

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2018

#### COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

##### Questions

##### Answers

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

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|---|--|
| 1. Since the last full Council meeting (on 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2018) have you or your Cabinet Member for Business and Investment made any attempts to contact Mr Wang or a representative of Sichuan Guodong Construction?  | No   |
| 2. If so, what has been the response?   | N/A  |
| 3. Following the recent spate of knife incidents in the city, have you met with South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner or the Chief Constable? If yes, who attended, when were they held, who was invited and what actions have they agreed to tackle knife crime in the city? | <p>I hold regular meetings with the Chief Superintendent and Police and Crime Commissioner of South Yorkshire Police, as well as meetings in my own district, and have raised the issue of knife crime.</p> <p>Since March, 2018, to recognise the risk of Serious Organised Crime in the City (including violent crime), Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership has also established a strategic and operational response to concentrate on this issue which includes the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serious Organised Crime Board</li><li>• Fortify Organised Crime Board</li><li>• Operational Partnership Team Fortify based at Shepcote Lane</li></ul> <p>On a quarterly basis, the Executive and Serious Organised Crime Board takes place, which is co-chaired by Sheffield City Council's Chief Executive and Chief Superintendent of South Yorkshire Police. Councillor</p> |

Jim Steinke is also a member.

Question of Councillor Robert Murphy to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

What steps have you taken to make meetings of the Combined Authority more accessible to the public?

This issue has been raised at the public meeting of the Combined Authority and the Mayor is leading on this work.

Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Chris Peace (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

1. On what dates has the Accountable Care Partnership met?  
22 June 2017  
30 August 2017  
25 October 2017  
29 March 2018  
19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.
  
2. Are the minutes publicly available? If so, where?  
The Accountable Care Partnership Board has agreed that meetings will be in public. The first public meeting was on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The papers, including minutes, will be hosted on each of the constituent partners' websites.  
The Sheffield City Council website is [social care/accountable care partnership](#)  
  
This links to the CCG website - <http://www.sheffieldccg.nhs.uk/about-us/acp.htm>

Questions of Councillor Ben Curran to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

1. A number of local residents have raised concerns about cars parking illegally in front of Rivelin Primary school during school drop off and pick up times. This is causing congestion and air pollution from idling cars. Could you please outline what action the Council is taking to deal with this issue?

I am committed to ensuring the streets around schools are safe and that yellow zig-zag entrance markings are kept clear of parked cars.

By the end of the year, all Schools in Sheffield will be protected by a legal order to enable us to take enforcement action against drivers that park or stop on them in an unsafe manner.

We are also rolling out anti-idling restrictions near to schools, with signs informing drivers to switch their engines off or that they may be subject to a fine. Information to support messages to parents is also provided in advance of any enforcement activity. We have rolled this out to 21 schools in the most polluted parts of the City and will be continuing this through to March 2018.

Enforceable signs at Rivelin Primary School will be installed before the end of the year.

2. Would you be willing to join me at the School during drop off or pick up time to witness the issue that local residents are concerned about?

Yes.

Question of Councillor Ben Miskell to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Many residents have been in touch with me to raise concerns about road safety. What steps is the Administration taking to improve road safety in the Gleadless Common and Townend area?

Ensuring that people travelling on our network are safe is a very clear priority. If there are specific areas of concern in Gleadless Common and Townend then we will investigate these further.

Within our annual transport programme we are delivering further 20mph speed limit areas, improved pedestrian crossings, and targeted schemes that address recurrent accident problems that are

prioritised on a worst first basis.  
I can confirm that the area of Gleadless, Common Side, Hurlfield and Newfield Green will be included in a forthcoming Traffic Regulation Order, which will be published shortly.

Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

1. Since the last full Council meeting (on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018) have you met with local residents, bus operators and Councillors to discuss concerns over bus route changes? If so, what date did you meet and who attended those meetings? What was the outcome of these meetings?

Yes.

As a matter of course, I meet frequently with Councillors, residents and bus operators to discuss bus operations and improvements to the network.

Regarding the questions at the last Full Council meeting, I have met with Councillors Ben Curran, George Lindars-Hammond and Anne Murphy on numerous occasions, including bus operators. Several positive outcomes were secured.
2. Who represents you at meetings of the Sheffield Bus Partnership?

I represent myself. I have been doing this for many years now and am getting quite good at it.

In the event I am unable to attend, I instruct my Cabinet Advisor or a relevant Officer to attend on my behalf.
3. Are the main bus operators in Sheffield acting in compliance with the Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement?

Partners are acting in accordance with the Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement (SBPA) (which is in itself a voluntary agreement).

I am determined to make progress in several areas of the SBPA in the near future.
4. In respect of the last two financial years and the current year to date, in your Portfolio how much money has been received from discrete, specific time limited grants in response to a bidding process where the Council has been the

Sustainable Travel Transition Year, 2016/17 - £826,000.

Sustainable Travel Access Fund, 2017/18 - £735,837;  
2018/19 - £908,182;

lead bidder, or a partner bidder, or the accountable body, in respect of the European Union, the UK Government, or Sheffield City Region? Please specify in respect of each body.

2019/20 - £779,926.

National Productivity Investment Fund,  
2018/19 & 2019/20 - £3.36m;

Early Measures Fund,  
2018/19 & 2019/20 - £1.247m.

*NB: This list may not be exhaustive.*

5. In regards to the commuted sums collected from developers who do not want to build affordable housing, please can you provide the following information:-

This information cannot usefully be provided in the format of an answer to a Council question.

For convenience, I shall provide an electronic answer under separate cover and ensure this is circulated to all Councillors.

(a) each site where a commuted sum was paid and how much was paid for each site; and

(b) Where has the money collected been spent, or is planned to be spent?

Question of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

What is the current implementation start date for the 20mph zone for Greenhill, Meadowhead and Chancet Wood, and when will it be completed?

2018 /19.

Question of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

When can we expect the promised public consultation regarding traffic problems in Greenhill Village, including along Greenhill Main Road?

I am not aware of a promise for public consultation, but I am happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

There are currently no plans to undertake a consultation on traffic issues in Greenhill.

Question of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

The Council's website states "It is intended to publish a draft of the Sheffield

As I have said before, the draft local plan will be published when it is

Plan in 2018. It will also include site development options". Can you confirm that this will happen before January 2019?

ready for publication.

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

1. Has any Equality Impact Assessment been prepared in connection with the proposals for the General Cemetery?

I can confirm that extensive work on this issue was carried out at the pre-application stage as part of the HLF bid project and this issue was addressed in the planning application.

The planning application report and the supplementary item specifically addressed this, which we can circulate.

Several groups, such as "Disabled Persons Against Cuts" wrote in support of this application. Several others were surprised that there was a campaign against the provision of dedicated disabled parking spaces.

2. If so, when was it prepared, and will you make a copy available?

It was prepared in line with the Pre-Application process and further refined as part of the HLF bid.

You have access to the relevant documents.

3. Under the Gleadless Valley Masterplan:

- (a) What guarantee will you make that there will be no demolitions of existing houses?
- (b) What are the proposals to preserve existing woodland?
- (c) What are the proposals to preserve other, existing green spaces?
- (d) Will you give a guarantee there will be no loss of (i) existing woodland and (ii) other existing green space?

Questions to be answered by Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).

- (e) What are the proposals for green infrastructure, including specifically solar power generation, standards of insulation, and efficient heating systems?
- (f) Will the Council consider the development of community-owned microgeneration and for any income to be used by the community to spend locally?
- (g) How much is the development expected to generate in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts in total?
- (h) Will you guarantee that receipts of the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL will be spent locally?

Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

1. How much affordable housing has been built in the last 5 years, and how much in City Ward in particular?

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013, 1,023 new affordable homes have been built in the city.

I am not in a position to confirm the affordable housing levels within the City Ward before it existed.

2. What proportion of developments have contributed to affordable housing? What is this proportion in City Ward?

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, there were 190 planning permissions granted in the city for schemes of 15 or more dwellings (the threshold for affordable housing). Of these, 76 permissions were in the City Ward.

Over the same timescale, 12 planning permissions for 15 or more dwellings across the city have had Section 106 agreements for developer contributions towards affordable housing, totalling £10,245,311. Of these, six permissions were in the City Ward, with total developer contributions of £904,173.



3. Has the Heart of the City II development made any financial contributions to affordable housing?

The only part of Heart of the City II that has planning permission is the HSBC office.

It seems I need to clarify for you that offices are not residential.

You may wish to read the current Affordable Housing policy.

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

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| 1. How many houses are no longer student accommodation? Please provide figures year on year for the past three years.  | We don't have any evidence regarding properties that are no longer used as student accommodation in neighbourhoods.  |
| 2. How many knife bins do we have, where are they and how many do we have on Council land? Are there plans to introduce more?                                    | We have two, one in Broomhall and one in Burngreave. Knife bins are a police led initiative, there are none on Council land.   |
| 3. Scotland struggled with knife crime two years ago and introduced a zero tolerance policy - are there plans to introduce a zero tolerance policy in Sheffield? | We already have that approach – if you are found in possession of a knife without lawful reason in a public place, you will be arrested and a criminal justice outcome sought. |

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) (to be answered by Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety))

Under the Gleadless Valley Masterplan:

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|--|--|
| (a) What guarantee will you make that there will be no demolitions of existing houses? | There are no plans for large scale demolition.<br>We are presently at the very early stage of developing the master-plan, working closely with residents at Gleadless Valley. Many observations, priorities and options have been suggested which we are working through with residents and the community. We are planning future engagement events to ensure that we have captured their views correctly before we commence the more detailed long-term planning for the area. At every stage we will be checking back with the residents to ensure that they support how this plan is developed. |
| (b) What are the proposals to preserve existing woodland?                              | Following workshops with residents in September, we are still considering what options there are for improving the woodlands. We recognise the importance of the   |

woodlands in giving Gleadless Valley its unique character. Options for the woodlands will be shared at exhibitions on 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October.

- (c) What are the proposals to preserve other, existing green spaces?
- Following workshops with residents in September, we are still considering what options there are for the existing green space. Options for the green spaces will be shared at exhibitions on 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October.
- (d) Will you give a guarantee there will be no loss of (i) existing woodland and (ii) other existing green space?
- There are no plans for loss of woodland or green space, options are still being developed and the views of local residents need to be obtained. Our vision for Gleadless Valley is a great place to live, grow up and grow older with fantastic green spaces and good quality housing – woodland and green space clearly form an important part of this.
- (e) What are the proposals for green infrastructure, including specifically solar power generation, standards of insulation, and efficient heating systems?
- No specific proposals have yet emerged from the consultation with residents on these matters. It is anticipated that design standards for housing will be developed later in the project.
- (f) Will the Council consider the development of community-owned microgeneration and for any income to be used by the community to spend locally?
- Should interest for microgeneration come forward from the community through the consultation we are undertaking with residents, then the scheme will be considered if it helps to achieve the vision for the estate.
- (g) How much is the development expected to generate in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts in total?
- No assessment has been undertaken as it is not clear what development will be made at this stage.
- (h) Will you guarantee that receipts of the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL will be spent locally?
- As you are aware, a review of this approach is to be considered by Cabinet in due course and it would be in appropriate to pre-empt that review.

Question of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance)

In the last four years, year on year, how many hours have been lost to staff sickness in the Council?

Year	Hours Lost
2014/15	547304.81
2015/16	536825.96
2016/17	507629.81
2017/18	576453.93

Question of Councillor Sue Auckland to Councillor Lewis Dagnall (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)

Can you tell me what steps are being taken in advance, when severe wet weather is forecast, to ensure drains/gullies are clear in flooding hotspots?

When a Met Office rain warning or Environment Agency flood warning is issued for the Sheffield area, the Streets Ahead contract first level emergency response is for the Amey Operational Control Room Duty Officer to instruct Amey ISU teams to inspect and clear priority drainage features, including road gullies, pipelines and culvert grillages, at hotspot locations.

Questions of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to Councillor Lewis Dagnall (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)

1. In the last four years, how many fixed penalties have been issued each year for littering on the street or littering from a car?

3,731

2. In the last four years, how many incidents of fly tipping have been reported each year? Please list the top 10 hotspot areas for fly tipping. How many prosecutions have taken place?

Year	
Sep 14 - Aug 15	6772
Sep 15 - Aug 16	7425
Sep 16 - Aug 17	8086
Sep 17 - Aug 18	8878

Fly-tipping is dealt with by several services within the Council. Officers have prepared the following rankings by combining incidents recorded by Streets Ahead and Parks and Countryside.

The streets with the highest number of incidents:

1. Verdon Street
2. Grimesthorpe Road

3. Brunswick Road
4. Southey Avenue
5. Wade Street
6. Popple Street
7. Emerson Crescent
8. Robey Street
9. Derby Street
10. Firth Park Road

However, it is important to note that fly tipping is often carried out by people outside of the community. There are many environmental clean-up works undertaken by the Council where fly-tipping is highest, as well as litter picks by local Councillors and residents.

Regarding enforcement action, it is best to start with context around the Council's powers. During the past four years, the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for fly-tipping offences has streamlined the process. The LGA is calling for further improvements to the legal process to enable councils to take enforcement action more efficiently.

As listed above, there have been 3,731 fixed penalties for littering.

Fixed Penalty Notices (since March 2016): 91 for fly-tipping.

Prosecutions for fly-tipping: 46

All waste offence prosecutions (including offences such as failing to produce records about how waste was disposed of, or not being authorised to carry waste): 62.

Question of Councillor Gail Smith to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

What does the Council do to support young carers in Sheffield?

Sheffield City Council commissions a young carers service offering individual and group support to young carers in Sheffield from age 8-18 with transition support to the adult carers service for young people up to 25.

Young carers are offered up to 12 months emotional and practical support and have a referral pathway into the children and young people's counselling service for additional therapeutic support.

The service has developed links with over 80 local schools and Learn Sheffield support the engagement in identifying young carers champions in schools and raising awareness of the needs of young carers.

In addition the service administers an activity grant for the many young carers who do not access support, either through choice or who are waiting for support. Grants of up to £300 can be used to access sports, arts, experiences or products which enhance the lives of young carers and provide breaks from caring.

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

1. The increasing knife crime rate in this city is a big issue for young people. How are we engaging with schools and colleges to raise awareness and prevent this phenomenon increasing?

We are taking this issue very seriously and are working closely with our partners in the police and schools to tackle it and ensure young people are safe in our city. Knife crime is an issue affecting people of all ages and will only be effectively tackled through preventative work in schools and communities, and parents and families have a big role to play too in educating our children. As a Council we have worked recently with the Star newspaper on their 'Drop the Knife' campaign, and are supporting through this, the production of an information and learning resource that will be sent shortly to all schools in Sheffield. Our Youth Justice Service and our Community Youth Teams already work with the police to deliver knife awareness sessions in Schools, and officers are in the process of submitting a new bid to the Home Office in partnership with South Yorkshire Police, and a number of local voluntary organisations, to develop more gang and knife crime prevention interventions in schools and targeted work with young people most at risk.

2. In my maiden speech, I raised the issue of fairer funding for our schools. I suggested we take it forward as a Council to ask for fairer funding. What steps are we taking to address this situation?

The Council has united with the media, school leaders and MPs to lobby central Government to call for fairer funding for the city's schools and this work is ongoing.

We have briefed MPs and are engaging with national government to bring forward full implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF). This work has included correspondence with the Secretary of State and the Minister of State for School Standards.

We are working with the schools



sector via the Schools Forum, Locality meetings, Learn Sheffield, working groups and other meetings to engage stakeholders and consider the impacts of the National Funding Formula (NFF).

3. Do you think the introduction of academies was a mistake?

As a Council, we did not support the introduction of academies, however, we have and will always work closely in partnership with all our schools to challenge and support to ensure that whatever status or structure, we have great local inclusive schools, working for their local area.

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

1. Can you list all the types of business rates relief that the Council can award?

Mandatory (Charitable)  
Small Business  
Section 44a (Partly Occupied)  
Rural  
Transitional  
Discretionary (Not for Profit)  
Top Up  
Supporting Small Business  
Investing in Sheffield  
Hardship  
Enterprise Zone  
Newspaper  
Additional Transitional Relief  
Re-occupation (2014-16)  
Empty New Build (2013-2016)  
Living wage (2016-2018)  
Pub (2017-18)
2. For each type of relief, can you list how many times that relief was awarded, year on year, for the past five years?

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
3. Can you also provide the guidance given to officers on when to award discretionary relief?

Please refer to the Discretionary Relief Policy on the Council's website.
4. In response to a written question last month, you stated that a significant investor taking on a new facility will generate business rates income to the Council of almost £1m per year. Which investor is this and where is the facility located?

The example in question remains subject to Valuation Office confirmation and once that is secured, will be a matter of public record.
5. With regards to project Cavendish:

  - (a) When will the office accommodation be handed over to the main tenant?

HSBC will commence its fit-out in late November with early access provided and it is working towards occupation for late Summer next year.

- (b) How many of the ground floor retail units have been let? No retail units have been let at this stage. However, detailed discussions are taking place with retailers to the stage of negotiating head of terms for leasing space.
- (c) What is the latest forecast date for project completion? The main building and immediate public realm will reach practical completion in mid-January next year and the remaining public realm on Charter Square and the two food and beverage units will achieve practical completion in March next year.
- (d) What is the latest forecast for Council spending on this project? We are currently forecast to be £0.9 million under budget.
6. With regards to the Heart of the City II Project (including project Cavendish), how much has the Council spent to date on fees to Queensberry Real Estate? £1.73m
7. It has been reported that Queensberry are also working on other projects in the city centre on behalf of private sector investment companies. Is this consistent with the terms of the Council's contract with Queensberry, and are you personally satisfied that there is no conflict of interest? At the same time as opening its Northern Office, in Sheffield, Queensberry has been appointed by Harridge Developments Limited as of 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 to act as Development Manager on Velocity Hotel, and Asset Manager on Velocity Residential, both located at 10 St Mary's Gate Sheffield, S1 4LR.
- Queensberry has also recently employed further local resource to work on its Sheffield projects.
- The contract contains a conflict of interest clause. There are restrictions on Queensberry providing development management services within the city (3 mile radius from Heart of the City II (HotC II)). Due to the nature and status of the Velocity development, we see no conflict of interest with the HotC II development given that this Velocity scheme is a pre-existing scheme which already has been pre-let to a hotel group. The

reason for this is as follows:

- The Velocity Residential is already built and let as PRS accommodation. The Queensberry remit here is to asset manage the property for the owner/investor.
- The Velocity Hotel is already let to Accor Hotel Group since March 2018 and construction starts Autumn 2018. This is a turnkey development for an identified occupier who signed an agreement before Queensberry's involvement.
- Queensberry are employing additional resources.

8. The LocalGov magazine and BNP Paribas Real Estate report that local councils in the UK are spending record amounts of money on retail facilities, with £325m invested in just the first half of this year. How much of the Council spend on HOC II will be spent on new or refurbished retail units?

Heart of the City II is a regeneration scheme for the city centre, including office, residential and retail. We are not acquiring retail facilities as described in the report you have referred to. As explained in the Cabinet Report in March, the long term plan is that the scheme will be sold to investors.

9. Has the Council had any meetings with MVG Holdings or its associated companies in the last three years?

Yes.

10. How many times in the last six months have you, or officers in departments for which you have political responsibility, had meetings or discussions with the Sichuan Guodong Group or its associated companies?

None.

## Appendix to Councillor Iqbal's Answer to Question 2

NNDR Relief type Stats 2013 onwards						
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Name of Relief	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Mandatory Charity Relief	1001	1022	1008	1012	993	968
Discretionary Rate Relief	31	29	32	35	34	34
Top up Relief	3	3	3	5	3	3
Small Business Rate Relief	6427	6589	6885	7063	7351	7268
Pub Relief	0	0	0	0	170	157
Supporting Small Business Rate Relief	0	0	0	0	51	47
Section 44a Relief	35	30	16	17	5	5
Investing in Sheffield Relief	0	0	3	2	3	2
Retail Rate Relief	0	1507	2699	0	0	0
Hardship Relief	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Living Wage Relief	0	0	0	0	1	0
Reoccupation Relief	0	14	21	5	0	0
Enterprise Relief	1	1	1	1	0	0
Newspaper Relief	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Rate Relief	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transitional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ATR	0	0	0	0	395	0
Empty New Build	0	0	1	3	0	0

Transitional Relief: unable to provide a list of transitional relief in the timescale due to complexity of reports required, however, this is a mandatory relief where the level of award is decided by government rather than SCC.

Hardship relief: In practise, where hardship is considered, debt will be written off rather than relief awarded – this accounts for zero awards on the list.

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

1. Will you join me in congratulating the organisers of the Lowedges Festival, including Greenhill & Bradway TARA and the Friends of Greenhill Park, on their hugely successful 10th anniversary event last August? Yes.
2. Do you recognise the benefits community-organised events, fairs and festivals bring to communities across Sheffield and the local economy? Yes.
3. Will you therefore commit to not increasing the costs or charges levied by the Council for these community events to use Council land or parks for at least the remainder of the present and the coming municipal year?

With any activity in our parks and green spaces, the Council has a duty to ensure these activities are monitored and managed properly. All organisations and individuals running activities are asked to follow Council guidelines. These processes are in place to protect all parties, including the organisers themselves, and the documentation and fees charged are commensurate with other local authorities.

All fees/rents are benchmarked against similar activities and frequently benchmarked against other councils offering a similar arrangement. It is not possible to commit to no fee increases in future, however, the fees are reinvested into parks and open spaces in the city.