Future High Streets Fund?**

The application to the Future High Streets Fund will not be completed until April this year. Our final ask will be based on what can be demonstrated to provide value for money.

**(b) If the final application is successful, how much will Sheffield City Council be spending in addition to this?**

As we finalise our bid, we will be agreeing what match funding figure Sheffield City Council will be offering. This is to be determined along with the final bid submission.

**Q.2 Have any discussions taken place with SYTPE or the bus companies in the last twelve months with regards to the impact of HOC2 on public transport requirements for the city? If so, what was the outcome?**

There is no impact of HoC2 on the bus companies or SYPTTE.

**Q.3 How many businesses have relocated to Sheffield in the past three years?**

It is not possible to answer this question: there will be businesses that have chosen to move to Sheffield that we have had no direct involvement with.

However, Invest Sheffield, our inward investment team, have successfully helped 51 businesses relocate to Sheffield in the past three years – delivering over 3,600 new jobs, making the last three years some of the most successful ever for inward investment in Sheffield.

**Q.4 With regards to the Launchpad business support programme:**

**(a) How many enterprises in Sheffield were supported during 2019?**

In 2019, the Launchpad programme, delivered by our Business Sheffield team worked with:

- 512 people at pre start stage.
- And 378 businesses in their early stages.

**(b) It has been reported that the European Development Fund (ERDF) effectively contributes 60% towards the costs of the Business Sheffield team delivering business support to pre starts and early stage businesses based in Sheffield. What financial arrangements are being put in place to continue this support post-Brexit?**

(b) Given the success of the programme, Launchpad is likely to continue until June 2023 if a contract extension can be agreed with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) secretariat.

Funding beyond 2023 is unclear but is likely to be picked up by domestic funds such as the 'Shared Prosperity' fund, although details of how this fund will operate are limited at this time.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mazher Iqbal  
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

- Q. When will the Council adopt formal minimum housing size specifications in order to avoid developers building London-style rabbit-hutch sized housing units?**
- A. Question to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

**Question of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change) - to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet  
Member for Transport and Development)**

- Q. With agreement of the landowner, can an Article 4 Direction of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order be issued so that the woodland can recover from the damage caused over the preceding years.
- A. It is unclear from the question what the enquirer is seeking an Article 4 Direction for or what it is assumed the benefit of an Article 4 Direction would be. Article 4 Directions can be used in exceptional circumstances to remove permitted development rights. Presuming that the enquirer is seeking to remove the 28 day permitted development rights for temporary uses, this would not appear to assist in dealing with issues such as vehicular access, tipping etc.

**Question of Councillor Cliff Woodcraft to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

- Q. At the September Council meeting, I inquired when works to resolve the dangerous crossing on Hangingwater Road would take place. You responded that priorities would be decided by the end of the year. Please could you now let me know when works will take place?
- A. A number of options for providing a crossing point and new footpath in this location have been considered, but to date these have proved prohibitively costly. Local Transport Plan funding for the 2020/21 programme of Pedestrian Improvements has now been prioritised using the Council's approved prioritisation assessment system. All requests city wide are assessed and scored, taking into account factors including the speed and volumes of traffic, the numbers of pedestrians involved, and the number of accidents in the last five years. There is only sufficient funding for three to four schemes to be built and the Hangingwater Road crossing request does not fall within the highest scoring requests. This is partly because there are other locations with higher accident records.

The Council has put some measures in place at Hangingwater Road since the pedestrian collision in 2015 to help reduce the speed of traffic and therefore assist pedestrians in crossing the road. The Greystones 20 mph area has been extended to include this section of Hangingwater Road and a Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been installed, as well as two 'children crossing' warning signs. The lighting times on the street lights at this section have also been changed to come on earlier in the day and stay on later in the afternoon/evening.

The request will remain on the list to be considered again should sufficient funding be identified in future.

**Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 Has recruitment commenced for a Chief Planning Officer?**

A.1 The job description and person specification is being reviewed and discussions have commenced regarding the scope of the role. This is a vital step prior to going to external recruitment. Once this review process is complete, the next step would be to go to external recruitment.

**Q.2 As a result of the service review, what is the proposed head count reduction and full time equivalent reduction in the planning service?**

A.2 The current Planning Service structure has 100 FTE posts. A significant number of these posts have been held in vacancies. The Managing Employee Reductions (MER) document that was the subject of initial consultation proposed a head count of 64 FTE. This accords with the Planning Service budget which has been consistently overspent. Following consultation with staff and unions, and the outcome of the Dispute Panel, management are moving to consider issues that have been raised and a further round of consultation on amended proposals will commence in the coming weeks. The number of posts proposed may therefore change.

**Q.3 What is the anticipated impact on service received by customers of the planning service, and on production of the Sheffield Plan?**

A.3 The proposal seeks to concentrate on core service activities, and strengthen the service offer in these areas. As has been the case as a result of austerity, when we are faced with making such significant cuts due to the fact that we have lost over 50% of our funding it is inevitable that we will not be able to continue to do everything we did before. Examples of work likely to be impacted includes internal briefing notes or guidance on sites for other services within the Council. External customers will therefore be largely unaffected. The MER seeks to modernise the Planning Service, so customers will see improvements in future in areas such as planning application processing times.

**Q.4 What are the financial savings anticipated by implementation of the changes to the planning service?**

A.4 This will depend on a number of factors including the final structure (which is still in the consultation stage), the numbers of staff that seek voluntary redundancy etc. However, the Planning Service budget has consistently been overspent by £0.5m and this needs to be resolved through the MER process.

**Q.5 Is the Sheffield Plan going to plan?**

A.5 The Sheffield Local Plan is being developed in accordance with the Local Development Scheme which came into effect on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

**Q.6 Is the review of Bus Lane and Parking Enforcement Policy underway?**

A.6 Yes, Officers have begun the review.

**Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

With regards to Section 106 funding agreements across the whole city:-

**Q.1 How much funding remains unspent?**

A.1 I will provide you with a written answer to this question and publish it on the Council's website.

**Q.2 How many funding agreements remain fully or partially unspent?**

A.2 See above.

**Q.3 How many of the unspent funding agreements are more than 5 years old?**

A.3 See above.

**Q.4 How many of the unspent funding agreements are more than 10 years old?**

A.4 See above.

**Q.5 In the last five years have any funding agreements 'timed out' with an associated loss of community funding?**

A.5 See above.

**Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change) to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet  
Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q. What practical steps has the Council taken to cut carbon emissions since the last full Council meeting, in order to get closer to meeting its target of being carbon neutral by 2030?**

A. The delivery of the Portobello Cycle route which will provide a high quality cycle route parallel to West Street (and avoiding tram tracks) has now commenced. This £1m scheme connects a gap in our cycle infrastructure from the existing facilities on Portobello at Mappin Street through to Trippet Lane and Holly Street, which then connects back into the city centre 'Gold Route'.

We have also now completed the procurement for the installation of 22 rapid electric vehicle charge points and the provider will commence the installation

programme in March 2020.

We are also working with three other local authorities in the city region to develop a project to support small to medium sized enterprises (SME's) to implement low carbon improvements within the business.

We are currently working on the full business plan for submission at the end of March, and if successful, project activities are due to commence September 2020.

The project will provide low carbon audits of business operations undertaken within the business by experts, and grant support to help fund some of the recommendations from the audit.

The activities funded by the grant will result in a reduction in carbon emissions for the business.

The project will be funded by a combination of European funding (European Regional Development Fund), the private sector and three participating South Yorkshire Local Authorities.

Furthermore, we have launched a significant commission for a specialist partner to work with the Council to inform a Zero Carbon Plan and develop the evidence base for our Climate Citizens' Assembly.

The appointed organisation will develop a series of reports and information will be considered by our Climate Citizens' Assembly. The development of this work will be supported by our Green City Partnership Board, which commissioned the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research to produce a carbon budget for the City of Sheffield last year.

This new and exciting commission will include a detailed analysis of the city's current performance across all sectors of the city. It will provide the details on the specific options and interventions that are required as a city to achieve net zero emissions within a decade, as well as the further actions for the Council to completely decarbonise its own activities, including our council homes, offices and transport fleet.

We are expecting this work to commence before the end of next month.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 Will the Council require and/or permit mining of the coal measures before the Owlthorpe site is given over to housing development, given that Sheffield's current planning policies encourage mineral extraction and that the Council's own report finds that extraction of coal is viable?**

A.1 Any specific proposal to extract coal from the Owlthorpe site would be considered in the context of the wider planning application, and would need to be considered alongside, for example, traffic flows, environmental impacts and impacts on wildlife

sites etc.

**Q.2 Is the Council's current Minerals policy fit for purpose, given that the Council has declared a climate emergency?**

A.2 We consider that the Council's current minerals policy is in conformity with the requirements regarding minerals that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Any divergence from the NPPF in the new Sheffield Local Plan would need to be locally justified but this might include the Council's stated intention to work towards being carbon neutral by 2030.

**Q.3 Given that the proposed "attenuation pond" is only said to be able to cope with a 1 in 2 year storm, what are the implications for flooding the Ochre Dyke down to Beighton as a result of the proposed Owlthorpe development?**

A.3 The attenuation pond is designed to store surface water for 1 in 100 year storm plus climate change which is the appropriate design standard for these types of facilities to avoid flooding downstream. The design has been discussed in detail with the Lead Local Flood Authority who assess these schemes to ensure they do not worsen flooding and they are happy with the proposal in principle. During a storm the water will be held in the basin and gradually discharge to the Ochre Dyke at the Greenfield run off rate – in other words the same rate water currently runs off the fields that are being developed for housing. Therefore a storage basin should not worsen flooding downstream. The reference to a 1 in 2 year storm relates to the design capacity of the pipes that take the surface water to the storage area and is a standard Yorkshire Water requirement they insist on for adopting sewers they adopt.

**Q.4 What account has this Council taken of the conservation of biodiversity, on the priority habitat site at Owlthorpe Fields, noting the duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006?**

A.4 The Local Planning Authority must have regard to biodiversity under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its planning function. When considering the planning application, the Committee report will weigh up the biodiversity impact with the other planning considerations such as the Local Planning Authority's role of delivering housing to meet the needs of its residents. In order to discharge this duty the applicant has been required to submit an ecological impact assessment and the Council is taking appropriate technical advice from the City Ecologist on its conclusions. The impacts on biodiversity along with the other considerations will be weighed up in the planning application report and discussed at the Planning Committee meeting. This is how the Council will take account of section 40 and its impact on priority habitats.

**Q.5 How close is the Council to achieving its 5-year housing supply?**

A.5 Last year the Government published revised planning guidance on how local planning authorities should assess their five year supply of deliverable housing sites. This is considerably more onerous than the previous guidance. We are still



gathering the information from developers that is needed to complete the assessment but are aiming to publish the results in the forthcoming weeks..

**Q.6 In the planning conditions for the Old Town Hall taken at the meeting of Planning and Highways Committee in December, 2019, there were a number of conditions laid down. Has South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) been informed that a full annotated photographic survey will need to take place before any work begins?**

A.6 I can confirm that Condition 4 of the listed building consent (reference 19/03053/LBC) requires this.

To date we have not been approached by the developer to discharge any of the conditions. It is the developer's responsibility to fund this survey work.

SYAS are aware of this requirement, as requested by the enquirer.

**Q.7 Has such a photographic survey been completed?**

A.7 Not yet, please refer to previous response.

**Q.8 If not, how will this be resourced?**

A.8 It is the developer's responsibility to fund this survey work.

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 Have any changes to Clean Air Zone (CAZ) proposals been made following the consultation?**

A.1 We are currently awaiting Government's response to our Outline Business Case, which set out our preferred option of a Class C+ Charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ). Following consultation on our CAZ C+ we have continued to develop the scheme and the response we received to the consultation has been important in this work. Once we have received feedback from Government we will finalise our proposals in a Full Business Case, highlighting any changes should they be proposed, which will be considered by Cabinet before it is then submitted to Government.

**Q.2 When will it be implemented now?**

A.2 The implementation for the CAZ will be influenced by the timescales for receiving confirmation from Government on our Outline Business Case (OBC) and also the timescales for them to approve our Full Business Case. Our OBC was submitted in December 2018 and further appraisal of the proposals and analysis by the Joint Air Quality Unit has been undertaken through to August 2019. We are currently awaiting OBC confirmation and we will provide an update on next steps after this is received. Approval of the Full Business Case is key to finalising timescales as this is the stage when funding to commence implementation of the full scheme is

released.

**Questions of Councillor Peter Garbutt to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 What instructions have been given to officers to take account of the Climate Emergency when scrutinizing and approving planning applications?**

A.1 Decisions should take into account section 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

**Q.2 Has all the funding for current unfinished EU funded projects in Sheffield been received? if it hasn't, where will the money to finish them come from?**

A.2 The current EU funding programme runs until the end of 2020. However approved projects will have the ability to operate and incur expenditure until the end of 2023. Government has previously committed to underwrite all EU funded projects that have been approved and this commitment remains in place. Indeed a further call for projects seeking EU funding is expected to be published shortly.

As a result any projects supported with EU grants that are not yet finished are not currently at risk of losing funding as a result of Brexit.

**Q.3 Do you stand by the Administration's comments that, after the core investment period, Sheffield will have the best roads in the country?**

A.3 (Question to be answered by Councillor Mark Jones, Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change.)

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 Will you please share the business case for staff reduction in the planning department?**

A.1 The MER document provided to staff and unions on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019, provides a range of information including the case for change. This was supplemented in November 2019 by additional financial background information (as requested by staff), which included references to previous budget decisions within the Council. These are not public documents and I am seeking advice as to whether these documents can be shared with the Member concerned, and if so what assurances might need to be put in place. Members will be aware that staff and union consultation is continuing and the restructure proposals have yet to be finalised. It would be grossly unfair to staff if documentation or specific proposals (which are currently being reviewed following the Dispute Panel) were to find their way into the public arena.

In summary, there are two key drivers for change for the Planning service

1. Financial – the Planning service has been subject to budget reductions as has the rest of the Council. Rather than improve efficiency or restructure its staffing profile, the service sought to rely on a programme of increased income. This has only been partially successful, and an ongoing budget gap of £0.5m remains.
2. The Planning service needs to change - and adapt to changing customer demands, modern and efficient working methods and streamline its processes, concentrating on core priorities, such as processing major planning applications within reasonable timescales, and ensuring that the Local Plan gets produced in accordance with the agreed timetable.

**Q.2 Can you please share with local councillors in Nether Edge and Sharrow your plans for dealing with dangerous anti-social parking?**

A.2 Can I refer you to the full response you have received from Officers which indicates that for the proposed solution funding would need to come from Local Area Partnership or Community Infrastructure Levy and asking you to advise if you wish to continue with the proposed scheme.

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment) – to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q. When will the Council adopt formal minimum housing size specifications in order to avoid developers building London-style rabbit-hutch sized housing units?**

A. The Government published 'nationally described space standards' in March 2015. We intend to include these standards in the new Local Plan but, under Government rules, they cannot be applied until the Plan has been adopted.

All new council housing is built to lifetime home standards, which go beyond normal development standards.

**Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

- Q.** I had a very good meeting with you regarding Western Road resurfacing in the summer. Can you please let me know when it is scheduled for resurfacing? The road and pavements are in a treacherous state.
- A.** I will schedule a meeting with you, officers and Amey to discuss the scheduling of works that has been explored. The meeting will be to discuss whether the schedule is acceptable and to ensure that communication with local residents is undertaken effectively and in a timely fashion.

**Question of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

- Q.1** Following the withdrawal of the planning application for a service station at junction 35 on the M1, what steps will be taken with the landowner to secure Smithy Wood from further damage due to the continuing fly tipping, off road and quad biking?

- A.1** A gap was opened by the land owner, St Pauls, on the North border as works are ongoing on the site to remove some trees overhanging the electric pylons. We have recently seen fly tipping on the site (presumably as a result of the gap) and when reported to the land owner, it was removed within 48 hours. I understand that when this work is done, the fencing will be restored.

We have recommended to St Pauls that they secure the land. In the two years prior to the gap being opened, we had no reports of fly tipping on the area, albeit the highway with its flyparking suffers from litter and some flytipping.

South Yorkshire Police lead on criminality associated with off road motorbikes/quads although we work with them where required re access to our own land or where our involvement would help.

We support community litter picking activity in the area, collecting bags and providing materials such as bags and pickers where required.

We've also previously dropped boulders, logs and other items to prevent access to the woods, but these seemingly present no issue to a defender with a winch, so in our experience these are often moved aside quite quickly.

We have also worked closely in conjunction with Highways England to carry out overnight works in November to open up the areas all around the periphery of J35, improve lighting, remove undergrowth and make everything more exposed to build upon this "exposed" nature of the site and deter criminality.

We will continue to monitor this site and liaise with the landowner as appropriate. We must all do what we can to address environmental crime.

**Q.2 With agreement of the landowner, can an Article 4 Direction of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order be issued so that the woodland can recover from the damage caused over the preceding years.**

A.2 Question to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development).

**Questions of Councillor Peter Garbutt to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development (to be answered by Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

**Q. Do you stand by the Administration's comments that, after the core investment period, Sheffield will have the best roads in the country?**

A. We will endeavour to ensure that our roads are the best possible, in as responsible a manner as possible. It is my intention to ensure that throughout the remaining terms of this contract with Amey, and beyond the end of the contract, that our roads continue to get the positive public feedback that the recent road condition survey provided.

The statement 'best roads in the country' was used to illustrate the step change the council expected from the Streets Ahead contract and was also often used as 'among the best...' Recent public opinion surveys show that our roads are among the best in terms of public satisfaction and we have thrown off the 'Pothole City' tag that blighted Sheffield prior to Streets Ahead. This can only be positive for residents, visitors and the attractiveness of the city for investment.

We should also recognise that 'best' is a subjective word, and some would argue that 'no road' is the 'best road'.

**Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

**Q.1 Does Amey's contract require them to maintain the city's grass verges as lawn-like coverage?**

A.1 No. Amey are required to maintain the vast majority of grass verges in urban areas to a maximum grass height of 100mm. This is a standard adopted widely in highway maintenance operation and strikes a balance between aesthetic appearance and cost. Rural verges and some areas on routes such as Bochum Parkway and Moss Way that do not have houses fronting on them are cut once a year with the exception of visibility splays at junctions which are cut as required.

We always try to balance aesthetic amenity and with environmental amenity.

**Q.2 What practical steps has the Council taken to cut carbon emissions since the last full Council meeting, in order to get closer to meeting its target of being carbon neutral by 2030?**

A.2 Question to be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development).

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change)**

**Q.1 What is the gas usage to maintain temperature and fire up the incinerator and in any back up or side boilers used in the district heating system?**

A.1 During 2018/19 the ERF gas usage was 139 MWh. Gas is used to start the boiler after any shutdown.

**Q.2 What fuels other than gas are used for these purposes, such as oil fired boilers?**

A.2 Details in table below for District Energy Network.

**Q.3 When have these been used and how much of the various alternative fuels and heat sources over the last 5 years?**

A.3

	Percent energy provided by ERF	Gas use MWh	Oil use MWh	Carbon Intensity kgCO <sub>2</sub> / KWh
2018/19	96%	3,765	1,191	0.091
2017/18	92%	9,322	210	0.093
2016/17	93%	8,053	742	0.114
2015/16	95%	5,999	133	0.123
2014/15	91%	6,781	812	0.120

**Q.4 Where is tendering up to for new school dinner contract so far?**

A.4 Question to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills).

**Q.5 How have the KPIs of the effect on the climate crisis being represented by those tendering?**

A.5 Question to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills).

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change)**

**Q.1 After finally deciding not to renew the injunction, does the Council now admit that using an injunction to prevent peaceful protest against felling of Sheffield trees was a mistake?**

A.1 We are pleased that since March 2018 when the programme of work was paused, we have been in detailed discussions with Sheffield Trees Action Group (STAG) and other groups, for a long period of time. As a result of this we have developed a new approach of which you are aware and there is significant progress that has been made.

**Q.2 Will the Council commit to an inquiry into the tree felling saga?**

A.2 We have had discussions with the Bishop and are exploring options. Having not had chance to discuss with STAG ways forward I reserve my position on this for now. This is not avoiding your question; this is out of respect for STAG and their representatives.

I hope to meet with STAG members shortly and am looking forward to developing a closer relationship, one that is beneficial to the whole city.

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Mark Jones  
(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate  
Change)**

**Q.1 How are plans progressing for a cross party Climate Crisis Committee?**

A.1 We will be having a Green City Partnership meeting shortly. I have extended an invite to both the Green and Lib Dem parties. I am also open to exploring a cross party group to look closer at how Sheffield City Council is progressing with regards to addressing the climate emergency.

**Q.2 Have you taken any steps to address levels of Carbon Literacy across the Council and the general public?**

A.2 At a series of managers events during last summer, the Council provided briefings for all managers on the climate emergency in order to raise awareness of the need to reduce our carbon emissions and take action on climate change.

In addition, the Place Portfolio has provided detailed briefings at two leadership events for senior managers during 2019, and work is now being developed to roll-out across the wider Council.

The Council has launched a significant commission for a specialist partner to work with the Council to inform a Zero Carbon Plan and develop the evidence base for

our Climate Citizens' Assembly. In addition, this evidence is expected to be communicated to the wider public as part of a city-wide engagement programme to encourage behaviour changes.

**Q.3 What plans are there to provide all Councillors with Carbon Literacy training?**

A.3 This is in hand and I will provide a written answer shortly.

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to the Leader of the Council  
(Councillor Julie Dore)- Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for  
Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)**

**Q.3 The PFI contract requires the Council to pay to fell 17,500 street trees, regardless of whether the trees are felled or not. Would you agree this is a misuse of public funds?**

A.3 The PFI contract contains performance requirements across multiple service areas with measures of performance against them. Many of these are there to give the bidders at procurement stage the scale and scope of works that may be required. The tree figure has been explained on multiple occasions that it was simply a figure for pricing purposes, not an operational target to fell. An analogy would be the description of the winter gritting network to the bidders. The risk is then theirs to estimate likely costs over 25 years and submit an overall price to deliver all services in the contract. Sheffield City Council does not pay per gritting occasion, if it snows every day over the winter Amey will have significant expenditure but if it does not snow at all, they will not.

As I have stated before I am not a supporter of PFI and as an Administration we have insourced a number of services back into the Council, however, central Government at the time insisted that this was the only model we could use to access significant amounts of government investment for our highways network which was much needed.



**Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Mary Lea  
(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

**Q.1 Will you provide a detailed update on all the work (if any), with dates, undertaken by Sheffield City Council to persuade the Sheffield City Trust to rethink the booking of controversial preacher Franklin Graham?**

A.1 As you are aware, due to lengthy discussions between the Council and Sheffield International Venues this event has now been cancelled.

**Q.2 What is Sheffield City Council, as a stakeholder of Sheffield City Trust, putting in place to mitigate the risks to reputation and its status as a City of Sanctuary arising from Mr Franklin coming to Sheffield, especially as ACC Liverpool have now cancelled the booking in their city?**

A.2 Event not taking place.

**Questions of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Mary Lea  
(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

**Q.1 When will the extensive damage to the grass in Ponderosa Park be repaired? What are the plans for preventing such damage in Sheffield's parks in future?**

A.1 A meeting with the Parks Manager and the appointed Groundworks Team contractor took place in mid-January to agree the works needed to repair the event-related damage to Ponderosa Park. It was agreed that the site was currently far too wet, following the unseasonably bad rain in the Autumn and Winter months, for any work to take place at present. The contractor has agreed to revisit the site in early March with a view to starting the remedial works as soon as is practicable – weather and ground conditions permitting. The site needs to be levelled, cultivated and reseeded. This work will be done over a five day period when the weather is warmer and the site drier and it is hoped that will be delivered in March.

We would stress this was an out-of-the-ordinary occurrence, the city's parks host hundreds of events all through the year and have done successfully for many years. However, in light of what has happened at Ponderosa Park we are reviewing our booking processes, terms and conditions of bookings and will be placing further operational requests for event organisers to undertake so that sites are protected as much as is possible.

We also have to be honest and pragmatic enough to state that whatever plans we put in place, there are no guarantees that some sort of damage in one of our parks could ever happen again. We will work hard to minimise the risk of this and work with event organisers and parks management teams to keep disruption to a minimum.

**Q.2 What evaluation has been made of income generation by cafes in parks**

**since the Building Better Parks policy was approved at Cabinet in November 2018?**

- A.2 Good progress has been made since the start of the Better Parks 5-year initiative to develop new partnerships with businesses wishing to invest in Sheffield's green and open spaces. We are not yet at the stage where business ventures which involve the development of new facilities, such as cafes and family activities, are in operation, however we are aiming to deliver a number of these in 2020/21.

There are currently 22 business development proposals that the Better Parks Team are progressing with new business partners. Our input has included guidance on project feasibility, options appraisal, design, consultation and engagement, planning, pre-application advice, relevant checks and approval requirements. This work has included a large number of site visits and meetings. We are a small team and are working hard to support groups and site-based stakeholders to ensure their proposals have the best chance for success.

Project proposals that we consider to have good potential include seven sites with café/catering offers. We hope these can be delivered in the next 12 to 18 months subject to consultation, Planning and Charitable Schemes. Planning permission is already in place for a café in Whirlowbrook and we are hoping that construction work will start on-site later this spring in order to begin operations this summer.

There are eight commercial ventures which we considered to be 'Business as Usual' and relate to seasonal licenses – for example a mobile pizza oven company that has traded in Endcliffe Park for a number of days, and we are now looking at this and other 'new' licences for the 2020 summer season.

*Better Parks Initiative Progress Time Line*

- *May 2019 – launch of Better Parks to the business community with a drop in event at the Crucible*
- *July 2019 – Expressions of Interest (EOI) submitted*
- *September 2019 - Submission of 45 business proposals from groups that cleared the EOI stage*
- *Oct19 – Feb20: meetings with groups to discuss and progress business proposals (in many cases these also include site visits)*
- *Feb20 – Mar20: Assistant Project Officer recruitment*
- *June/July 20 – Better Parks Round 2. This further launch event is to be planned for the Crucible, targeting Outdoor City related ventures such as outdoor activities and adventure facilities, camping and catering proposals*
- *Spring 2020 onwards: commercial project development and delivery*

- Q.3 What evaluation has been made of income generation through car parking in parks since the Building Better Parks policy was approved at Cabinet in November 2018?**

- A.3 There have been no new car parking schemes introduced as a result of Better Parks. Parking charges are being introduced in Endcliffe Park but this was as a result of the report approved by Cabinet in July 2018 and is to alleviate commuter

parking.

**Q.4 What fee has Sheffield City Trust received from the extensive Netflix filming at Ice Sheffield and what will this money be used for?**

A.4 This is a commercially sensitive contract and disclosure of its terms would be in breach of the contract.

**Q.5 Is Councillor Neale Gibson to remain as the Sheffield City Council Director on the board of Sheffield International Venues? If not, who will his replacement be?**

A.5 Appointments to Sheffield International Venues are made by Full Council, it does not fall within my responsibilities as Cabinet Member.

**Q.6 The Chief Executive Officer of Museums Sheffield has said in a recent press article that time is running out for the dilapidated Central Library building. What has been done in the past 18 months to rescue this building?**

A.6 A full strategic options analysis has been undertaken between 2017 to 2019 to determine options prior to grant applications. Arup Design Studio, Human City and Fourth Street consultants were employed to develop strategic options especially for the content design for the library with Museums Sheffield working on the gallery spaces in the building. No option has yet been decided upon and an outline decision for potential capital investment is under consideration.

In addition, the Central Library and Graves Art Gallery receive a regular series of maintenance and risk assessments which are responded to as required and approximately £50,000 has been spent on repairs in the last 18 months.

**Q.7 Which national and local grant giving bodies and heritage organisations have been approached to help and support the Central Library in the last 18 months?**

A.7 A joint application to the Heritage Lottery Resilience Fund between Museums Sheffield and the Council was unsuccessful in early 2019. This bid was to help create capacity and joint working between the two organisations in order to develop bids for the buildings future use. Both Libraries and Museums Sheffield continue to work together to explore options and potential synergies of being in the Central Library and Graves Gallery building.

**Q.8 Has there been liaison in the last 18 months with local heritage bodies and community groups, such as Joined Up Heritage Sheffield and the Save the Central Library Group, to work with them to help try and save the building?**

A.8 Council officers from the Library and Archives service were involved with the recent consultation that Joined Up Heritage Sheffield has undertaken. The Council is committed to working with all stakeholders to help ensure the future for the Central Library and Graves Art Gallery building is as a cultural asset for the city.

**Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mary Lea  
(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

**Q.1 What fee or other revenue did the Council receive from the filming of “chill zero” in Sheffield?**

A.1 £4,885 (to parks and parking services combined).

**Q.2 What safeguards did the Council put in place against damage and the need for repair to the Cholera Monument Grounds arising from the filming activities?**

A.2 Filming proposals in parks are checked prior to granting permission to ensure they are suitable for the site. Permission for filming activities on parks land is subject to terms and conditions which include the responsibility for the costs of any repairs required.

**Q.3 What steps has the Council taken through use of its Communications Service to promote events at Sheffield International Venues?**

A.3 We don't routinely promote SIV events but there are some we partner with and these are included in our events comms plans, for example there were several events associated with the Invictus Trials which we helped to promote. We heavily promoted the Big Gig at Fly DSA Arena as part of Invictus.

We share posts on social media when asked by SIV to support certain events and include some in our News & Events email bulletin. We include them in round-up comms, such as the essential events guide published last week which refers to events like BUCS, Ice Skating, swimming, etc.  
<https://sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk/news/essential-events-guide-2020/>

**Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)**

- Q. When will the political representation of Health and Wellbeing Board be broadened to include opposition parties?**
- A. Further to the Council question asked in June 2019, the Health and Wellbeing Board formally agreed a Terms of Reference review at our last meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The issue of opposition Councillor representation will be addressed in this review.

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