

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 5TH DECEMBER, 2018

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

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

1. The Government, in its budget last month, announced a top up of the Transforming Cities fund to £2.4 billion. The six Combined Mayoral Authorities have each been guaranteed funding from this fund.
 - (a) How much is West Midlands set to receive?
 - (b) How much is Greater Manchester set to receive?
 - (c) How much is Liverpool set to receive?
 - (d) How much is Tees Valley set to receive?
 - (e) How much is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough set to receive?
 - (f) How much is West of England set to receive?
 - (g) How much is Sheffield set to receive?

2. Since the last full Council meeting (Wednesday, 7th November, 2018):
 - (a) what contact have you had with the other three South Yorkshire Leaders in securing their agreement to progress the Sheffield City Region devolution deal?

As you will be aware, there are regular Sheffield City Region Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Leaders meetings. I also have regular contact with other South Yorkshire Leaders.
 - (b) please list all dates and those in attendance.

See above.

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| 3. Since the last full Council meeting (Wednesday, 7 th November, 2018): | We are currently developing a prospectus of investment proposals available to investors. We will be sending a copy of this to Sichuan Guodong when it is completed. |
| (a) have you or your Cabinet Member for Business and Investment made any attempts to contact Mr Wang or a representative of Sichuan Guodong Construction? | |
| (b) If so, what has been the response. | N/A |

Questions of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

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| 1. How many decisions have been fast tracked and therefore were unable to be 'called in' for scrutiny for each of the last five years? Please list them by year. | 2014 = 3
2015 = 9
2016 = 6
2017 = 9
2018 (to date) = 5
5 year total = 32. |
| 2. How many times has each Cabinet Member over the last five years certified a decision as requiring fast tracking? Please list them by year and by Cabinet Member and for all Members who served as Cabinet Members for any duration during that time period. | See list attached. |
| 3. When were you informed about the decision to save a number of trees earmarked for felling on Western Road? | A decision has not been made. Amey have brought forward proposals which will be consulted upon with the local community. As a participant in the mediated talks between STAG and the Council, I was aware of the proposals as part of this process. |

Decisions Fast Tracked

Date Decision Taken	Cabinet Member Certified	Portfolio
14/11/18	Jackie Drayton	CYPF
26/09/18	Julie Dore	Leader
08/05/18	Jack Scott	Transport and Development
04/05/18	Olivia Blake	Finance
23/02/18	Jack Scott	Transport and Development
04/12/17	Julie Dore	Leader
08/11/17	Olivia Blake	Finance
26/06/17	Julie Dore	Leader
31/03/17	Bryan Lodge	Environment
31/03/17	Julie Dore	Leader
24/03/17	Mazher Iqbal	Transport and Infrastructure
14/03/17	Leigh Bramall	Business and Economy
03/02/17	Bryan Lodge	Environment
16/01/17	Cate McDonald	Health and Social Care
28/10/16	Julie Dore	Leader
12/10/16	Jackie Drayton	CYPF
20/07/16	Leigh Bramall	Business and Economy
04/08/16	Leigh Bramall	Business and Economy
13/07/16	Leigh Bramall	Business and Economy
14/06/16	Julie Dore	Leader
16/10/15	Isobel Bowler	Neighbourhoods
11/08/15	Mary Lea	Health, Care and Independent Living
04/08/15	Sioned-Mair Richards	Neighbourhoods
31/07/15	Terry Fox	Environment and Transport
13/07/15	Jackie Drayton	CYPF
03/07/15	Julie Dore	Leader
03/07/15	Jackie Drayton	CYPF
26/03/15	Mary Lea	Health, Care and Independent Living
23/03/15	Mary Lea	Health, Care and Independent Living
25/11/14	Isobel Bowler	Culture, Sport and Leisure
28/10/14	Mary Lea	Health, Care and Independent Living
19/03/14	Jack Scott	Environment

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

1. Does the Council have any contracts or incomplete purchase orders with Interserve PLC? If so, how many and what is their total value?

Question to be answered by Councillor Blake
2. How much office floorspace is currently located in the city centre, and what is the current occupancy level?

Overall stock is circa 10m sq. ft. and vacancy rates have dropped to below 10%. Estimated availability is around 6-7% at the moment. This will continue to fall over 2019 as space becomes occupied.

By comparison, vacancy rates historically have been considerably higher - 10-15%, but much of the poorer stock has now been converted into residential use. The majority of the stock that remains is of Grade B and above and subject to the right enquiries is all eminently lettable.
3. How much new office floorspace is being created in the HOC2 project, including the new HSBC building?

Including the HSBC development, 516,000 sq.ft. Given the shortage of Grade A space, demand is currently healthy. Most of the planned office space in the development will only be delivered against pre-lettings, therefore delivered to meet demand. Due to the triangular shape of the plot and to maintain momentum following HSBC, Block C (now in for planning approval) is planned to be built speculatively. However, we are already receiving enquiries.
4. What is the potential impact of the proposed Clean Air charging zone on city centre business & investment?

The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is required in order to meet the Government's requirement for Sheffield to reduce its Nitrogen Dioxide levels and improve air quality in the shortest possible time.

We will be undertaking an economic appraisal of the charging zone proposals as part of the further development of the CAZ.

A key part of better understanding the implications of the charges to businesses across the City will be the consultation that is planned for early 2019, when we will be seeking the views of all drivers, owners and operators of vehicles included within the current CAZ C proposals.

(N.B. The CAZ C proposal will involve charges to the following non-compliant vehicles i.e. older than Euro 6 diesel and older than Euro 4 petrol:

Buses

Coaches

HGVs

LGVs

Taxis will be required to be Electric vehicles; LPG; or Hybrid-Petrol)

5. How has this impact been assessed?

Covered above.

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

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| 1. How many people responded to the Council's consultation on future improvements to the Ponderosa? | 352 |
| 2. When will a proposal based on the feedback from local people be published? | Before Christmas 2018 |

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

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| Following the report to Cabinet on the Building Better Parks Strategy, how might this affect the Graves Park Charity. Are there any plans to take commercial opportunities in Graves Park? Are there any plans for the disposal of more parkland? | Other than reviewing provision of catering in Graves Park when the current lease expires, there are no specific plans for commercial opportunities at this time and no plans for disposal. |
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Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

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| 1. How will money spent under the Building Better Parks Strategy be divided between destination parks and other parks and green spaces? | Any investment in parks will be considered on a site by site basis; depending on existing facilities, need, demand, community consultation etc. |
| 2. What public health indicators will be used in deciding where to focus resources under Building Better Parks? | The Building Better Parks Cabinet Report sets out all information about this policy |

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

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| 1. On how many days since the 2017 Christmas Lights Switch-On and last Sunday's 2018 similar event have diesel generators been used for Sheffield city centre events on pedestrian precincts at Barker's Pool, Fargate, The Moor and Tudor Square and at The Peace Gardens, Pinstone Street and Surrey Street? | Wherever possible, we use mains supplies, but we do have to rely on generators for most of our events. Some caterers and the fairground rides use diesel generators as we ban the use of petrol from a Health and Safety aspect. |
| 2. How many diesel generators are | We were asked to ban petrol |

permitted at these events?

generators from events approx. eight years ago on safety grounds (due to the highly flammable nature of petrol, it was deemed bad practice to use it in crowded places). Therefore, the terms and conditions of using our spaces state diesel or LPG generators. We do say that they should be in good state and reserve the right for the Safety Officer or Event Manager to refuse to let one be used if it is in bad condition.

3. How many diesel generators are currently being used in the city centre to provide electricity for the Christmas Market and the Giant Ferris Wheel?

Five generators.

7. Is it possible for the city of Sheffield again to show the way by mounting its excellent city centre events on a carbon-free model?

I think this would be very difficult to achieve with current resources in the city centre, but obviously happy to discuss with experts and take advice to make any practical changes. All major events need power, but we would be pleased to have examples of carbon free events to study and look at where it would be possible to work towards this.

Questions of Councillor Gail Smith to Councillor Chris Peace (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

1. When were you made aware of the closure of four wards at the Northern General Hospital? 27th November, 2018.

2. Who informed you and what action have you taken? Officers advised me of the situation and actions taken to date. The ward closures put significant pressure on the NHS going into winter which is obviously a time of high demand. So my focus is on ensuring that the Council provides support to the NHS and in particular to the public, ensuring people can get home quickly after a hospital stay and redoubling our efforts to ensure we help keep people safe and healthy at home. Earlier this month, Cabinet agreed the use of funding to support the health and care system over winter and some of this will be used in response to the current situation at the Northern General Hospital. I am asking to be kept informed of developments and will do everything I can to support our local NHS.

3. Are there any other public buildings that were constructed by the same company that undertook work at the Northern General Hospital? If so, could you please list them and provide Full Council with details of the actions you have taken. Question to be answered by Councillor Dunn.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Chris Peace (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

1. What commitments have been received from the Clinical Commissioning Group or Teaching Hospitals Trust to help meet the increased cost of social care arising from savings to the NHS of reducing the amount of time people have to stay in hospital? The Council is working with NHS organisations to ensure a sustainable approach to adult social care. The problem in Sheffield is that too many people are admitted to hospital, and once there, many stay longer than they need to. This increases costs both for the Council and for the NHS. In the NHS it is affected by large

investment in hospital beds, but significantly less investment in community health services like GPs and District Nurses. In the Council it results in lots of pressure to help ever-increasing numbers of people leave hospital, and little resource left to help keep them safe and independent so they don't need hospital in the first place. If the Council and the NHS don't work together to ensure a shift to prevention and wellbeing, then adult social care will become financially unsustainable and parts of the NHS may follow and we are committed, as a Council, to better joint working to achieve this.

Its important to work closely with our NHS partners on the whole health and care system in the interests of Sheffield people. We are committed to strengthening the Council's leadership role so we can drive the right improvements. This will involve a greater number of people feeling independent, safe and well at home, supported by well-funded local services in the community. Some of this is achievable with shifts in existing resources, but I will also ensure we fight both for Local Government and the NHS to receive the national funding that the people of Sheffield deserve.

2. Has this issue been discussed at any meetings of the Accountable Care Partnership? If so, on what dates?

This is a recurring subject of discussion as part of the Accountable Care Partnership, please see the link

<https://www.sheffieldccg.nhs.uk/about-us/311018.htm>

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

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| 1. Are you aware that "The Draft Sheffield Plan" has been listed for decision since 26 th April, 2018? | Yes. |
| 2. When will "The Draft Sheffield Plan" be published? Will it be published before Christmas 2018? | As I have stated in previous months, it will be published when it is ready. The answer will not change. |

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

Castlegate Conservation Area

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| 1. When will the consultation for the proposed Castlegate Conservation Area take place? | No date has been set for this. |
| 2. What is the Council's response to my request of 9 th August, 2018 for a temporary Article 4 direction to safeguard Castlegate's heritage until a conservation area can be decided? | I have not received a request from you to this effect. |
| 3. What consultations with community stakeholders, or others, have taken place in respect of the Council's proposed policy for the disposal of land at less than best consideration? | To be answered by Councillor Olivia Blake. |

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

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| 4. How many new electric vehicle (EV) charging points have been introduced in the city in the last 12 months? | Councils do not collect this information. |
| 5. How many are anticipated in the next 12 months? | 12 rapid chargers will be introduced by Sheffield City Council in the next year, more public chargers will be introduced where they can be secured as part of appropriate development. |

Community Infrastructure Levy

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| 6. When will the "guidance" containing the Council's distribution of the neighbourhood portion of CIL be published? | It will be published after it has been discussed by the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 13 th December, 2018. |
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7. What is the net gain and loss for each Ward, comparing the revised allocation with the amounts generated in each Ward from development?

I refer you to the answer I provided on this matter last month, which was:

“Prior to the Cabinet meeting, nothing was allocated to each Ward. Therefore, I am pleased to confirm that **every** Ward receives a net gain following the Cabinet decision, totalling £1.5m investment in Sheffield’s communities, particularly focusing on deprivation.

I am dismayed that the Green Party opposes a policy that will reduce inequality.”

8. Given that the Council has stated that a proportion of this “neighbour portion” (under the new scheme) is likely to be spent on small highways schemes, how much CIL is likely to be paid to Amey companies?

There has been no decision to target the Neighbourhood Portion on small highways schemes. Decisions on spending will be made by local Councillors.

Questions of Councillor Robert Murphy to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

1. When can we expect to see the review of the Green Parking Permit Scheme described in the Parking Strategy?

This is underway. I would expect to publish our findings in early 2019.

2. Is the Council planning on doing anything about the recently widened Chesterfield Road, where cars are allowed to park in the cycle lane which “leaves the road fundamentally unsafe for cyclists”, according to Cycle Sheffield?

Vehicles should not be parked in the bus/cycle lanes during the hours of operation and enforcement action will be taken if drivers are parking during these times.

3. What is the timetable for future consultation on residents’ parking schemes?

A report setting out the priority areas for controlled parking schemes across the city will be considered early in the New Year. A programme will be included which will set out the timescales. Each scheme will be consulted upon.

Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. The briefing on Gun and Knife Crime in Sheffield, provided at the full Council meeting on 7th November, 2018, made the claim that Operation Fortify was already showing signs of success. However, knife crime has been increasing since Operation Fortify began in 2016. Can you explain the assertion that the operation is showing signs of success given that the increasing incidence of knife crime indicates the opposite?

Operation Fortify began as a stand-alone operation in 2016 to tackle a specific organised crime group and not solely in relation to knife crime. The multi-agency FORTIFY team established, in October 2018, has been set up to address issues relating to organised crime, including the reduction and prevention of knife crime.

Whilst this is a new and unique approach, bringing together officers from community safety, the police, social care, youth workers and regulatory services, we are confident that, with the support of communities, FORTIFY will make significant inroads into the knife crime, which is both a local and national issue.

2. The proposal of a multi-disciplinary approach to reducing gangs and violent crime is welcomed. However, the Glasgow Violence Reduction Strategy included a significant offer of support for finding alternative routes to crime through work and training. Does the Council have a plan to finance similar alternative paths to reduce the appeal of the path to crime?

Sheffield's approach already encompasses services aimed at ensuring individuals (especially young people) identified as being at risk of becoming involved in violent crime are supported to access employment and training. This support is offered as part of a wider programme of work, including access to physical and mental health support, rehabilitation and access to resources around breaking the cycle of addiction.

Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. What is the current temperature (including wind chill) required to trigger Weather Watch?

Using the Met Office forecast, it is a "feels like" temperature of -2 for more than three hours between 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

2. When was the criterion to trigger Weather Watch last changed? What changes were made?

Review carried out in Summer 2018. Agreed Service Level Agreement with Fire Service and Red Cross for sit up service Winter 18/19

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| 3. | How many times, and on which dates, was Weather Watch triggered in 2017 and in 2018? | Weather Watch operated for 64 nights between 27 th November, 2017 to 21 st March, 2018. |
| 4. | What accommodation was available for rough sleepers during Weather Watch before the Fire Station was used for accommodation? | Crash pads at Brightmore Drive, Salvation Army, St Anne's, Roundabout and Cherrytree. Also used Earl Marshall Guest House. |
| 5. | Could you please provide a list of accommodations that are used to house people through the Out of Hours service? | Crash pads at Brightmore Drive, Salvation Army, St Anne's, SARA;s (women's refuge) and Roundabout. B&B Earl Marshall Guest House. |
| 6. | Following the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee meeting in July: | |
| (a) | was a Weather Watch Task and Finish Group established, and if so, who were the Members? | Yes, members were all the providers outlined at point 4 plus OOH's managers, Red Cross, HARC, Brightmore TA Managers, Framework Rough Sleeper Service (RSS) and Housing Solutions Managers. |
| (b) | has a new communication plan of Weather Watch been published? | Yes, press release to go out shortly and use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter to inform public. Daily email in the week to all providers/agencies to notify whether Weather Watch is operating. City Ambassadors approaching rough sleepers to inform them Weather Watch is operating alongside Framework RSS and our in-house rough sleeper team. |
| (c) | what was the result of the review of Weather Watch for 2017/18, and what were the recommendations? | Severe Weather Emergency Planning Co-ordinator and establishment of task and finish group. Consultation with service users, formalise agreement with fire service and red cross. Scope forms of shelter for women and couples. Explore different options for accommodation provision such as pop up shelters in suitable venues staffed by volunteers e.g. voluntary sector, local churches. |

Streamline information sharing between services to ensure informed decision making and placement. Encourage a Sheffield Response by scoping potential partners to help meet SWEP provision in commissioned and voluntary sector.

Questions of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. How many tenders were received for the recladding of Hanover Tower block?
The works have not been tendered. A waiver of standing orders has been approved to directly award this contract as this is believed to provide best value for the money taking into account design issue, timescales and the residents' frustrations.
2. Is the contractor the same one that installed the previous cladding, or does it have any links?
Alumet are the principal contractor for the new cladding. They were a sub-contractor of the original installer.

Questions of Councillor Robert Murphy to Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. Who is to fund the cost of the cladding work at the Hanover Tower block?
Financial provision has been made to fund the new cladding from the Housing Revenue Account. A grant submission has however been made to national Government for the cladding costs. Sheffield hopes to receive confirmation of the grant in December 2018.
2. Are there any plans to reclaim this money from the original installers?
No.

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Jim Steinke (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Your predecessor, Councillor Jayne Dunn, previously told this Council that the cost of removal and reinstatement of the Hanover Tower cladding was

The quoted figure of £425,000 did not include any reinstatement costs associated with new cladding. The actual cost of removal was £455,177.

estimated at £425,000. How much is the total estimated cost now?

The building works reinstatement cost is estimated at £2.8m plus fees. The total cost of removal and reinstatement work is £3.92m.

Questions of Councillor Paul Scriven to Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance)

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| 1. Please list all air travel taken by Council staff or elected Members in the last five years and list the cost of each air travel journey taken. | I have been advised that due to the time it will take for officers to go through the records, it is not possible to get the information in the timescales for the Council meeting. I will provide you with a written response to these questions. |
| 2. Please list the amount spent on hotel accommodation by year over the last 5 years, for council staff and elected members. | See above. |
| 3. Please list over the last three years the number of data breaches the Council has had and what service the data breaches occurred in. | See above. |
| 4. Please list the total spend for the last five years, broken down by year, of the amount the Council has spent on:-

(a) internal hospitality including drinks and food for internal meetings and events

(b) external hospitality. | See above. |

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance)

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| 1. The Month 6 Budget Monitoring Report states that “the Council has agreed a number of contingent liabilities relating to developments within the city centre”. Please provide:

(a) a detailed list of each contingent liability; | The main liability is a contingent liability for the former NUM building on Holly Street, where we are providing a guarantee to Sheffield City Region (SCR) for a Jessica loan to the developer. The guarantee value is £3.6m and we took a contingent liability at the end of 2017/18 of £1.8m. The development is almost complete, but the risk of |
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default of the loan repayment is still live and options are being reviewed with SCR. It is highly unlikely that a liability will be incurred given the current lettings.

Contingent liabilities are items where a future payment to settle them is possible but not probable. Hence, we do not recognise the actual liability by charging the revenue account, but do note it. Most contingent liabilities by their nature do not come to pass (so they never become “actual” liabilities that do get charged).

- (b) the potential cost of each one; and
- (c) the dates when each was agreed.

2. The Month 6 Budget Monitoring Report also states there is a £4.5m slippage in the delivery of planned budget savings on ‘Place Change’ programmes and the Housing General Fund. Please provide details of:

- (a) how much of this is due to slippage in Place Change; and
- (b) the reasons for the slippage in Place Change.

£3m of the slippage in delivery of BIPS relates to anticipated savings from the Place Change Programme (PCP).

We have had to put in place a new chart of accounts , which in turn will lead to sustainable savings , we have implemented a series of financial improvements many delivered through having better quality information which have enabled Place Portfolio to not only stay within budget, but actually be under budget in the current financial year.

Question of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment) (to be answered by Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance))

Does the Council have any contracts or incomplete purchase orders with Interserve PLC? If so, how many and

The Council has no contracts or incomplete purchase orders with Interserve PLC.

what is their total value?

The Council places purchase orders with Interserve Healthcare Limited for disability learning. The value of purchase orders is circa £22,000 a month.

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) (to be answered by Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance))

What consultations with community stakeholders, or others, have taken place in respect of the Council's proposed policy for the disposal of land at less than best consideration?

The policy relates to the legal framework within which the Authority disposes of its land and the circumstances under which it can consider a disposal at less than best consideration. It is a technical policy document which reflects the legal framework within which the Council operates.

Policies for disposal of assets to VCF and community groups will be the subject of further policy consideration.

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

1. What is the alternative plan that Amey have come up with for retaining those trees on Western Road which had previously been earmarked for felling?

We hope to speak to local residents about the full proposal in the near future. In the meantime, we have confirmed that we have developed a plan to retain all but three decaying trees on the war memorial avenues.
2. Will this alternative plan make 11 houses on Western Road 'uninsurable', as the report to Cabinet claimed last year?

No.

However, the report in fact said:

'Where root damage is occurring to private property leaving trees in place by carrying out these works will exacerbate this problem for the residents and will lead to insurance claims. The existing visible damage is covered in the estimates but the costs could increase once any work is commenced, as further damage may become apparent. Ultimately, the houses could become uninsurable.'
3. Why were Ward Councillors and, more importantly, local residents not informed before your statement was released?

Local residents on Western Road, Binfield Road and Oxford Street received hand-delivered letters on Tuesday, 6th November, confirming that the report of a new plan for the memorial trees was genuine. I also contacted Ward Councillors to this effect (see Q6).

It was important to respond urgently to media enquiries to confirm that the information was genuine, avoiding unnecessary speculation. Many residents will have turned to the local media to find out more about the news, so this was appropriate action to take.

Ultimately though, if you were unhappy about the release of this information you will have to direct your questions to Councillor Teal, and ask why she chose not to notify the local elected Members before releasing the information in the manner she did.

4. When was the decision to save the trees now no longer earmarked for felling on Western Road taken?
- There has not been a formal 'decision'. A draft proposal has been publicised, which I would like to see put into practice. We have further dialogue and consultation with local residents and stakeholder groups, as well as site visits, before finalising and enacting the proposal.
5. Who was the decision taken by?
- N/A, see above.
6. When had you planned on announcing this plan before it was leaked on 6th November?
- We had not agreed a date.
7. As of 9.00 a.m. on Monday 26th November (the day before the deadline for submission of written questions), I have not received a response from you regarding a briefing on the decision to save trees earmarked for felling on Western Road:
- On Tuesday 6th November, I contacted all three Ward Councillors to confirm that the media reports were genuine and to offer a further briefing in due course. I verbally updated Councillor Anne Murphy, and we are in the process of arranging a further briefing between ourselves.
- (a) when will I receive an answer?
- (b) if you answer after you receive these questions, could you explain what prompted you to reply?
- (c) when did Councillor Anne Murphy receive a briefing on the matter? This may not have taken the form of a formal briefing but updating her on the situation either prior to, or following the leak. Furthermore, please provide the correspondence, if it exists, in a written form.
- (d) Which officers were present and/or invited/requested for the briefing given to Councillor Anne Murphy? Or which officers were copied or blind copied into any email to Councillor Anne Murphy regarding the decision taken?

8. Given that the decision was leaked and is now in the public domain, will you agree to a local democracy reporter and other journalists from local/regional news outlets attending the briefing?

Both Ward Councillors and the local media will be adequately briefed.

Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Lewis Dagnall (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)

There are drains and gullies in and around Crosspool which are blocked. I have raised this issue on a few occasions without resolution. Could I ask that the matter is given priority. Also, what steps have been taken to deal with blocked gullies across the city in preparation for winter?

I have asked Amey to review the locations you have reported.

There are approximately 72,000 gullies in Sheffield which are cleaned at least annually. Certain locations receive additional cleans where silting up is a known problem. In addition to this, when the Council receives a report of a blocked gully, drainage teams clean the gully within one month. All gullies are on a cyclical cleaning programme, with an extra check and clearance on culverts and grilles if the city receives a storm warning.

Questions of Councillor Bob Pullin to Councillor Lewis Dagnall (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)

1. Which agency(ies) is/are responsible for monitoring any resultant increase in city centre pollution/deterioration in the air quality?
2. Are the results of any current monitoring available to the Council and/or the public?
3. Has the Council's Environmental Health Department or any other regulatory body provided the Council with monitoring data reporting any increase in city centre pollution, or otherwise, resulting from the use of commercial diesel generators at these events (e.g. school holidays events, St Patrick's day, Halloween, Christmas Lights switch-ons, Christmas Markets inter alia)?

The City Council is responsible for monitoring air quality levels across the city and we have to submit an annual report to Defra on this. This is undertaken by the Air Quality team.

Yes. The most recent reports are all available on the Council's website.

No.

4. Are any measures currently being considered to significantly reduce carbon emissions at Council-licensed events?
5. What is the proposed timescale, if any, for implementing alternative means of providing carbon-free electricity, particularly at Council-licensed city centre events, so as to minimise, or preferably totally avoid, additional pollution for the protection and long-term improvement of our citizens' health?

Our Green City Strategy sets out a number of ambitious actions to create a low carbon and sustainable city. This considers action at a city scale.

As above.

We intend to commence a procurement exercise for our own electricity in the near future.

The carbon footprint of each supplier will be a consideration in this exercise.

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

1. Nursery schools in this city are facing financial challenges. What work has the Council undertaken to support them in preparation for all eventualities? If none, why not?

To support all early years settings, Sheffield has raised the hourly rate per hour from £4.07 to £4.10 for the financial year 2018/19.

Sheffield has two nursery schools, Broomhall and Grace Owen. Nursery schools are different to other early years settings because of their specialist workforce of qualified teachers and nursery nurses. Work is currently ongoing to review the current position with a view to propose any action required through Sheffield Schools Forum.

2. Despite the introduction of the National Funding Formula, schools are still struggling to balance budgets. Many schools are using Pupil Premium to gap fund their budgets, money which is meant for the most disadvantaged pupils. What are the statistics for Pupil Premium in Sheffield? And what measures are we putting in place to make sure our most disadvantaged pupils receive the education they are entitled to from the Pupil Premium?

In line with national guidance, schools publish information on their websites about the use of Pupil Premium to improve educational attainment for disadvantaged pupils.

We have actively supported Sheffield schools in maximising their pupil premium income by working with housing benefits to identify pupils eligible for free school meals and auto awarding eligibility for those pupils who hadn't applied for free school meals.

Questions of Councillor Kaltum Rivers to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

1. Does the Council acknowledge the link between school exclusion and youth violence?

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. The Headteacher at the Sheffield Inclusion Centre is closely involved in this work at a city level. 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. What steps is the Council taking to reduce school exclusions?

There has been significant work over the last 18 months to increase the availability of support to children at risk of exclusion. In partnership with our schools through schools forum, we have increased investment in support, including the development of off-site nurture provision, outreach support from special schools, and support from health, such as speech and language therapy. This goes alongside a refocussing of services to support vulnerable families to ensure that support is not confined to the school setting. Much of the support is channelled through the Inclusion Panels and Primary and Secondary and these are crucial in sharing best practice and ensuring that schools must be able to evidence the amount of work they have done before receiving additional support and prior to exclusion.

This work is having an impact. In the current academic year, permanent exclusions are tracking at around 40% lower than this point in 2017/18. Fixed term exclusions have also reduced with a 24% and 32% reduction in primary and secondary respectively.

Questions of Councillor Gail Smith to Councillor Chris Peace (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care) (to be answered by Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills))

Are there any other public buildings that were constructed by the same company that undertook work at the Northern General Hospital? If so, could you please list them and provide Full

No, however, Kajima is a PFI partner in four Sheffield schools that became involved in the schools in 2011 after the construction of the buildings was completed by Kier Construction in

Council with details of the actions you have taken.

2007.

Kajima appointed independent consultants to carry out a fire risk survey on all four schools, which confirmed that satisfactory measures are in place and they are therefore not at risk from the issues apparently identified with the hospital scheme.

Sheffield City Council takes fire safety extremely seriously and we ensure that fire risk assessments are carried out on all Council buildings at regular intervals.

There are no known risks that require investigation and all schools will continue to operate as normal.

Question of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to Councillor Denise Fox (Chair of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee)

As the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chair, when were you informed about the decision to save a number of trees earmarked for felling on Western Road?

This information was announced by Councillor Teale on the radio, at a stage where the mediated talks between STAG and the Council were ongoing. I had not seen the proposals before Councillor Teale made the announcement and have not been notified. I would not particularly expect to be formally notified in my capacity as Scrutiny Chair, I would expect, in these circumstances, the first priority would be communicating with the public.