

Council Questions

Wednesday 7 October 2020
2.00 pm

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CITY OF SHEFFIELD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 7TH OCTOBER, 2020
COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Leader of the Council

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Q.1 How many Covid Business Grant Apps and Discretionary Grants have been received that did not receive any payment of grants?

A.1 Question to be answered by Councillor Iqbal.

Q.2 What was the total value of those grants not paid out?

A.2 Question to be answered by Councillor Iqbal.

Q.3 Does the leader of the council think that the £33,000 of taxpayers' money that the council spent on Active Travel infrastructure in Shalesmoor was value for money?

A.3 The Shalesmoor Cycle Lane was paid for via the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund, therefore no Council funding has been used for this scheme.

This money also paid for the installation of the Kelham Low Traffic Neighbourhood which has witnessed a significant positive public response. It is however still subject to Experimental Traffic Order but the indications at this time is that residents and businesses are very supportive of this element of the scheme.

Q.4 Following your decision on August 11th not to open Ponds Forge, can I ask what has financially changed from then to September 23rd when the council decided to reopen Ponds Forge?

A.4 The decision to re-open Ponds Forge was made at Cabinet on 23rd September, the full rationale including financial implications are set out in the report.

Q.5 In particular, in terms of the council's financial position?

A.5 Please see answer above.

Q.6 According to data collected by the Centre for Cities on Highstreet Covid Recovery, Sheffield is in the bottom 10 of UK cities for footfall in the city centre. What is the council doing to safely improve footfall into the City Centre?

A.6 Question to be answered by Councillor Iqbal.

Q.7 What are the Council's plans for high street recovery?

A.7 Question to be answered by Councillor Iqbal.

Q.8 When will these plans be published?

A.8 Question to be answered by Councillor Iqbal.

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

Q.1 Do you accept that staff of this council put residents' lives at risk by including the aluminium composite Alucobond in the contract specification for the external cladding of Hanover Tower?

A.1 Question to be answered by Councillor Wood

Q.2 Do you accept that staff of this council informed residents that solid aluminium panels would be used for the cladding and that this was different from the combustible plastic-filled cladding that was actually fitted?

A.2 Question to be answered by Councillor Wood

Q.3 Is it your opinion that all staff have acted in this matter with the level of integrity expected of their position?

A.3 Question to be answered by Councillor Wood

Q.4 When do you anticipate the Administration will restore the right of Opposition councillors to scrutinise decisions being made, at present, under the emergency coronavirus decision-making scheme?

A.4 As Leader of the Council it is my view that all decisions should be made through the council's usual decision making processes, making them open to scrutiny by all members. The only exceptions to this should be decisions where action has to be taken as a matter of urgency due to the nature of the pandemic, for example the measures that were taken to enable us to be put into lockdown in March and give

people the necessary support due to the consequences of lockdown. In these cases decisions should be able to be scrutinised retrospectively, but for obvious reasons their implementation can not be delayed. The majority of these decisions should be of a more operational nature and are not policy decisions. There are no reasons why other decisions can not be made through the usual processes and it is my view that they should be.

As you will be aware we've reinstated scrutiny (virtual meetings) with full work plans being developed for the rest of the municipal year for each committee. Some meeting more frequently (eg. Healthier Communities and ASC is effectively monthly). OSMC have on their work plan a future item to look at governance in Covid-19 (response and recovery).

We have also held fortnightly briefings where all councillors have been able to ask questions to officers and scrutinise decisions.

I hope that this is an issue we can take forward constructively together in a manner, which the people of Sheffield would expect us to work together as our response to this incredibly serious situation is ongoing. This is something we have done for example on the Outbreak Control Board and I hope we can continue to work together in this spirit.

Q.5 What disability equality training has been provided to the Council's communications staff?

A.5 All SCC staff are required to undertake equality and diversity training as part of the core learning requirements. For all staff, including those in communications, this includes the 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – What It Means For You' module, and for managers, as well as the What It Means For You course, also includes the 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Awareness for Leaders and Managers' module. Both modules cover the range of protected equalities characteristics, including disability.

**Questions of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q.1 When was the last time Diversity training for Council officers was updated?

A.1 November 2019

Work is taking place on an in-depth review of the learning offered, where the gaps may be and how we fill them. This is being sponsored by the SEIN board and colleagues across the organisation are working together to get the best outcome.

Q.2 When was the last time Diversity Training for Elected members was updated?

A.2 November 2019 – it is the same product as the one above. Elected members

have a hub account, can access all learning available to employees

A session available for all Members was held on 16th July 2018. On 20th August 2020 an email was sent to all Members with a link to the LGA training hub. This contains a module on Equality and Diversity to which Members attention was drawn.

Q.3 Can you please share the Racial Equality aspect of the training for Council officers and Elected Members in the Diversity Training?

A.3 We have learning that all our employees are required to complete. The organisation approach to equality, inclusion and diversity is to provide development that covers all the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act for all employees as part of their starter pack of learning. They should complete this within the first six months of joining the Council. The Racial Equality content is embedded within this learning. The learning course we expect all employees to complete is:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: What it means for you

This module is designed to help you to understand what Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) means for you in the workplace and the way you deliver services.

It will enable you to:

- identify the legislation and policies behind Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- explain the behaviours and attitudes needed when dealing with people from a variety of backgrounds and in a variety of circumstances
- describe how you would react to situations in the workplace through looking at different scenarios and some common assumptions.

In addition, managers are required to complete:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) - Awareness for Leaders and Managers

This module will help you as a Manager within Sheffield City Council understand your role and responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and raise awareness of the policies and procedures in place to support them.

There is a further course available for managers:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) - Putting Policy into Practice

This looks at how the policy surrounding the Equality Act 2010 can be put in to practice within the Council.

At the Members session in July 2018, we covered the Duties, how we meet them and data that's available for Members covering the communities across Sheffield including broken down by race. In the training session following the presentation Members worked in 2 groups to discuss and complete an equality impact assessment looking particularly at race and sex in one example and disability and

religion/belief in the other.

As part of Black History Month and in recognition of Black Lives Matter, we are releasing two new e-learning courses for employees to access:

Welcome to this series of two modules exploring the uncomfortable truths surrounding racial inequality in the workplace. In creating these two modules the creators, Learning Pool, have taken guidance and received vital support from the Centre for Inclusive Leadership, from their Black employees, and from their Black friends and family. They have also used their words and voices to help represent the issues being discussed.

Uncomfortable Truths, aimed at leaders and managers working in predominantly white or diverse organisations, is our attempt to convince you to take that journey too.

Uncomfortable Conversations will provide a toolkit to help with starting and carrying out those conversations. As you go through this module, remember that everybody won't get this right every time, including you, but as a manager or leader, you will need to step up, be active, and facilitate the conversations.

EDI is also embedded into other learning such as Recruitment and Selection where unconscious bias is explored.

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Councillor Abtisa Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Abtisa Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

- Q.1 How many schools in Sheffield have reported COVID 19 positive cases?**
- A.1 Greg Fell is attending the Council meeting and will be covering these questions verbally
- Q.2 Please list the number of cases by type of school and name the schools (see below)**
(a) Secondary Schools (including academies)
(b) Primary Schools
(c) Special Schools.
- A.2 Greg Fell is attending the Council meeting and will be covering these questions verbally
- Q.3 As a result of positive Covid 19 cases reported in schools, how many children are self-isolating in Sheffield?**
- A.3 Greg Fell is attending the Council meeting and will be covering these questions verbally
- Q.4 As a result of positive Covid 19 cases reported in schools, how many teachers are self-isolating in Sheffield?**
- A.4 Greg Fell is attending the Council meeting and will be covering these questions verbally

Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Abtisa Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

- Q.1 What steps is Sheffield City Council taking to ensure that school children are not sent home unnecessarily when displaying seasonal colds and ailments without showing Covid symptoms?**
- A.1 Greg Fell is attending the Council meeting and will be covering these questions verbally
- Q.2 What is SCC doing to deter schools from excluding children from their education when they do not display symptoms of Covid 19 but may have symptoms of other ailments, putting pressure on families to lie to get them**

tested to return them to school as soon as possible?

A.2 Greg Fell is attending the Council meeting and will be covering these questions verbally

Question of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Q. 4.2 million children across the country live in poverty - and it is only getting worse due to Covid-19. By Christmas, it is estimated that 200,000 more children will be pushed below the poverty line. As coronavirus continues to affect families across the country and local lockdowns start to bite, children face their toughest challenge yet. Will the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills support the National Education Union's No Child Left Behind campaign, calling on the government to do the following:

1. Expanded eligibility for free school meals for every child on Universal Credit

Expanded eligibility would drive more funding into schools via FSM etc... but this is national policy choice.

We only have the information about eligible parents that have applied for meals for their children. All infant age pupils receive a free meal currently under UIFSM grant.

Pupils are eligible whose parents are on Universal Credit and have an income of less the £7,400 per year.

Pupil continue to receive FSM for a number of years even if their parents stop being on eligible benefits

2. Free school meals expanded year-round to end holiday hunger

There is no national government funding for this. Whilst schools have the discretion to do this there are limited financial resources in schools to address this. Pupil premium could be used but is already required for other essential learning support to vulnerable pupils.

It is a significant challenge for schools to be able to organise the provision of meals during holiday for which they have limited or no resources and no infrastructure.

3. Affordable school uniforms

There is no statutory duty for Local Authorities to provide support for the purchase of school uniform. The Education Act 1996 gave Local Authorities the discretionary power to provide school clothing grants or to help with the cost of school clothing in cases of financial hardship.

Pupil premium, or individual school may consider funding this, if the resources are not already committed on other areas of support. Also section 17 in social care clothing may be an option in some circumstances for the most vulnerable. In the South of Sheffield (there is a charity (see link below) for preloved uniforms and this could be another option. (Covid 19 may have impacted the stock levels)

<http://www.preloveduniform.org.uk/>

4. Free Wi-Fi access for disadvantaged pupils so everyone can learn from home

Under the recent DfE programme any child or young person who is open to social care, including MAST, have had their IT needs assessed and have been provided with laptops/ Wifi routers where assessed as required. This includes children open to early help, looked after children, children on child in need or Child Protection plans as well as care leavers. These laptops have content filtering and security set up by the DfE. They also have 4G Wi-Fi internet access.

In addition to Children and young people open to social care, laptops also went to Y11 disadvantaged pupils. We supported this for maintained schools and the DfE worked directly with academies. There is a new (and wider) distribution of laptops that is about to start now.

There are 35 laptops available for YP in children's homes funded through SCC. These have software installed to filter web content and control applications. Work is in progress to upgrade the Wi-Fi provision in the children's homes.

5. A dedicated tech budget for schools to combat the digital divide.

Schools have Pupil Premium to use at their discretion and publish how this is used. However this committed spend. Sheffield council and schools have worked together to maximise the uptake of Pupil Premium.

We provide support in a number of other ways:

Support We Provide to Schools IT:

The majority of primary and special schools in Sheffield have access to the Sheffield Primary and SEND Computing schemes of work. These support the development of children's key digital skills, which will help them access remote learning more effectively.

Every school also has access to the Sheffield Online Safety Curriculum, ensuring that all children in Sheffield are taught about responsible and safe use of online tools. In addition, schools have had input on safeguarding messages around remote learning, to enable this to be done safely and securely.

Broadband for Schools

The authority provides a broadband services to 105 Sheffield Schools and Learning Centres and a further 12 Schools and Learning Centres outside of Sheffield.

The provides high speed filtered internet connectivity delivering access to online teaching and learning materials whilst preventing access to inappropriate internet content. This includes a local on-site filtering system which can identify potential safeguarding issues at a student level.

Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Due to unforeseen circumstances Councillor Wood is unable to attend today's meeting due to illness and as a result we are not able to provide written answers. We will provide answers to these questions upon Councillor Wood's return. The answers will be provided to the questioners and published on the website

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

- Q.1 What are the Council's plans for Halloween and Bonfire Night, in terms of keeping people safe in particular young people?
- Q.2 What planning is taking place? And what meetings are planning to take place? Please list dates and key decisions made.

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

Domestic Violence

- Q.1 Nationally, domestic violence incidents reported to the police have risen during lockdown, has there been a rise in reports in Sheffield? Please give monthly numbers for 2020 compared with 2019 and 2018.
- Q.2 What is the council's plan to co-ordinate the action of partners in responding to domestic violence incidents across the City?
- Q.3 Are there sufficient spaces in refuges within the City to meet this demand?

Housing Repairs

- Q.1 At the last full Council meeting, it was reported that the Council housing repairs backlog will take till March 2021 to clear. Now that the Council has been able to assess this backlog, is it possible to reduce this backlog faster?
- Q.2 Please can the council outline the schedule to reduce the backlog in repairs so that tenants can know when their outstanding repairs will be carried out?

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

- Q.1 When can the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale councillors expect a reply to our

request on 17th September 2020 for (a) compensation for the residents of the Hanover Tower; (b) appropriate disciplinary action and (c) proposals for learning?

Q.2 What action has been taken since the Hanover Report publication to ensure lessons are learned and good practice is the default with all steps of decision making archived and kept safely so that they can be used in the future?

Q.3 Did the deletion of project management information relating to Hanover Tower, in 2015 (only 3 years after combustible cladding was fitted) comply with the Council's policy on archiving and data retention?

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

Q. What is the current position with fitting sprinkler systems to all Sheffield's tower blocks?

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

Q. We're entering the period where the nights start to draw in and people will be thinking about Halloween and Bonfire Night. With the Covid-19 infection rates still a concern, the potential for further problems and outbreaks is a big worry. Many of the community events won't be happening for obvious reasons and so people will be left to their own devices. What measures are we taking to ensure that everyone understands that we need to keep safe and healthy so we need to discourage bonfire parties and promote the adherence to 'Rule of Six'. Can you update Council on what measures are currently being proposed by the Council and partners?

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

Q. Can the Cabinet Member please outline what work is being undertaken with partners to ensure public safety over the Dark Nights period?

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

Q. No one wants to see anyone homeless especially during the difficulties we have all had to bear this year. I would therefore like to thank the local people

in West Ecclesfield who have understood the need for homeless people to be housed in our community during this pandemic. Following the great news that the council has secured £609,000 additional funds for rough sleepers, can the Cabinet member detail how this funding will be allocated and how local communities who have supported rough sleepers will benefit?

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

- Q. Following publication of the report into Hanover, can the Cabinet Member please explain what lessons have been learnt, and what changes will be looked at to improve on the findings the report raises?

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

- Q.1 Prior to the global pandemic, the administration made a commitment to build over 3000 social homes across Sheffield. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the building programme and confirm that the administration is still committed to its pledge to build these much needed homes?
- Q.2 Food banks continue to support a large number of families across my ward in Park and Arbourthorne. Could the Cabinet Member please outline what arrangements are being made to support food banks as the pandemic progresses.?
- Q.3 Would the Cabinet Member also please explain what arrangements are also being made to assist residents who are affected through loss of income or reduced hours in the public and private sector?

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) to be answered by Councillor Wood

- Q.1 Do you accept that staff of this council put residents' lives at risk by including the aluminium composite Alucobond in the contract specification for the external cladding of Hanover Tower?
- Q.2 Do you accept that staff of this council informed residents that solid aluminium panels would be used for the cladding and that this was different from the combustible plastic-filled cladding that was actually fitted?
- Q.3 Is it your opinion that all staff have acted in this matter with the level of integrity expected of their position?

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Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Following the transfer of Youth Services from Sheffield Futures to Sheffield City Council on the 30th September 2020, can the following be confirmed:

Q.1 Has the £10M pension liability been resolved in line with the commitment that a final agreed position would be reached?

A.1 The £10m pension deficit quoted in the question is purely an accounting figure, after the application of the accounting standard IAS 19. This accounting figure does not reflect the true current net asset (surplus) on Sheffield Futures fund. However SCC has and continues to work constructively with Sheffield Futures and SYPA to ensure the financial risks associated with historic liabilities are removed. It is hoped that this will be concluded shortly.

Q.2 How many redundancies have resulted from the transfer of Youth Services from Sheffield Futures to the Council?

A.2 No redundancies have occurred for staff delivering the Council's Youth Services. I am unaware of any other redundancies at Futures as a result of the end of the contract

Q.3 Following the commitment to due diligence, are the Council satisfied that Sheffield Futures can continue to deliver the remainder of their services?

A.3 Yes

Q.4 Have all aspects of the transition of the service been completed, and if not, which are still outstanding and what is the timescale for resolution?

A.4 All aspects have been completed

Question of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Q. Given the statutory duty of the corporate parenting board, the risks children looked after are facing in this crisis and the importance of our role as corporate parents, will the council commit to resuming regular Corporate Parenting meetings as soon as possible and before the end of the year? The last corporate parenting meeting met on 10th March 2020, over 6 months ago.

- A. There is a Corporate Parenting Board taking place today and will be scheduled on a regular will basis thereafter. In addition the Children’s Services Improvement Board and the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Board have met regularly throughout. In those meetings we have focussed on all children receiving services to ensure their safety and wellbeing

**Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Jackie Drayton
(Cabinet Member for Children and Families)**

Council Leader, Julie Dore said Cabinet had made the decision in March to bring Sheffield Futures back in-house and Council would be providing the City’s Youth Services by the end of September. However, it appears that Sheffield Futures continues as an independent charity to provide the city’s Youth Services.

Q1. What has happened to the plan to bring Youth Services back in-house?

A1. The City Council’s Youth Services contract has been brought back in house. Sheffield Futures continue to operate their other contracts as an independent charity

Q2. What progress has been made with bringing Sheffield Futures in-house?

A2. It is complete

Q3. What costs have been committed as a result of this transfer?

A3. The cost incurred are those you would expect when TUPEing staff into the Council ie phones, IT etc

**Question of Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards to Jackie Drayton
(Cabinet Member for Children and Families)**

Q. Can the Council please detail what work is being undertaken with the universities to support students who may contract Covid after arriving in the City? For new students particularly, isolating with near strangers will have an impact and it needs to be ensured that adequate support is in place – both for physical and mental health, and proper access to learning online?

A. No funding is made available from the national government for these areas

Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)

Q.1 How many properties have fallen into Council tax arrears?

A.1 As a result of the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the City's taxpayers (some of whom are amongst the most financially vulnerable households in the City) , the Council, in line with many other Councils up and down the country , put a hold on Council Tax recovery action in the first half of 2020/21. For the remainder of this year the Council take a sensitive approach to Council Tax recovery taking steps to ensure it identifies those tax payers who can but won't pay and those who are genuinely struggling to pay.

The number of council tax accounts that would have been subject to a reminder at 30/09/2020 on the basis that one or more instalment had not been paid in this financial year is 28,159.

Q.2 What is the total value of Council tax arrears?

A.2 The total amount of Council Tax outstanding for all years as 31/3.2020 was £64,889,000

Q.3 How many Council owned properties are in rent arrears?

A.3 At the end of August
20,544 tenants (54.3%) owed more than 1p
15,004 tenants (39.6%) owed more than £30.00

Q.4 What is the total value of Council rent arrears?

A.4 Current Arrears £10,168,749
 • Former Tenants arrears £5,123,410
 • Gross Arrears £15,292,16

Q.5 How many bus lane fines has the Council issued, for each month since January 2020?

A.5 Jan 5609
Feb 7248
Mar 2778
Jul 7664
Aug 9917

Sep 4471
 Grand Total 37687

Q.6 What is the total value of bus lane fines issued for each month since January 2020?

A.6 We have interpreted this as the amount of income received from bus lane fines each month.

January	171,983
February	109,557
March	112,815
April	15,133
May	4,975
June	1,026
July	5,101
August	112,845
Total	533,435

NOTE: the accounting for September wasn't complete at the time of requesting this response so it is not included

Q.7 How many parking fines has the Council issued, for each month since January 2020?

A.7 Jan -	5549
Feb-	4869
Mar -	2954
Apr -	55
May -	16
Jun -	1316
Jul -	2650
Aug -	4368
Sep -	4314
Grand Total	26091

Q.8 What is the total value of bus lane fines issued for each month since January 2020?

A.8 As this is the same as Q6, we have interpreted this as a request for the value of Parking PCN's received each month

January	157,558
February	125,515
March	143,346
April	26,112
May	15,012
June	8,234

July	74,025
August	96,487
Total	646,289

**Question of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q. Since the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) how much money has been raised and how much has been spent?

A. Figures reconciled to 30/06/20

- Total raised to 30/06/20, £15,213,801.15
- Total Spent to 30/06/20, £2,814,885.79

**Questions of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q.1 Where has the £1.6 million found to reopen Ponds Forge come from?

A.1 This is fully explained in the Cabinet Report

Q.2 How has this been allowed to happen, why was SCCs oversight so shockingly bad?

A.2 The government package has not provided financial support for Sheffield leisure facilities as you are aware

We know how important Ponds Forge is to the city's sporting excellence and our wider communities and the only barrier to having it re-open has been the financial position caused by the pandemic and continued restrictions on gatherings.

We are facing a constantly evolving situation in dealing with re-opening all of our services and facilities, and would hope the opposition would want to work constructively with us, rather than politicising important issues

Throughout the process of trying to get our services and facilities open, including Ponds Forge, we have been working with local groups and Sheffield City Trust around exactly how much support is needed.

Q.3 Why has this been allowed to fester when the problems have been public knowledge for a long time?

A.3 The main cause of the financial position of Sheffield City Trust has been

the reduction in funding for facilities over the past 10 caused by austerity and the unprecedented cuts that have been made to the city, which you supported and the Lib Dems implemented in government.

Q.4 Has anyone resigned or been disciplined for allowing this to happen?

A.4 See answer above

Q.5 Who is accountable for this mess? Why have they not apologised?

A.5 See answer above

Q.6 How are you making sure the clubs are treated fairly and not exploited?

A.6 As detailed above we are committed to working with the clubs. The clubs continue to receive significant discounts against the headline pricing. In addition, we are undertaking a benchmarking exercise as part of the Leisure Strategy development work to ensure that pricing and programming in Sheffield is fair and equitable for clubs and users.

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

Q.1 It is recorded by *Corporate Occupation* that In 2019 incidents involving JCB machinery affected at least 29,483 Palestinian people. Will the Cabinet Member join me in condemning the persecution of people in Palestine in the pursuit of profit by big businesses and will they commit to ensuring no JCB equipment is used by SCC or its subcontractors?

A.1 I fully condemn the persecution of people in Palestine in the pursuit of profit by big businesses, I will ask officers for a report detailing the current use of JCB equipment by SCC and subcontractors and will provide you a full response when I have received this report.

Q.2 Will you provide a financial breakdown of the Sheffield City Trust grant including a full breakdown for each venue including how much was for redundancies, etc.

A.2 Revised SCT £16.6m venue cost table below with £0.3m contingency provision.

Venues	£M
Concord	0.5
EISS	0.1
Hillsborough	0.7

Ice	0.4
Ponds Forge	1.8
Heeley	0.1
Springs	0.2
Westfield	0.1
Beauchief	-0.1
Birley	-0.1
Tinsley	0.0
Arena	1.3
City Hall	0.7

Sub-Total Venue Cost (excl central overhead etc) 5.7

Central Overheads	5.5
Redundancy	0.8
Capital	4.0
Mobilisation	0.3
Contingency	0.3
Total Cost	16.6*

*excludes pension impact for redundancies

Q.3 What were the costs of the Turner and the SLC reports, and what were their terms of reference when commissioned?

A.3 Cost of Leisure Strategy Support (SLC etc.) and terms of reference

The total work commissioned to date (Feb 19 to Sep 20) is £491k of which £305k has been completed/invoiced and paid.

The key pieces of work completed to date have included:-

- a. Develop a high level vision for Sheffield. Identify the high level investment and divestment priorities for leisure' Development of operational market value of service options for all assets in scope. Identify the best possible operating model(s) for SCC.
- b. Specialist work around Building Condition Surveys, reviews of Golf, Bowls, Entertainment, Architectural work around specific venues
- c. Remodelling baseline scenarios for costs of SIV running facilities in a number of scenarios (poist Covid lockdown/re-opening).

The latest work to be commissioned is:

- d. Completing the Leisure Investment Strategy - taking account of the impact of Covid – to include review of entire SCC portfolio taking account of Facilities Planning Model work on swimming needs, golf, cricket, Ponds Forge partnerships and pricing (Swimming / Diving / Elite / Polo) and Aquatic Strategy
- e. Undertaking a feasibility study to ascertain the business case for upgrading the Arena to optimise income generation.
- f. Supporting the associated 30 year business case including economic impact assessment and leading on the management options appraisal

- g. Pre procurement strategy for an entertainments operator ready for reopening Arena and City Hall
- h. Providing support for implementation of management options and leisure investment.
- i. Provide retained advisory support to the Director of Culture and Leisure Programme Management Team

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

Q.1 Which has this Council committed the larger amount of spending to in 2020 - Sheffield City Trust or John Lewis?

A.1 Sheffield City Trust

Q.2 Has the Council now submitted its application to the government's income compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges?

A.2 The Council continues to review its policy towards SCT, so its medium term commitments continue to be under review. The current grant for SCT for 2020/21 is £16.6m.

Q.3 What progress has been made with finalising the scheme to administer the emergency assistance grants?

A.3 There are several emergency assistance grants – to business, to individuals for food, local assistance scheme, please provide greater clarity about which grants you are referring to.

**Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

Q. The September Cabinet agenda pack (page 218), refers to the cost of reopening Ponds Forge as being £960k (excluding lifecycle maintenance costs). However, the September Cabinet Meeting awarded funding to Sheffield City Trust of up to £1.6m for the reopening of Ponds Forge (to the end of the financial year). Please can you tell me what this additional £640,000 has been allocated for?

A. £1.6m is the total cost of re-opening Ponds Forge to the end of the financial year including lifecycle and maintenance costs. The £960k excludes lifecycle and maintenance.

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

- Q.** Local TARAs provide a valuable service in our community. Under normal circumstances, they bring people together and help to tackle social isolation. Unfortunately, much of this work has ceased due to the global pandemic and this has had a significant impact on many elderly residents in my Ward, who are battling the impact of loneliness. Arbourthorne TARA runs a successful bingo night for residents each week, which many older residents rely on for social contact. Would the Deputy Leader please outline whether any plans are in place to allow community buildings to re-open (in a safe manner) and if so, what advice and support will be provided to groups like TARAs to make this happen?
- A.** Since April 2020 the majority of Community Centres and Buildings have been closed and not in use. There have been a small number that have been made COVID Secure and have been in use to provide essential services such as food banks and holiday clubs. Over recent weeks there have been a number of requests from the community of when these buildings will be reopened and able to be used.

The Government's latest guidance, as at 14th September, restricting social gatherings to a maximum of 6 will have an impact on a number of Community Groups able to recommence, however there will still be a number, mainly TARA's, who could still be able to continue. Colleagues across the council are working hard to develop a way forward that is practical, realistic and deliverable, and gives potential access to user groups from all areas of the City to use a number of Community Centres in a safe and COVID Secure environment. Officers are assessing a number of options to maximise the number of sites to be opened up for Community use – including Arbourthorne Community centre.

FM and Housing colleagues will work with the TARA groups to ensure they are aware supported in the safe use of premises to enable the groups to operate in a COVID secure environment and provide guidance on cleaning regimes and good hygiene practices. Prior to opening an appropriate risk assessment that confirms the measures in place to allow them to open safely will be produced. A proposal will go to the Incident Management Group within the next two weeks for approval and if agreed buildings will start to open from November.

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

- Q.3** How many businesses rent or lease their premises from Sheffield City Council?
- A.3** There are 145 businesses renting property from the Commercial Estate (including Grosvenor House but excluding Electric Works)

Q.4 How many Council owned business premises are currently vacant?

A.4 Of the office and business units available within the Commercial Estate, 20 units are currently vacant. All Business units are fully let (Devonshire and Carbrook Business Parks). Vacancies are as follows: 2 units at Parkway Markets, 13 Office Suites (mainly Sorby House) 1 City centre office and 4 retail/F&B units in the recently completed Grosvenor House

Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

Q.1 Since taking over as Council nominee on the Sheffield City Trust (SCT) board, can you list all meetings you have attended either in person or online?

A.1 I am yet to attend a meeting of the board as my appointment has only officially been made in the past week or so, I will be attending future meetings

Q.2 What contact have you had with SCT outside of these meetings?

A.2 I have had contact with the Chair of SCT

Q.3 Does he think SCT Board members or the Council should apologise to the people of Sheffield for the financial crisis that SCT have found themselves in.

A.3 No, the main cause of the financial position of Sheffield City Trust has been the reduction in funding for facilities over the past 10 caused by austerity and the unprecedented cuts that have been made to the city, which you supported and the Lib Dems implemented in government.

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

Q.1 With regards to the City Council's economic recovery plan:-

(a) What progress has been made since the last Full Council meeting?

(b) When will the plan be published?

(c) Is the Federation of Small Businesses a member of the Business Response Group?

A.1 The Business Response Group continues to meet weekly and input into the plan. We aim to bring the Plan to October Cabinet. FSB are not members of the Business Response Group but have been in regular dialogue with officers.

Q.2 With regards to the Council's Discretionary Business Grant Scheme:-

(a) How many businesses have been paid since the last Full Council meeting?

(b) How much money has been distributed to local businesses since the last Full Council meeting?

A.2 Grants approved before 9th September 618. Grants Approved after, 67 Grant paid before 9th September £3,743M, Grant paid after: £1.815m

Q.3 How many businesses rent or lease their premises from Sheffield City Council?

A.3 Question to be answered by Councillor Fox

Q.4 How many Council owned business premises are currently vacant?

A.4 Question to be answered by Councillor Fox

Q.5 Were any improvements to Chapel Walk included in the City's application to the Future High Streets Fund?

A.5 Yes – such as improvements to lighting and the public realm.

**Questions of Councillor Bob Pullin to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

Congratulations to our Council in successfully negotiating the retention of the John Lewis flagship store in Sheffield City Centre including a new system of a more realistic and less punitive business rates system.

Q.1 What are the new business rates agreement with John Lewis Partnership (JLP) based on turnover, profit or both?

A.1 The business rates are assessed by the Valuation Office not the Council. There is no business rate agreement between the Council and John Lewis. Nor is there any “*new system of a more realistic and less punitive business rate system*” as stated in the Member’s question.

Q.2 How much did JLP pay to the Council in business rates in the last full trading year?

A.2 Disclosure of the information would lead to an actionable breach of confidence as, if the Council were to disclose the information, it would breach the general common law principle of taxpayer confidentiality.

Q.3 How much is it estimated JLP would have paid under the new system in the same period?

A.3 There is no new system.

Q.4 What are the criteria required of other Sheffield businesses to qualify for similar arrangements?

A.4 There is no new system. The Valuation Office carry out valuations to assess rateable value and therefore business rate payments.

Q.5 When will the new business rates system be rolled out across the City?

A.5 There is no new system.

Q.6 Has the Council agreed to allow any concession/contribution towards JLP's proposed refurbishment/redevelopment costs? If so, please explain.

A.6 The arrangements for contributing to the refurbishment of the building were set out in the Cabinet Report of 15 July 2020.

**Question of Councillor Mick Rooney to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

Q. Can we get an update regarding Radisson Blu Hotel and Heart of the City II projects, and does the Council have an Economic Recovery Plan for the City?

A. Radisson have signed an agreement with the Council in August 2020. The Hotel is expected to open in 2023 subject to planning permission. The lease deal with John Lewis was also completed in August 2020. In addition, CMS the law firm signed for a lease in the middle of lockdown and move into the office space at Grosvenor House early next year. New World Trading also signed up for the new restaurant and bar in Charter Square during lockdown. They are due to start their fit out in the next few weeks. Potential occupiers for the buildings between Cambridge Street and Carver Street have submitted their bids and expressions of interest and officers are now reviewing those submissions. Structural stabilisation works have started on Leah's Yard. Development consent has been received for the same block and construction tenders are also in and being reviewed. Planning applications are in for the Hotel and the old night club building on Barker's Pool. The foundations are being laid for the Kangaroo Works Site to the west between Rockingham Street and Trafalgar Street. Works continue on the buildings on Pinstone street with the frame of the buildings now rising from the ground.

The Council has developed an economic recovery plan with a private sector group called the Business Response Group. The plan will be coming to Cabinet in October.

**Question of Councillor Anne Murphy to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

Q. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that the HS2 Masterplan will not negatively impact on Manor Castle? Fears have been raised locally that the ward could be cut off by a new bypass. Can the Cabinet Member detail how the proposed plans for HS2 will affect the Manor area?

A. Firstly it is important to say that the proposals which were outlined in the report to Cabinet in March are deliberately called a “Development Framework” rather than a “Masterplan” as it isn’t a fixed plan but sets out the potential scale of the vision for the area. The proposals and options will continue to be developed further and be shaped by engagement with the public, specialist interest groups and key stakeholders at the appropriate time. A lot more work needs to be done but that has been paused over the past few months and the impact of Covid-19 on the ways in which people work and travel in future and how major infrastructure projects are funded will need to be taken into account. The suggested rerouting of the road and tram is not fixed and alternative options to reduce the negative impact of the congestion outside of the station will also be looked at when the detailed technical work is restarted.

If, following detailed appraisals and consultation, a new road is considered to be the best option then it would be partially covered by expanding Sheaf Valley Park over it and in other places screened by new trees and heavily landscaped. The amphitheatre would be fully retained and extended. The Framework includes a large new landscaped bridge for pedestrians and cyclists that would take people above the road and station, linking into Sheaf Sq and the bottom of Howard St. This safe, level, 24 hour link would be a massive improvement to connectivity from Park Hill and Norfolk Park compared to the existing routes either through the station or that terrible cast iron footbridge. To some extent the Ward already suffers from barriers into the City Centre due to the combination of the tram tracks, train station and existing inner relief road in front of the station. The proposals in the Framework are aimed at overcoming those barriers, improving walking and cycling opportunities and creating a far better environment. Freeing up road space will allow further extensions of the Grey to Green scheme from Park Square all the way to the station. The plans and landscaping will also improve connectivity to Victoria Quays from Park Hill. The proposals are also aimed at dealing with current problems of congestion and conflicts between taxis and private cars immediately outside the station and poor air quality caused by vehicles queueing and stop-starting at traffic lights. The area outside of the station has a lot of underused land and buildings and by making changes to existing infrastructure we can free up land for development that will create thousands of new jobs. and we will do all that we can to ensure that local residents in the Ward are able to access these.

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

Q.1 How is the Council managing crowds in the City Centre after the closure of hospitality venues at 10pm?

A.1 Since the 10pm measures came in we have not had any scenes that some other cities have had with street parties etc. Teams pro-actively worked with pubs, bars, clubs and takeaways to ensure they knew the legislation and to encourage them to plan for various scenarios. Teams from Licensing, City Centre and Environmental and Regulatory Services were out and about across the city keeping a low key but visible presence. We also used CCTV to direct ours and SY Police resources where needed. Over the weekend the public did their bit as well and dispersed with no issues of note. Going forward we have an ongoing operation in place where we continue to work with businesses and monitor the situation throughout the evenings across the city and take any appropriate action where needed.

Questions of Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) to be answered by Councillor Iqbal

Q.1 How many Covid Business Grant Apps and Discretionary Grants have been received that did not receive any payment of grants?

A.1 989 Business Rate Grant applications were refused.

652 Discretionary Grant applications were refused.

Q.2 What was the total value of those grants not paid out?

A.2 Grants have been refused where an application was not eligible and did not meet the criteria set by Government. This has been for a wide variety of reasons, including Rateable Values above the prescribed threshold; businesses not being in rateable occupation before the prescribed date, the applicant not being the ratepayer or the business premises not appearing in the rating list.

It is not possible to put a value on ineligible applications. For example, if the applicant had no rateable value because they did not appear in the rating list, we cannot say whether they would have got a £10k or a £25k grant. If an application was not eligible for a discretionary grant because there was no evidence of the business trading, we cannot say whether they would have received a £3k, £5k or £10k grant.

Q.6 According to data collected by the Centre for Cities on Highstreet Covid Recovery, Sheffield is in the bottom 10 of UK cities for footfall in the city centre. What is the council doing to safely improve footfall into the City Centre?

A.6 The key reason for the position of Sheffield and similarly other core cities in the table is that students and commuters play a big part in any major city's daily footfall.

Now students are back it will aid recovery however an estimated 100,000 commuters per day continue to work from home. Footfall does continue to improve month on month but is fragile and any change in the pandemic will instantly affect it.

We have implemented a range of measures working with partners to encourage footfall back into the city centre which include:

- Ensuring businesses reopen safely and are covid secure through a range of measures including how to access the latest guidance, how to apply for funding and how to be fully covid secure
- Provide reassurance on the streets by upscaling cleaning, Ambassador patrols, SYP patrols/operations.
- Providing temporary toilets for visitors and numerous outdoor hand sanitizer points
- Closed certain roads including Pinstone Street and Division Street and parking spaces to increase walking and cycling areas to allow for social distancing, active travel and a nicer environment.
- Installed over 1,000 floor stickers to remind and reassure people regarding social distancing along with over 1,500 'queue here' stickers for businesses.
- Launched a new policy on outdoor seating to help businesses extend onto the street to not only be covid secure, increase sales but also to animate the streets.
- Offered free of use barriers to all businesses to help demarcate and promote their outdoor spaces
- Launched the Make Yourself At Home Campaign for all businesses and communities and is designed to provide reassurance and encouragement for people to come out of their homes. It's easy to adopt by all to help keep the city moving and stimulate demand whilst taking the current situation and guidelines into consideration. There is a toolkit available for all businesses to download which includes a guide of ideas of how to integrate 'Make Yourself at Home' into communications and marketing activity.
- Using social media to promote the city centre as a safe and vibrant place to visits.
- Developing a range of further marketing initiatives with Sheffield BID to take place over the next few months

Q.7 What are the Council's plans for high street recovery?

A.7 The Council's investment in Heart of the City II provides the key aspect of our high street recovery however the Moor continues to push forward as well as the excellent grey to green initiatives. Castlegate continues evolve as an area for tech and digital start ups and we are hopeful that the Future High Street Fund application for High Street and Fargate will be successful to transform both areas.

Across the city centre the confidence can be seen on the skyline with the many cranes on site. No city centre will survive unless it evolves to current and future consumer behaviour. This is key to all our plans to creating more homes and increased leisure and not rely just on traditional retail.

Q.8 When will these plans be published?

A.8 All are in the public domain.

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Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Questions of Councillor Tim Huggan to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Q.1 What measures are planned for the 'Low Traffic neighbourhood' planned for the area west of Crookes?

A.1 The Low Traffic Neighbourhood in Crookes has been submitted as part of Council's response to the Emergency Active Travel Fund Phase 2. We have been specifically asked by Central Government and the Sheffield City Region Active Travel Commissioner to implement Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in locations where through traffic causes severance and access to local amenities and schools. In light of this, the broad area of Crookes, between Crookes, School Road, South Road, Howard Road, Heaveygate Road and Northfield Road has been identified for further investigation. This could potentially include a number of road closures on local streets, one ways and a school street.

Q.2 What consultation is planned for the introduction of the 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood' in Crookes?

A.2 As explained in Q1, the Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme for Crookes is part of the Council's currently unconfirmed second phase bid from the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund. The delivery windows associated with phase 2 are tight (6 months), but considerably longer than those associated with the delivery of phase 1 (8 weeks).

In light of this, the approach taken for the second phase will allow for a more considered scheme development, which will enable engagement with the community to be undertaken. Given the current restrictions on public meetings due to social distancing, the information will be presented through an online portal with the ability for comments to be logged. Social media, press releases and other communication channels will be used to maximise the reach of the proposals to the community. This will draw out a full and thorough discussion to obtain a representative public opinion.

Engagement with Local Members on the EATF Phase 2 was undertaken prior to submission and I will keep you updated as plans emerge, should the funding be awarded.

Q.3 How are the revised proposals for Clean Air Zones in Sheffield coming along? Is there a target date for publication of new draft proposals?

A.3 The review of the Clean Air Zone to consider the implications of C-19 on the scheme is underway. We are discussing the review and associated timescales with Governments Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU). Once we have agreed this with JAQU

we will be able to confirm future key milestone dates towards confirming our final Clean Air Plan.

Q.4 Are any new trial ‘safe school streets’ outside schools planned and where?

A.4 Following on from the trials last year, we have developed a prioritisation process and this has identified a list of 10 schools for Phase 1. These are currently undertaking the necessary design checks. Once complete, the schemes will be discussed with the respective schools to understand the practical feasibility in relation to existing Covid-19 preventative measures and long term solutions. Once this has been undertaken, I will be able to provide a list of the schools that will be trialled.

These will then be subject to public consultation and discussion as part of the statutory requirements of a Traffic Order.

Q.5 What had become of the pilots for ‘Safe School Streets’ Has any evaluation been done for any of the pilots? Have the evaluations been published?

A.5 We have undertaken monitoring and evaluation for all the schemes and this allowed us to create a lessons learnt log and understand some of the practicalities of implementation. These findings have been taken on board when designing the next phase. However, no official document has been produced and therefore not published.

Q.6 Are any pilots/trials/temporary measures to be made permanent and where for ‘Safe School Streets’?

A.6 From the one week trials that have been undertaken, the evaluation of previous schemes will be put in place on a further temporary basis, for at least half a term. The impact of a one week trial will be significantly different to one which lasts weeks/months so this is next step in the implementation process.

The scheme success will be monitored and a decision on making permanent operation will be taken following the public response. It should be noted that a school street also requires the cooperation, ownership and resources from the school, so understanding both partners experience of the trial will be key.

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

Q.1 How is the Council managing crowds in the City Centre after the closure of hospitality venues at 10pm?

A.1 Councillor Iqbal to respond.

Q.2 What, if any, extra provision has been provided to safely transit people away from the City Centre at 10pm?

A.2 Through the ongoing COVID-19 resilience work, Bus Operators and SYPTTE are continually looking at network capacity and mileage to manage the changing requirements of the travelling public. Currently, SYPTTE and Bus Operators are continually monitoring the demand that arises from the varying scenario and government guidelines.

Q.3 Is the Council working with the bus and tram companies to provide extra services to prevent overcrowding?

A.3 The Council has been working very closely with SYPTTE and public transport Operators to understand the implications of overcrowding and the supporting practical measures that can be introduced to control and mitigate against this.

For example, the crowding associated with the Schools re-opening has been subject to an in-depth review and a number of measures were introduced such as, timetable changes to match school opening and closing times, an additional 67 bus services across South Yorkshire and a series of communication measures to help advertise these alterations.

These changes have built resilience into the whole network and coupled with a continual systematic evaluation of the outcomes of the measures ensures that a robust approach to issues management and future alterations reflect the needs of those people who use and rely on these services.

Q.4 What Covid secure measures are in place at taxi ranks across the City Centre?

A.4 Licensing staff are out enforcing the coronavirus regulations etc. on five afternoons per week (Mon to Fri 1pm till 5pm) and on seven evenings per week (7pm till Midnight).

This includes monitoring taxi drivers, taxi ranks, pubs, bars, clubs, restaurants, cafes, takeaways etc. for social distancing, wearing masks, 10pm curfew, loud music, etc.

This involves working closely with the Health Protection Service, Events Team, Night Time Enforcement Team and South Yorkshire Police.

City Centre Management Team also contracted Taxi Marshalls to work at the main ranks handing out masks etc. this was kept in place for around 2 to 3 weeks after opening of the hospitality sector.

Q.5 What measures have been taken to increase enforcement activities as

required?

A.5 Enforcement activities were stepped up about a week ago where we moved from working two nights per week and two afternoons per week to the current activities set out above. And has included undertaking joint enforcement activities with South Yorkshire Police.

Q.6 Is the 10pm closing restriction broadly effective in Sheffield?

A.6 The 10pm curfew has been complied with extremely well with regards to pubs, bars, clubs etc. There is a short term issue on certain streets as bars empty at closing time, but this disperses quickly. We continue to keep the situation under constant review.

We are experiencing issues at takeaways across the city where advice has been given to many premises and enforcement action is being considered on those premises that continue to not comply.

Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Q. When is the delayed work on Western Road due to start? The state of the roadway and footpaths need urgent maintenance to see through another winter.

A. Cllr Jones to respond.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) and Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q.1 Are Highways officers and Amey developing new guidelines that will allow residents to manage verges and small pockets of land for the benefit of wildlife?

A.1 Cllr Jones to respond.

Q.2 If yes, when will these guidelines/protocols be published?

A.2 Cllr Jones to respond.

Q.3 Will they be in place in time for rewilding preparatory work to take place, some of which is best done in the coming weeks in order to encourage

suitable mixes of wildflowers to flourish?

A.3 Cllr Jones to respond.

**Question of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Bob Johnson
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

Q. How many members of the public attended each of the three online webinars on the Sheffield Plan held on the 3rd, 16th and 23rd September?

A. 3rd September – 27 registered, 11 attended.
16th September – 24 registered, 10 attended.
23rd September – 27 registered, 13 attended.

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

Q.1 What is the budget that you've allocated to controlling pavement parking in the City Centre?

A.1 The 2020/21 Capital Programme has a budget commitment of £20,000.

Q.2 Which streets are the hotspots that you've targeted?

A.2 The business case has been based on targeting specific locations and hotspots rather than streets. This allows for a clustering approach and will take the form of targeting works in locations where there are existing restrictions being abused, such as around zigzags, bus stop clearways and behind Pay and Display bays. The detail is still being developed.

Q.3 Regarding the Government's Pavement Parking consultation [document](#), which of the three options will SCC be favouring/asking for?

A.3 We are currently looking through the documentation to determine which option would work best from both an operational and strategic perspective. The basis of our previous representations has been aligned to Option 2, whereby we have a degree of local control as to what is considered an obstruction and can act without signs and a legal order. The Council will be providing a response to the Consultation, which will have considered the impacts and practicalities of all three options available.

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

Q.1 When do you expect to bring forward and publish revised proposals for a Clean Air Zone?

A.1 The review of the Clean Air Zone to consider the implications of C-19 on the scheme is underway. We are discussing the review and associated timescales with Governments Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU). Once we have agreed this with JAQU we will be able to confirm future key milestone dates towards confirming our final Clean Air Plan.

Q.2 Has the Council responded to the Government consultations on planning, “Changes to the current planning system” and “Planning for the Future?”

A.2 We have submitted a response to the consultation on “Changes to the Current Planning System” to meet the 1st October 2020 deadline

Officers are still working on the response to the “Planning for the Future” White Paper in order to meet the deadline of 29th October 2020.

Q.3 Will you provide copies of the consultation responses?

A.3 Yes, I can provide a copy of the response that has been submitted to the consultation on “Changes to the Current Planning System”.

We will make the response to the White Paper available once it has been finalised.

Q.4 In September, you said you would provide a written response and publish it on the council’s website in reply to my question, “Given that the new Local Plan will not be in force until 2023 at the very earliest, what Interim Planning Policies are considered to be necessary in order to meet the Council’s 2030 climate change commitments?” When will you provide this?

A.4 The Council is only able introduce new planning policies through a new Local Plan. National planning policies (in the NPPF) and building regulations can be used where they exceed standards that were previously set in policies in the adopted Local Plan. We are, however, intending to update the Council’s Climate Change and Design Supplementary Planning Document and Practice Guidance to ensure it reflects current best practice on green roofs and reducing carbon emissions. Officers are currently working to identify a budget and resources to enable this work to be undertaken.

Question of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Q. What measures are you taking to address the issues of Engine Idling outside schools?

A. I can confirm that all schools in Sheffield are covered by no-idling restrictions with associated signage erected in adjacent streets, which advise and inform people to switch off their engines. We have also provided a number of large banner signs that a number of schools are displaying.

Our Parking Services Civil Enforcement Officers progressively undertake enforcement action on a number of parking related offences outside schools and they also enforce the no-idling restrictions.

In taking enforcement action against individuals that leave their engines running, firstly a CEO must request that the driver switches off their engine, if a driver does not do this then they will be issued with a penalty notice. When advised the vast majority of drivers comply with the request to switch off and we hope this message stays with them for the future.

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Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q1. How many reports of fly tipping have been made to the Council, for each month since January 2020?

A1. Currently we only have data available to end of July, as below:

January	1,247
February	873
March	874
April	940
May	838
June	1,045
July	1,190

Q2. What has the cost been to the Council to remove fly tipping waste, for each month since January 2020?

A2. We do not have this information as the majority of fly tipping is on the Highway network, the management of which is part of the PFI with Amey. The Council pays an overarching management fee to Amey which includes the capital investment in new street lighting and road surfacing as well as day to day maintenance such as fly tipping and litter removal.

We can provide the figures using DEFRA benchmark values – but these have also changed this year, so we need to update and can provide written response.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) and Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q.1 Are Highways officers and Amey developing new guidelines that will allow residents to manage verges and small pockets of land for the benefit of wildlife?

A.1 Yes, we are in the process of developing a policy for this and understanding the full scope of implications; such as ensuring verges remain safe for all road and path users.

Q.2 If yes, when will these guidelines/protocols be published?

A.2 We hope to have a draft policy over the coming months.

Q.3 Will they be in place in time for rewilding preparatory work to take place, some of which is best done in the coming weeks in order to encourage suitable mixes of wildflowers to flourish?

A.3 It is likely to take a couple of months to complete all the details and full scope of such a policy. It is essential the policy has the full detail needed.

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q. In September, you said you would provide a written response to my question asking how many tonnes of litter have been collected from on-street bins and litter-picking in each of the last 24 months, and publish it on the Council’s website. When will you do this?

A.

Monthly Tonnage of Litter and Fly Tip - Olive Grove and Ecclesfield Depots		
Dates	20 03 01 Mixed Municipal Waste (Tonnes)	Comments
Jul-18	495.35	Based on Three Month Total 1486.04
Aug-18	495.35	
Sep-18	495.35	
Oct-18	496.96	Based on Three Month Total 1490.87
Nov-18	496.96	
Dec-18	496.96	
Jan-19	462.6	Based on Three Month Total 1387.82
Feb-19	462.6	
Mar-19	462.6	
Apr-19	506.83	Based on Three

May-19	506.83	Month Total 1520.5
Jun-19	506.83	
Jul-19	542.45	Based on Three Month Total 1627.34
Aug-19	542.45	
Sep-19	542.45	
Oct-19	400.99	Based on Three Month Total 1202.98
Nov-19	400.99	
Dec-19	400.99	
Jan-20	390.51	Months Figure
Feb-20	404.96	Months Figure
Mar-20	520.48	Months Figure
Apr-20	385.22	Months Figure
May-20	374.53	Months Figure
Jun-20	557.14	Months Figure

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

Q. In September, you said you would provide a written response, and publish it on the Council's website, in reply to my question asking about initiatives to reduce waste in Sheffield. When will you do this?

A. The Council's website provides residents with information about how to access waste reduction opportunities including Love Food Hate Waste, a national food waste reduction campaign, and Love Your Clothes, which seeks to reduce the environmental impact associated with washing and replacing clothing.

Home compost bins - the Council works in partnership with Straight to offer home compost bins, with prices starting at £24.99 including delivery.

Further details about all these schemes can be found by visiting:-

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/bins-recycling-services/how-to-reduce-waste>

Residents can request a waste diary which they can complete and return. This

captures the types of waste and placed into their black bin. The Council's Waste Management team will then review the information provided and provide tailored waste and recycling advice according to the waste types produced. Waste diaries are sent to all households who apply, but are not eligible to receive additional black bin capacity.

Nationally, it is understood that initiatives to reduce waste are difficult to influence and measure at the local level due to the wide-ranging factors which influence waste production, including economic factors, seasonal variations and individual household choices. By far the biggest impact however, is the amount of waste, and recyclability of waste produced by the manufacturing process both in the production of the products, and the subsequent packaging of these products for sale. These factors are not easily influenced at the local level, and instead rely on national, European and international efforts due to the worldwide nature of product manufacture and design.

The draft Resources and Waste Strategy for England, 2018 sets clear objectives to increase sustainable production through ecodesign to encourage resource efficient product design and by invoking a 'polluter pays' principle and extending producer responsibility for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market.

We have established a South Yorkshire Waste Partnership collaborating with Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham; recognising the value of joined up messages and greater influence we may achieve working together. It is important we have confirmation of the national waste strategy before we make further significant investment in waste services.

Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) to be answered by Councillor Jones

Q. When is the delayed work on Western Road due to start? The state of the roadway and footpaths need urgent maintenance to see through another winter.

A. I will provide you with a written answer and publish on the council's website

Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

Q.1 How many children's playgrounds and play areas have now reopened?

A.1 145 have now reopened following their closure at the start of the pandemic.

Q.2 How many children's playgrounds and play areas are still closed?

A.2 3 playgrounds remain closed although these are closed due to other issues such as maintenance requirements and vandalism. No playgrounds are currently closed due to the pandemic.

- Hillsborough Park playground is closed due to the current renovation taking place
- Rundel Road playground is closed due to surfacing issues and some play equipment requiring replacement
- Brunswick Road Housing Play area is closed due to damage from vandalism

Q.3 What is the plan to reopen playgrounds going forward?

A.3 All playgrounds that can be reopened have been reopened following the Covid-19 closures. The three remaining playgrounds will be opened as soon as it is possible and safe to do so. The Hillsborough Park play improvements phase 1 are being completed and the playground will reopen once they are finished. The repairs that are needed at Rundel Road and Brunswick Road are being costed now. We do not yet have a date for these sites to reopen.

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

Q. Given the importance of outdoor activity to Sheffield's residents, when do you expect all of Sheffield's parks to be restored to their normal situation from their Covid-period restrictions?

A. The vast majority of parks and equipment are open as normal and parks and green spaces remained open throughout the lockdown period. Work is currently ongoing with P&FM to establish how we may be able to safely reopen some of our buildings that remain closed. The lockdown period and the need for a number of parks staff to shield earlier in the year means that some parks work that would have normally been completed by this point may be ongoing through the winter period.

Question of Councillor Denise Fox to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

- Q. The City's leisure facilities are being badly let down by this Government's lack of financial support. What challenges to Government have been made by SCC for a fair settlement for Sheffield's leisure providers?**
- A. The Council Leader has written (along with Leaders of all Core Cities) to three Government Departments (MHCLG / DCMS / Treasury) calling for an urgent review of funding to support the re-opening of leisure facilities. In addition, the Council is supporting UK Active and Sport England, in highlighting the need for urgent financial support for the leisure industry from Government, to ensure that the reopening of public facilities is financially viable.

Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Question of Councillor Steve Ayris to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Q. At the September meeting of Council, I asked whether the Rapid Health Impact Assessments of the Covid-19 pandemic commissioned by the Sheffield Joint Health and Wellbeing Board, which you Chair, upon areas that cut across Council services, such as education, housing, employment, lifestyles, income and poverty, active travel, care and support, end of life, marginalisation, etc, would be made available to all elected Members of this Council. Councillor Drayton responded in your absence that she would raise my request with you.

Not appearing to have received a response at the time of writing and, following the meeting of the Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Board on 24th September 2020, where I understand a report on the Covid-19 impacts was discussed, I would be grateful if you would update Council on how elected Members may be informed by these assessments in their decision making.

A. The Health and Wellbeing board agreed on the 24th of September to work with public health officers to ensure that the report's findings can, where appropriate, be promulgated and utilised by decision-makers. This work is ongoing

Question of Councillor Mick Rooney to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Q. Given the rise in Covid-19 infections in the City, what support is in place to ensure that care homes are well protected, and for potential eventualities?

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

Questions of Councillor Jayne Dunn to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Q.1 How we are going to support those shielding, in care homes and those receiving home care? At this time, they must be a priority and given assurances as such.

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

Q.2 How is our digital strategy helping to prioritise the vulnerable and tackle digital exclusion?

A.2 You are right to say there are sections of Sheffield's communities that do not benefit from the internet or have the skills to do so and as such can be deemed as digitally excluded. Last month Councillor Fox outlined some of the actions in the Digital Inclusion Strategy that will help us work towards a more digitally inclusive city.

- Greater use of community facilities e.g. community centres and libraries to provide training opportunities and access to broadband
- Explore potential to provide a range of innovative approaches to overcome barriers to broadband access e.g. affordability
- Work with partners to develop a wider city region vision and strategy for Digital Inclusion focussing on the required skills for a prosperous city region
- Work with partners to make the best use of knowledge and resource to deliver the best outcomes for Sheffield with a particular focus on developing the digital skills of Sheffield residents and SCC employees, ensuring our support is targeted and recognises that different localities have different needs
- Identify and explore funding opportunities to drive forward Digital Inclusion work
- Establish a „Digital Community“ that will allow for the sharing of best practice and current activity

In the lockdown there have been concerns about the impact of isolation and loneliness on mental health. You will be aware that the Community Response Teams made over 5,000 social calls to residents up to September. Sheffield Mind has recently established a 'Listening Line' phone service for anxious and isolated callers age 50+. It has proved popular – the post lockdown period appears to be confusing and anxiety inducing for callers. Clearly being digitally excluded compounds the problems faced with loneliness and isolation, I would like to pay tribute to the tremendous work that has been undertaken within local communities as well and the work you have been involved in with Parson Cross Forum around a Memory Café. There has been a distinct lack of support or action on this from central government with no funding to recognise this issue, which is why the work we have undertaken in partnership with partners and community organisations throughout the city has played an important role.

Councillor Ben Curran (Chair of the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee)

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Ben Curran (Chair of the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee)

Q. In July 2017, full Council resolved that:-

- (I) considering the safety implications of the Hanover Tower Block cladding and the need to reassure the public of the robustness of building safety frameworks, requests that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee setting out:-**
 - (i) the reasons why the Hanover Tower Block came to fail fire safety tests;**
 - (ii) the cause of the failures; and**
 - (iii) the implications for other work carried out under the Decent Homes improvement scheme and for any other buildings in Sheffield.**

Now that the Council has finally issued its report, will the committee commit to examining these questions?

- A. It was agreed at the meeting on 1st October that we will consider the Hannover report at the next meeting, this will cover the issues raised in the 2017 Full Council resolution**

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