

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER , 2019

#### COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

##### Questions

##### Answers

#### *Question of Councillor Penny Baker to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)*

**Q. We are now informed that the Local Plan will not go out to consultation until 2021. What safeguards will be put in place to ensure that developers do not use the delay to ride rough shod through our city?**

**A. The Council has agreed a timetable for its new Local Plan, it is proposed to commence the first consultation in Summer 2020.**

In the meantime, we'll be working up the new Vision and Masterplan for the City Centre, and these documents will be a vital piece of evidence in the Local Plan.

Maximising what can be delivered through our city centre and brownfield sites will be crucial to delivering a sustainable plan which protects our green spaces which we know that local people want to see.

We believe that this new approach and this piece of work will be important in shaping our Local Plan and providing the evidence to show us exactly what can be developed in the city centre

We will also be issuing a position statement in the coming months on the City's 5 year housing land supply. The publication of a 5 year land supply will provide significantly greater certainty for both developers and communities whilst Local Plan is emerging

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

**Q. A number of questions remained unanswered at October's meeting, with the promise that answers would be provided and published on the website. Why has this not been done?**

**A. Out of the 130 questions asked at the October Council meeting, 118 were answered at the meeting, there were 12 individual answers not provided in time for the meeting, these 12 individual answers were relating to questions around 4 topics.**

I understand that 11 of the 12 answers have now been provided and on the other answer the Cabinet Member has emailed the Member asking the question seeking clarification about the information that he requires.

If you want to discuss why any answer took longer to provide, I suggest you follow it up with the relevant Cabinet Member.

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

**Q.1 What is the Council's policy on fireworks and animal welfare?**

A.1 The Council has statutory powers to deal with animal welfare. Should events on Council land or events requiring a licence be at risk of causing unnecessary suffering to livestock by virtue of firework use, the Council would consider this and any representations in making a decision about the event.

**Q.2 What powers does the Council have in restricting the use of fireworks?**

A.2 There are a range of powers available re restricting fireworks use and sale eg:

- Restricting 'adult' firework sales if under 18. It's against the law for anyone to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on certain occasions.
- Adult fireworks are category 2 and 3 fireworks - they don't include things like party poppers.
- Category 4 fireworks can only be used by professionals.

Fireworks must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for:

- Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight
- New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am

**Buying fireworks**

You can only buy fireworks (including sparklers) from registered sellers for private use on these dates:

- 15<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> November
- 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December
- 3 days before Diwali and Chinese New Year

At other times you can only buy fireworks from licensed shops.

You can be fined up to £5,000 and imprisoned for up to 6 months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

Further controls are possible where the Council owns the land where a display is taking place, or where the event is licensable and those controls relate to public safety and nuisance.

The police have further powers to deal with misuse of fireworks.

**Q.3 How does the Council actively raise awareness of the dangers of fireworks and their impact on animals and vulnerable residents?**

A.3 In respect of animals we employ an Animal Health Inspector to provide advice and

enforcement on animal related issues especially around livestock. This officer is regularly called upon to give advice.

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

**Q. When will the railings at The Greenway be repaired or replaced?**

**A. Work is due to commence on 13<sup>th</sup> November.**

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

**Q. How many properties have been acquired by the Council for use as Council housing since 1st April 2017? Of these, how many are (a) 1-bed; (b) 2-bed; (c) 3-bed; (d) 4-bed; (e) 5-bed or larger?**

**A. The total number of acquired properties since 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 is 179.**

Housing Growth – 12

3 beds – 8

4 beds – 4

General Acquisitions – 167

1 beds – 30

2 beds – 65

3 beds – 66

4 beds – 6

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

**On 22nd October, I sent an email marked Urgent to two senior officers, asking for their help with a woman and two children fleeing domestic violence. A local head teacher alerted me to the fact that the family had been sent to the Earl Marshall. At the Earl Marshall the woman was confronted by a naked man, and another person staying there tried to grab her purse from her. I asked the senior officers to help find safe emergency accommodation for the woman and her children who were already traumatised by the violence in their own home. I have yet to receive a reply from either officer.**

**Q.1 Do you think it is acceptable that the officers have failed to respond to my request for help for this family? What steps do you recommend that I take to address this issue of their lack of response?**

A.1 I do not know which senior officers in the Council were emailed by Alison Teal. HNS Housing Solutions do know about the case because a query was raised by Head of Service in Children's Services in response to a phone call from a Headteacher that was made to the PA to the Director of Children and Families. The Headteacher also contacted the Housing Solutions Service directly regarding the allegations made and these have been investigated. A review of CCTV of the communal areas where the incidents were alleged to have occurred do not support the allegations made. The police are not taking any action.

The family stayed at Earl Marshall for one night, and was provided with alternative hotel accommodation by the Council until a Temporary Accommodation unit was available.

**Q.2 Do you think it is acceptable to send a woman fleeing domestic violence with young children to the Earl Marshall? What message does this send to women who have the courage to escape violence in their own home?**

A.2 Bed and Breakfast Accommodation is only used in an emergency situation when no other accommodation is available and this is only on a nightly basis. As soon as a designated unit of temporary accommodation or supported housing which would include refuges is available, then the household is offered this. We currently have no families in bed and breakfast and on the day that you refer to only two families were in this accommodation. Both have now been found alternatives.

To fulfil the Council's duties under the homelessness legislation the use of bed and breakfast accommodation is allowed and the Council fully complies with **the statutory guidance to offer B+B for no longer than six weeks to families with children. The average stay for a family is five days.** All accommodation the Council use is compliant with housing regulations in relation to standards and quality. When a household is placed a risk assessment is conducted and any support needs taken account of. Families are provided with details of their case worker they can speak to discuss any concerns and we liaise daily with the owner of accommodation.

**Questions of Councillor Steve Ayriss to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care) - passed to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Lead for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety which includes Homelessness & Rough-Sleeping**

**Q.1 How many deaths of homeless people in Sheffield have there been each year over the last six years?**

A.1 Answers below relate only to individuals who were in temporary or emergency accommodation at the time of their death (not hostels), were classified as homeless, or who were known to be rough sleeping. We only have auditable data going back to 2015. It is possible there are other instances where an individual has lost contact or stopped engaging with services.

2015: 2  
2016: 1  
2017: 1

2018: 3  
2019: 3

**Q.2 How are the underlying causes of deaths broken down by number?**

A.2 Two out of the three deaths were due to overdose, one was from illness due to alcoholism in 2019. The previous year's recording was "cause unknown". This, in the past, is how these were required to be recorded deaths as I understand it. Our systems now require us to confirm the reason in more detail.

**Q.3 Do the numbers incorporate people "sleeping rough", and if so what is the breakdown?**

A.3 Yes, one in 2017 and one in 2019 were rough sleeping at their time of death.

**Q.4 How do the figures compare with national trends?**

A.4 For Q4, the recent ONS report provides an estimated number of deaths among homeless people for LAs in England. Their figures include people in supported accommodation (including hostels), which we've not included in our response in Q1, but they still give a point of comparison between core cities.

The report does come with the following caveat: "Rates calculated where there are fewer than 20 deaths need to be treated with caution as they are potentially unreliable."

The table below shows the number of deaths recorded in 2018

| <b>Homeless Deaths number</b> |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>City</b>                   | <b>Number</b> |
| Manchester                    | 19            |
| Birmingham                    | 23            |
| Bristol                       | 17            |
| Nottingham                    | 8             |
| Leeds                         | 12            |
| Sheffield                     | 3             |
| Liverpool                     | 20            |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne           | 20            |

The table below has the rough sleeper numbers from the most recent official figures from the 2018 counts on the gov. website as you can see Sheffield compares well compared with other Core Cities.

| <b><u>Rough Sleeper Numbers</u></b><br><b><u>2018</u></b> |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b><u>City</u></b>  | <b><u>Number</u></b> |
| Manchester  | 123                  |
| Birmingham  | 91                   |
| Bristol   | 82                   |
| Nottingham  | 34                   |
| Leeds   | 33                   |
| Leicester   | 31                   |
| Sheffield   | 27                   |
| Liverpool   | 15                   |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne                                       | 15                   |

**Q.5 How are you working with other statutory agencies such as NHS Sheffield and South Yorkshire Police to address any increasing trend?**

A.5 Although the number of deaths in Sheffield was lower than other core cities, we take any death seriously and want to avoid this at all costs. In Sheffield, we take a serious incident approach where all the agencies involved with individuals get together and look at a chronology of what happened to the person including the period of time leading up to the death. This is to ensure that any lessons learnt are acted upon in a multi-agency way.

Sheffield City Council works very closely with all key statutory agencies as well as third sector providers to prevent deaths. This includes a multi-agency information sharing group and a complex cases panel which involves people from all agencies and enables a package of support to be put in place.

The NHS Homeless Support Team now works on a flexible appointment and outreach basis which means that people can access support in a flexible way and often the support is taken to the people who need it.

Sheffield City Council has also employed a street outreach nurse linked to the Devonshire Green Medical Centre and are working with a specialist inclusion GP to ensure that people are accessing services when they need them.

Strategically Sheffield has a multi-agency Homeless prevention Strategy which sets out the key vision and priorities for the city. These actions are overseen by a multi-agency steering group and a bigger homeless prevention forum. The priorities include ending rough sleeping, better access to health and also looks at targeting vulnerable groups to prevent homelessness and offer holistic support.

We have dedicated meetings in place that oversees the management of these plans and support for complex individuals namely:

Homelessness Prevention Strategy Steering Group

Homelessness Prevention Forum  
Rough Sleepers Information Sharing Group  
Adults with Complex and Multiple Needs Group  
SCC Safeguarding Board.



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

**Q. How many of the 186 apprentices that Sheffield City Council employ are young people with learning disabilities?**

A. All employees self-declare disability. As at today's date, of the apprentices who have made a declaration that they have a disability, none of them are young people with learning disabilities.

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

**Q.1 I asked a question in April's Full Council meeting regarding how many Non-Disclosure Agreements have been used in the last five years and at what cost. I have not yet received a satisfactory response.**

A.1 Your question was answered at the April meeting, the answer can be accessed at the following the link, page 19 of the 'Members Questions' document.

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7271&Ver=4>

**Q.2 How many external consultants have the Council appointed in the last three years and at what cost?**

A.2 Due to the way that spend is categorised it is not possible to provide an accurate answer to this question without asking finance to undertake work which will take several hours of officer time. This will involve breaking down invoices at an individual level. If there is any particular piece of work or use of 'consultants' you are interested in please let me know.

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

**Q.1 How much has the Council spent on Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) for each of the last five municipal years?**

A.1 2015/16 £81,285.00  
2016/17 £144,530.00  
2017/18 £174,734.25  
2018/19 £174,722.50  
2019 to date £58,505.00 (115K forecasted for the rest of the financial year).

**Q.2 How many Council-owned vehicles are currently declared "SORN"?**

A.2 2

**Q.3 How many Council-owned or leased petrol motor vehicles do not meet Euro 6 emissions standards or better?**

A.3 13

**Q.4 How many Council-owned or leased diesel motor vehicles do not meet Euro 6 emissions standards or better?**

A.4 407, the majority to be replaced within the first two years of the vehicle replacement programme.

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

The following questions were asked at the October Council meeting, but have not as yet been answered:-

**Q.1 How many applications for committal to prison have Sheffield City Council made for non-payment of Council Tax over the last financial year (2018/19), and how many have been made by the Council on a yearly basis since 2011 (including 2011)?**

A.1 2011/12 – 100  
2012/13 – 160  
2013/14 – 229  
2014/15 – 233  
2015/16 – 200  
2016/17 – 200  
2017/18 – 128  
2018/19 – 0  
2019/20 – 0

**Q.2 How many people out of the above were, or are being, committed to prison?**

A.2 2017/18 – 2  
2018/19 – 0  
2019/20 – 0

**Q.3 How many times were bailiffs instructed in the above periods for reclamation of non-payment of Council Tax?**

A.3

| Year             | Equita | Rossendales | Total        |
|------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>2017/2018</b> | 6,649  | 3,328       | <b>9,977</b> |
| <b>2018/2019</b> | 4,848  | 4,829       | <b>9,677</b> |
| <b>2019/2020</b> | 2,053  | 2,275       | <b>4,328</b> |

**Q.4 How many times out of the above was the option taken by the Council to**

**“levy distress on goods” (taking of the debtor's property for debt recovery - as per the “Council Tax and Business Rates Recovery Policy”)?**

A.4 2017/18 – 43  
2018/19 – 35  
2019/20 – 0

**Q.5 How many applications for bankruptcy have Sheffield City Council made for non-payment of Council Tax each year since 2011 (including 2011)?**

A.5 2017/18 – 4  
2018/19 – 2  
2019/20 – 2

**Q.6 How many bankruptcy orders from the above were granted in each of those years?**

A.6 2018/19 – 1  
2019/20 - 0

**Q.7 How has the debt recovery for Council Tax arrears and Business tax arrears policy and other debt recovery policies been influenced on a general level by suicide prevention work?**

A.7 By ensuring that a debtor’s circumstances are taken into account when deciding the most appropriate form of recovery action, one of the main intentions of the Council’s recovery policy is to operate sensitive debt recovery procedures which do not place the individual in hardship. A key element of this is to quickly identify whether an individual may be vulnerable by following the recovery policy’s vulnerability criteria (below). The aim is to ensure that by taking appropriate recovery action an individual’s wellbeing and health, including their mental health, is not jeopardised.

### **Vulnerability Criteria**

*A failure to maximise collection of Council Tax and Business Rates will potentially put Council services at risk and increase the likelihood that Council Taxpayers and Ratepayers who do pay on time will have to subsidise non-payers through future increases in the level of Council Tax.*

*The Council recognises that some taxpayers and ratepayers will, due to their individual personal and financial circumstances, have extreme difficulty in paying their Council Tax and Business Rates, and recovery action, may not be appropriate where these suggest the taxpayer, ratepayer or other household members may be vulnerable in some way.*

*When considering any of the advanced recovery options referred to Section 6 of this Recovery Policy the Council’s Recovery Officers will make checks with other Council departments (Children and Families Social Services: Adult Social Services: Housing Services) to establish whether those services have identified*

*that the charge payer or any member of their household may be vulnerable in some way.*

*The Council will ensure processes are in place to ensure that due regard is given to this group of taxpayers' and ratepayers.*

*A person may be considered vulnerable in the following circumstances. The list is not exhaustive and each case will be decided on its own merits:*

- > The person is elderly*
- > The person is seriously ill or mentally or physically disabled*
- > The person has communication or learning difficulties*
- > The person has young children and where there is severe deprivation*
- > The person has recently experienced a recent marital break up*
- > The person has recently been bereaved or made unemployed*
- > The person has difficulty in understanding written or spoken English.*

*Falling into one of these categories does not automatically mean that recovery action is not appropriate. The Council will make individual decisions based upon the individual circumstances of the taxpayer or ratepayer to identify if recovery action is appropriate and, if so, what action to take.*

*Different recovery proceedings cannot be applied simultaneously to one customer, but can be applied subsequently if a debt remains outstanding. The choice of recovery action is made at the discretion of the Council's Recovery Officer and will take into account the taxpayers and ratepayers circumstances on a case by case basis and the guidance within this Policy.*

*The Revenues Service may become aware of vulnerable ratepayers and taxpayers following contact from the taxpayer, ratepayer or their representative or once recovery action is instigated. Alternatively, this information may become available from other internal systems used by the Council, from other service lines or from other support agencies.*

*Where the enforcement agent on visiting the taxpayer or ratepayer has vulnerability concerns, he is required to return the Liability Order instruction to the Council in order for the Council to decide upon the most appropriate recovery action.*

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

**Q.1 Following the Draft Audit Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, could you illustrate in detail what arrangements are put in place by the Administration to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (value for money)?**

**A.1 The external auditor's report gave the Council a clean bill of health, both in terms**

of its accounts and its Value for Money (VFM) arrangements. The processes in place to support VFM are numerous and embedded in the Council's overall constitution and governance, from Cabinet Members down through to all officers, who act within financial, HR and other processes that ensure VFM, plus the roles of specific officers such as the S151 officer, the Monitoring Officer and the role of Internal Audit. They also include the roles Scrutiny and Audit Committee. All these provide ongoing and constant checks at various stages. External Audit provide an annual external check on all these processes.

**Q.2 Who is the person (or persons) responsible to oversee that the arrangements are indeed proper and appropriate?**

A.2 See answer to question 1.

**Q.3 How often are these arrangements reviewed and updated?**

A.3 See answer to question 1.

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

**Q. What plans have been made for the compensation of workers who develop cancer after using glyphosate?**

A. The Council purchases Employers Liability Insurance which provides indemnity for work related injury and disease.\*

It holds sufficient insurance reserves to meet its future liabilities below the policy excess of the Employers Liability Insurance purchased. The insurance reserve is reviewed by a professional actuarial analysis which reports on the adequacy of the value of the reserve against anticipated future liabilities. The actuarial review is designed to factor in new claims liability potential for all emerging risks including occupational related cancer.

*\*SCC has a full history of Employers liability insurance dating back to 1978.*

**Questions of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) - to be answered by Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1 Is the Council a member of the cycle to work scheme?**

A.1 Yes the Council is a member of a cycle to work scheme and uses Cyclescheme as the provider.

**Q.2 If so, how many participants have been registered for each of the last five**

### **municipal years?**

A.2 The following information is based on Financial years due to our method of collation.

2019-20 – 100 – To date

2018-19 – 150

2017-18 – 140

2016-17 – 185

2015-16 – 182

2014-15 – 71

**Q.3 If so, is the scheme open to Elected Members?**

A.3 The scheme is open and available to employees as a salary sacrifice scheme.

### **Questions of Councillor Martin Phipps to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change) - to be answered by Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)**

**Q.1 A recent report from Harvard researchers, has concluded that consuming a plant-based diet is the single biggest way an individual can reduce their environmental impact, and can cut food-related carbon emissions by 50%. In light of this, and the climate emergency the Council declared, will the Council guarantee a plant-based food option on every menu in the Council's jurisdiction, every day, in line with the Vegan Society's Catering For Everyone campaign?**

A.1 Argent Catering, a local Sheffield firm, currently operate the Facilities Management Catering Concession. The concession requires them to look to meet the needs of the customers who use the facilities and services as well as assisting meeting some Councils objectives. I have extracted relevant parts which are outlined in the concession agreement and require argent to:

(a) provide a high quality catering function to include:

(i) 'standalone' permanent restaurant counter service at the two staff canteens currently operating in the Town Hall (The Whipp Inn) and Moorfoot (Flavours Restaurant)

(ii) Catering for meetings taking place at Town Hall, Moorfoot and in any other locations identified by the Council

(iii) Catering for services taking place in the Town Hall and any other locations, including ceremonies, weddings, festivals, conferences etc.;

(b) provide high quality meals, refreshments and variety to a standard that will satisfy all categories of Customers and encourage and stimulate further

demand;

- (c) provide a Council focused service, which reflects the needs of the diverse multicultural communities of Sheffield and surrounding areas i.e. provision of catering for special diets including religious and cultural dietary requirements;
- (d) market and promote the service and seek continual improvement in catering provision to customers and, in order to retain existing Customers whilst attracting new Customers
- (e) provide catering services which are compliant with all associated food hygiene and health and safety laws and Council policies and procedures
- (f) where possible, ensure that food sourced and offered through the service is the freshest, has the longest shelf life and is sourced considering sustainable and ethical practices.

A lot of the catering provided is based on what a customer will want for their event/wedding etc. the provision is designed to meet their needs. The increasing demand for plant based foods is part of the provision that Argent offer.

Customers booking an event etc can design their menus to meet their needs and this can include plant based provision. Example menus and the staff catering offer have plant based food options to allow people to make a plant based choice.

I have included an example menu from Flavours restaurant which includes daily plant based options as part of the menu to give a view on what is offered.

In addition we have looked at the take up at Moorfoot and it shows the following:-

- 49.78 % of items sold were suitable for vegetarians
- 30.53 % we suitable for Vegans
- 16.05 % of main meals sold were Vegan meals, this has increased, but it should be noted that a lot of customers buying these meals may not be vegan, people are making healthier choices generally.

In addition all the take away disposable catering ware is also plant based and compostable to reduce the reliance on plastic and land fill.

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

**Q.1 At the October Council meeting you announced a 15% reduction in Business Rates for traders in Chapel Walk, together with compensation from the developer. Will this reduction in Business Rates be backdated and, if so, to when?**

A.1 The 15% reduction was in respect of one ratepayer and was a reduction in Rateable Value (RV) applied by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) who are the only body with the power to make such a RV variation. This decision was made after the ratepayer concerned made the appropriate representations to the VOA. Any ratepayer who wishes to apply for a reduction in RV should also make an application to the VOA. Should the VOA decide to reduce the RV, they will also decide the date that this is effective from, this will include any consideration of backdating. The Council has no power to amend the RV of any property.

**Q.2 What steps have you taken to ensure that the developer pays out the compensation?**

A.2 Any matter of compensation between the parties involved in Chapel Walk is a private matter between them.

**Q.3 Have you received a detailed plan from Fargate Evolve for the completion of work in Chapel Walk and, if so, when will the scaffolding be coming down?**

A.3 Yes we have. Works have re-commenced and the external walls are being progressed. Our Director for City Centre Development advises:-

- Drop Scaffolding to Chapel Walk (3 storey section) Only January 2020
- Drop Scaffolding to Chapel Walk last section March 2020
- Hoist and Compound removal Summer 2020
- Handover and building completion September 2020

**Q.4 How many times has the project board for HOC2 met this year, and how many of those meetings have you attended?**

A.4 The project board meets every month, I attend the project board when required and have attended twice in the past year. I have regular briefings on the subject of Heart of the City 2 with the Director of City Centre Development. Heart of the City II will be on the agenda at next Scrutiny meeting and the Committee also considered progress last year.

**Q.5 A report to Cabinet on 9th October described HOC2 as a key area of financial risk for the Council. What actions are you taking to minimise those risks?**

A.5 The delivery of HoC II is being delivered on a risk-assessed basis. The first phase at £80m was completed on time and on budget and the Council now has an investment asset which it can retain and receive rental income, or sell at the right



time to the investment market.

The block by block delivery mechanism is one of the fundamental means of managing risk without financial commitment to the entire project.

We have the right delivery team in place who are well versed in managing such development projects.

We have a strong letting team in place.

We carry out financial reviews to check that market and economic conditions do not have any adverse impact and that we are then in a position to make changes as necessary. To date we have not had to make any changes, but this is under constant review.

Where possible, enabling the private sector to develop and deliver to our strategic objectives, such as the Kangaroo Works scheme being delivered by Angelo Gordon / Ridgeback at their risk.

**Q.6 When do you expect Phase 1 of the West Bar Square development to be completed?**

A.6 2022

**Q.7 Prior to signing the lease for the 100,000 sq ft office space in the West Bar development, did the Council carry out its own due diligence exercise or was that work contracted out to an external organisation? If the work was contracted out, who did it?**

A.7 The Council has not signed the lease - the Council is about to enter into the conditional agreement for lease. Property advice was provided by Cushman and Wakefield. Financial modelling was carried out by Sheffield City Council finance.

**Q.8 I first asked for details of interest payments on HOC2 borrowing in September. When will I receive this information?**

A.8 The Council has not borrowed money externally to fund Heart of the City II to date, therefore there are no external interest payments specifically to fund Heart of the City II at this time.

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

- Q. When will signage for the new HGV route restrictions be installed across the city?**
- A. The order to Amey specified that signs would be erected between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 for all four Environmental Weight Restriction Schemes. Officers have not been informed of any variation to that programme.

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

- Q. I understand that the Planning and Highways Department is undergoing a reorganisation. Please could you let me know whether the role of the Access Officers is being preserved and if not, how will the needs of people with disabilities be taken into account in the planning processes?**
- A. The Planning Service is currently going through a MER restructure. The proposal is currently “on hold” pending the outcome of a Collective Dispute. The proposed structure does not include a specific Access Officer post. Access issues would be dealt with by the Development Management and Building Control functions, as is the case in the majority of Councils.

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

- Q.1 What progress has been made with the review of parking and bus lane enforcement policy?**
- A.1 The review has begun and is benchmarking current practice against new legislation to consider what can be done to improve Parking in Sheffield.
- Q.2 Were you able to attend the most recent meeting of the Sheffield City Region Transport Board?**
- A.2 No
- Q.3 In the last 5 years, how much has been spent on external consultants in connection with preparations for the Sheffield Plan? Please specify the contractor, purpose and contract value.**
- A.3 It is not possible to disaggregate a specific figure in relation to the Local Plan as elements of work has been commissioned jointly with other services within the Council eg Housing

**Q.4 Please indicate current and planned expenditure on external consultants in connection with preparations for the Sheffield Plan (City Centre Vision, City Centre Master Plan, and City Centre Market View, etc)? Again, please specify the contractor, purpose and contract value.**

A.4 City Centre Vision – Arup (£21,436): to develop an overarching vision for the future development of the city centre.

City Centre Masterplan – Deloitte/Planit-IE (£132,000) – to develop the spatial expression of the vision by showing how new homes, employment, retail, leisure and cultural facilities can be developed in the city centre having regard to quality design, environmental impact, communities' health social, cultural and transport infrastructure requirements.

City Centre Residential Market Study – Colliers/Aspinall Verdi (£24,000) – to provide evidence on the demand for, and economic viability of, new housing in the city centre.

Maximising what can be delivered through our city centre and brownfield sites will be crucial to delivering a sustainable plan which protects our green spaces which we know that local people want to see.

We believe that this new approach and this piece of work will be important in shaping our Local Plan and providing the evidence to show us exactly what can be developed in the city centre

These pieces of work will provide vital evidence to support the Local Plan and are expected to help lever in significant investment into the city over the next 20 years.

**Question of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q.1 How many e-bikes does the Council own?**

A.1 90

**Q.2 Of those e-bikes, how many are currently on loan to:-**

- a) members of the public?
- b) Council employees or contractors?
- c) Elected Members?

A.2 a) 66 (plus 2 with Star journalists)  
b) 15  
c) 3

**Q.3 What schools are currently being considered for "school streets" schemes or trial schemes?**

A.3 The Council is going to pilot the school streets scheme as part of our work to encourage safer, greener and healthier travel to school in Sheffield. For the pilot, we will prioritise schools that meet the following criteria for selection.

- Those schools that have already gained ModeshiftSTARS accreditation and are actively engaged in the [school travel planning process](#).
- The schools must have a road outside their entrance that we consider suitable for closure during the set times.
- The road is not a major bus route

Those schools that meet the criteria are then prioritised using a process that awards points for a range of factors such as ModeshiftSTARS rating, Air Quality, School Support, number of residents affected, access Impacts and displacement of through traffic.

We will begin piloting the school streets scheme with five schools across the City, which have been selected using the prioritisation procedure. The schools chosen for the pilot are:

- Nether Edge
- Dobcroft infant
- Oasis Fir Vale
- Anns Grove
- Holt House

We are currently contacting the schools to see if they would like to take part in this trial.

**Question of Councillor Barbara Masters to Councillor Bob Johnson  
(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)**

**Q. Two separate petitions were presented at the last meeting of the full Council asking for action to be taken in respect of two stretches of road causing particular risks to all road users, but pedestrians in particular. The roads in question are the section of Abbeydale Road alongside 900 Abbeydale Road and the junction of Fossdale Road with Carterknowle Road. You stated that you would make site visits to these two locations accompanied by officers of the Council. Can you say whether these visits have yet been arranged and will you ensure that the local Councillors are informed of these in advance, as has been requested?**

**A. Dates offered to petitioners, confirmed on 30<sup>th</sup> October, local Councillors invited.**

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

**Q.1 Has the Council responded to the letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019 from**

**ClientEarth regarding the inclusion of robust carbon reduction targets in the Local Plan?**

A.1 Yes

**Q.2 If so, will you provide a copy of the response?**

A.2 Copy provided

**Q.3 How many job losses are envisaged in the Planning Department restructure?**

A.3 It is not possible to state the exact number of staff that will be recruited back into the new Planning Structure as this will depend upon how many are successful in the internal recruitment process and how many choose to request voluntary redundancy. The restructure remains subject to a Collective Dispute at this time.

**Q.4 Will you assure me that the full expertise of officers in the Urban Design, Conservation and Access for disabled people will be maintained?**

A.4 The proposed structure includes conservation roles. It does not include a specific role for an Access Officer. Access is a matter for all Planning staff (rather than just one post as at present) and would be part of both the Development Management and Building Control functions going forward.

**Q.5 What equality assessment has been made in respect of the proposal regarding the access officers?**

A.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Council's guidelines and procedures.

**Q.6 What steps have been taken to ensure that the Council complies with the public sector equality duty?**

A.6 The Development Management and Building Control Teams will continue to incorporate Access issues in their processes, and the proposed MER will comply with the issues referred to in the Equalities Impact Assessment.

**Q.7 What is the current proposal to support the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service?**

A.7 SYAS is not part of the proposed Planning restructure.

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

**Q. Given that (a) this Council declared a Climate Emergency in February this year and (b) the report presented to this Council by the Tyndall Centre in July quantified the city's required reduction in carbon dioxide emissions at**

**14% per year, can you either confirm that the minimum standards for power required from renewable energy sources in new developments will rise forthwith from 10%, or explain why not?**

- A. The Council's Core Strategy sets out that, for developments of five or more dwellings or more than 500sqm gross internal floorspace, 10% of predicted energy needs should come from decentralised renewable or low carbon energy. This is a requirement unless the applicant can provide evidence to show that it is not feasible or viable to do so. In some cases, we allow developments to be built to a higher standard of energy efficiency (called 'fabric first') where the applicant can demonstrate that this will have an equal or better outcome in terms of carbon reduction and energy saving.

The wider issue of climate change mitigation and adaptation of new development will be considered as part of the Council's Local Plan which is currently being developed.

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

- Q. **Pavement parking is inconsiderate to all pedestrians and is particularly hazardous to children, disabled people and older people. When will the Council take action to stop this and to properly enforce existing parking restrictions?**

- A. The Council is properly enforcing parking restrictions to deter pavement parking. Parking Services attend all reports from members of public and are also working with the Police in joint operations to enforce areas, with police powers, where that's possible.

However, most obstructive pavement parking occurs where there are no enforceable parking restrictions. The Council has lobbied Central Government for additional powers to deal with obstructive pavement parking and was one of only four local authorities invited to give evidence to the transport select committee in Westminster. That committee has recommended that legislation is put in place to allow authorities to deal with pavement parking in 2020.

Work has begun on reviewing areas in the city centre where pavement parking can't be dealt with by existing powers and we will be developing a scheme to deal with these issues in the coming months. This is likely to be a combination of targeted traffic Orders and physical obstructions.

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

- Q.1 **When Cllr Jack Scott was Cabinet Lead for Transport, he gave assurances that he would address anti-social parking by creating a byelaw to prevent**

**this increasing problem. Have you considered this option, and if not, will you look into it?**

A.1 I am looking into this with Officers

**Q.2 Can you tell me what the business case is that leads the Council to consider cutting the Access Officer jobs? Has a final decision been made on this?**

A.2 There is a clear business case as part of the MER proposals. This states that the Planning Service needs to operate consistently within its budget, and to focus on the delivery of its core services. The MER is subject to a Collective Dispute which remains ongoing. There is currently one Access Officer post, and the Council's statutory duties in relation to Access will continue to be fulfilled in the proposed structure.

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

**Q.1 How many prosecutions for fly tipping have been made in each of the past three years up to and including 2018/19?**

A.1 “Fly tipping” is usually taken to be a contravention of Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It is just one of the waste crimes prosecuted by the Environmental Protection Service.

2016/17 – 9  
2017/18 – 8  
2018/19 – 12

However, from March 2016 a Fixed Penalty was introduced to dispose of a Section 33 offence by use of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The Fixed Penalty is £400, reduced to £300 if paid promptly. These Notices were issued as follows:-

2016/17 – 22  
2017/18 – 40  
2018/19 – 49

There are other waste offences to assist the Council in preventing or disrupting fly tipping, for example businesses failing to produce waste transfer notes or not being authorised to collect waste. Fixed Penalty Notices in respect of these offences were issued as follows:-

2016/17 – 12  
2017/18 – 22  
2018/19 – 21

Legislation also allows the seizure of vehicles suspected of being involved in fly tipping. The team has seized four vehicles from 2017 to date.

**Q.2 Recycling centres have seen year on year reductions of one-off visits and issue of permits leading to a reduction of revenue income, coupled with a significant increase in fly tipping incidents increasing costs. What initiatives are being put in place to reverse this trend?**

A.2 For context there were 16 fewer one off requests in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 and 24 fewer permit applications for the same period. There is no charge for either the one-off permissions or permit applications, as such I feel that you may be mistaken regarding the point on reduction in revenue?

An explanation for the increase in the reported figures fly tipping incidents from 2017/18 to 2018/19 is an artefact of a requested change to the Amey contract, whereby the Contractor now removes any additional fly tipped waste within 100m of the original report which means we are subsequently reporting more clearances.



There has not been a significant increase in fly-tipping in Sheffield, as you wrongly assert. I am sure you would welcome the increased rigour with which we are asking the Amey contract to proactively seek out and remove waste.

With regards to initiatives to address the environmental crime of fly-tipping the following deterrents in addition to prosecutions are in use in Sheffield to reduce the incidents of fly-tipping:

Services continue to look at and use options on target hardening sites, height reduction barriers, bollards, using boulders to prevent vehicles fly tipping. These have been used in 2019 for example. Other actions include opening up site lines where possible in problem areas, and creating mowing strips, changing maintenance regimes to enable more frequent planned regimes.

We also provide signage in hotspot areas.

A very good example was the work undertaken around the Legacy Park / Worksop Road trams stop area last winter, working alongside other City Council landowners clearing site lines, landscaping and increasing mowing / litter picking regimes

Other actions include additional signage and use of mobile and fixed CCTV. We have also provided officers working in the evening and weekends in known hotspot areas or used cameras.

The City Council has an operational multi-service fly-tipping group which meets regularly to look at problem sites and fly-tipping reduction.

Over the years we have delivered various marketing campaigns e.g. the eyes campaign. We also undertake many visits to business premises re waste issues and put information out to residents regarding care to be taken when they pay others to dispose of waste. We also publicise prosecutions.

We are not complacent, and we will always look to do more. I would welcome any suggestions that you may wish to provide.

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

**Q. There are a number of gullies in Crosspool which have been reported blocked. Can you let me know when these are scheduled to be cleaned?**

A. Streets Ahead are aware of three gullies within the area that have been reported blocked. These will be addressed in the next few days. If there are other blocked gullies that you are aware of, please report through the normal reporting methods e.g. [streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk) and they will also be attended to. Gully cleaning is carried out on a cyclical basis, typically annually, with known trouble

spots cleaned more frequently. Any reports of blocked gullies are scheduled to be dealt with within five days.

If you would like to highlight issues regarding a specific road or gully then please let me know and I will be happy to undertake a site visit with you.

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

**Q. In September, Councillor Tim Huggan asked about the options for schools to recycle / repurpose plastic. The reply received included the statement that “During this financial year we are reviewing the waste and recycling services provided to Council buildings through the contract with Veolia in terms of value for money and recycling offer. Therefore, later in the year we may have a new solution that schools could choose to use” and you offered to give Councillor Huggan further information. I understand that he has not had any further information from you. Can you tell me when schools will be given these additional options for the plastic waste they produce?**

**A. As per our previous answer it is down to each school to make arrangements for their waste – the local authority is not responsible for this. The commitment we have previously given is:**

*‘During this financial year we are reviewing the waste and recycling services provided to Council buildings through the contract with Veolia in terms of value for money and recycling offer. Therefore, later in the year we may have a new solution that schools could choose to use.’*

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

**Q. What is the Administration doing to prevent the use of single use plastic or the repurposing of plastic to save it from the incinerator?**

**A. As per previous answers, the Council provides for the recycling of plastic bottles through the brown bin service. There is market demand for these types of plastic to be recycled in the UK/ EU markets without the need to export to Asia and third world countries.**

The Council has already acted to minimise single use plastics in Council catering supplies.

The Council supported the Governments (HM Treasury) consultation on the taxation of plastics with less than 30% recycled content and is awaiting the next

steps from the Government in implementing the Resources and Waste Strategy.

I have participated in radio communication regarding the reduction of use of all plastics and we will continue to communicate the importance of avoiding single use plastic wherever possible.

If you would like to suggest other measures that you feel appropriate, then I am happy to sit down and discuss with you in due course. I would maybe suggest that this issue is picked up by the Citizens assembly.

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

**Q.1 What opportunities has the Council been exploring (other than solar panels, better insulation, and electric bin lorries) to reduce its own carbon emissions and generate low or zero carbon energy?**

A.1 The Council is currently delivering a number of carbon reduction and energy saving projects across its own estate using its SALIX recycling fund. These projects have resulted in annual carbon reductions of over 100 tonnes per annum, with current investment in Moorfoot energy efficiency schemes taking this to over 200 tonnes per annum since 2017, when this completes at the end of this year.

Energy investment at both Staniforth Road and Manor Lane depots, as well as the current Moorfoot scheme, has included replacing old lighting with efficient LED lighting. A further environmental benefit from this approach is that the Council no longer needs to dispose of mercury or cadmium containing tubes and lamps, which also brings about further cost savings.

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

A.2 See A1

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

**Q.1 A recent report from Harvard researchers, has concluded that consuming a plant-based diet is the single biggest way an individual can reduce their environmental impact, and can cut food-related carbon emissions by 50%. In light of this, and the climate emergency the Council declared, will the Council guarantee a plant-based food option on every menu in the Council's jurisdiction, every day, in line with the Vegan Society's Catering For Everyone campaign?**

A.1 Question to be answered by Councillor Terry Fox.

**Q.2 Will the area in front of Sheffield Station be gritted this year over winter as a priority? This forms part of the “Gold Route” for pedestrians and cyclists and becomes slippery and dangerous over the winter, especially due to water from the fountains freezing.**

A.2 The station forecourt is not part of the public highway and is such is not included in the Streets Ahead contract for routine maintenance.

However, and in line with all major retail and heavy footfall pedestrian routes and areas in the city centre, and the perimeter of the major Sheffield hospital sites, the station forecourt is treated in the event of reported formations of snow or ice.

The problem with the water wall was resolved earlier this year and is not expected to cause a problem in the coming winter months.

For information, Sheffield already operates the largest percentage precautionary gritting network of any Local Authority in England, and in addition to this, provide more grit bins per kilometre of highway than any other Local Authority in the UK for residents, businesses and volunteers to help keep the highway free of snow and ice in adverse weather. This includes a significant provision of grit bins within the city centre and around the station. Grit bin locations, gritting routes and the latest treatment updates are all available and searchable on interactive maps.

If you feel there is a need for additional provision the please let me know and we can discuss further.

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

**Q.1 Has progress been made to bring about a cross-party Climate Crisis Committee?**

A. I have now had discussion with yourself and Councillor Tim Huggan. I will look to having a further meeting shortly to discuss where we are and what resources we would need, if any, to support this work. I understand that there was previously such a group, prior to 2008. I feel we should establish such a group with fair representation to all parties within this chamber.

**Q.2 On 17<sup>th</sup> July, the Council’s Cabinet published a report stating that the 309 trees previously due to be felled from the Core Investment Period had been investigated. After investigation, Amey established that 99.5% of the trees could be retained. However, Sheffield City Council has yet to ‘sign off’ on this. When will it be signed off?**

A.2 Amey and STAG, in conjunction with the Council, have engaged in dialogue to

work through these trees jointly to identify alternative solutions. This work remains on going and the Authority continue to monitor progress and will be update the website with further findings and recommendations in the near future.

**Q.3 Recycling centres have seen year on year reductions of one-off visits and issue of permits leading to a reduction of revenue income, coupled with a significant increase in fly tipping incidents increasing costs. What initiatives are being put in place to reverse this trend?**

A.3 For context, there were 16 fewer one-off requests in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 and 24 fewer permit applications for the same period. There is no charge for either the one-off permissions or permit applications, as such I feel that you may be mistaken regarding the point on reduction in revenue?

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Over the years we have delivered various marketing campaigns e.g. the eyes campaign. We also undertake many visits to business premises re waste issues and put information out to residents regarding care to be taken when they pay others to dispose of waste. We also publicise prosecutions.

We are not complacent, and we will always look to do more. I would welcome any suggestions that you may wish to provide.

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

**Q1. Earlier this year, the present Administration gave Sheffield City Trust (SIV) a £1 million emergency loan of tax payers money and intends to further subsidise it by £2.8 million a year. On top of this, another £3 million is also to be paid towards health and safety costs and the cost of maintenance at facilities. This amounts to a total cost of approximately £7m to the tax payer of Sheffield. Can you please give a date, or approximate date, when these amounts are to be paid to the Sheffield City Trust/SIV? Will it be before the end of this financial year or the beginning of the next financial year?**

A.1 Subsidy (net of the £1m temporary loan already advanced) would be paid prior to the end of this financial year, whilst maintenance support is likely to be made in staged payments in line with work undertaken through to March 2021.

**Q.2 It is concerning that a number of health and safety issues and maintenance issues at these venues have suddenly surfaced. Surely senior management whose salaries often exceed £100,000 per year should have kept their eye on the ball and managed the facilities properly. As the Cabinet Member with responsibility to ensure the efficient running of these facilities, are you intending to enquire or at least have an inspection as to how this situation has arisen?**

A.2 The maintenance requirements of SCT/SIV managed facilities have been monitored closely over recent years with a full set of maintenance requirements being documented and considered by both SCT and SCC.

However, austerity and the financial constraints that this has been placed on SCT and SCC has meant that spend on maintenance had been reduced to a minimum level only over recent years, to keep the buildings safe and operational.

Given the SCT's current financial position, it is necessary for SCC to now provide funds for essential maintenance to continue to ensure that the facilities remain safe and operational for the benefit of Sheffield's residents.

**Q.3 The £3million that is required over the next 18 months to carry out urgent works to keep facilities open is again very concerning, as surely these issues should have been explored and enquired into before at board/scrutiny meetings, with appropriate questions being asked by the Council's representative. Is it all Sheffield City Trust's fault or the fault of this Council for failing to identify lack of maintenance along with important health and safety issues?**

A.3 As previously explained, the maintenance requirements for the facilities have been closely monitored by both SCT and SCC over recent years.

The issue has not been one of identifying what maintenance work is required it has been one of managing the requirements within a context of reducing budgets. A number of items of work that have been delayed due to lack of budget are now

required to keep facilities safe and operational.

**Q.4 This Council withdrew its funding to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre in 2013 and tried to close it down. After a long battle to keep it open, the Leisure Centre is now run by the “Community for the Community”. Under the management of Sheffield City Trust/SIV, Stocksbridge Leisure Centre was losing money to the extent where the Council intended to close it. Would you agree that a pattern is beginning to emerge, with the blame being placed on lack of government funding rather than poor management?**

A.4 The decision to withdraw funding from Stocksbridge Leisure Centre was made as a direct consequence of cuts to the council’s budget from central government, which has meant severe reductions in funding and this has seen an impact on council services across the board, including the subsidy that has been provided to run leisure facilities.

**Q.5 Do you support “pop up gyms” and see them as a valuable asset to the community?**

A.5 Any organisation that supports the health and wellbeing of Sheffield’s residents is welcomed.

**Q.6 Do you believe that the business sector could offer a more powerful and constructive role in managing the sports facilities?**

A.6 SCC is currently reviewing the strategy for the delivery of sport and leisure in the city. The outcome of this work will provide an informed view of future facilities and operational models.



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

**Q.1 How many deaths of homeless people in Sheffield have there been each year over the last six years?**

A.1 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).

**Q.2 How are the underlying causes of deaths broken down by number?**

A.2 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).

**Q.3 Do the numbers incorporate people “sleeping rough”, and if so what is the breakdown?**

A.3 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).

**Q.4 How do the figures compare with national trends?**

A.4 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).

**Q.5 How are you working with other statutory agencies such as NHS Sheffield and South Yorkshire Police to address any increasing trend?**

A.5 To be answered by Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety).

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

**Q.1 Some schools built through PFI will be coming towards the end of their 25 year terms and will thus be due for renewal. What plans have been put in place at renewal and what are the likely financial consequences for the Council?**

A.1 The table below shows the current time table for contract expiry for each of the school PFI contracts

| Contract | Schools   | Contract expiry date |
|----------|---|----------------------|
| PFI 1    | Ecclesfield Secondary<br>Tupton Secondary<br>Fir vale Secondary<br>King Edwards lower Secondary<br>Owlerbrook Primary<br>Mosborough Primary | 2026                 |
| PFI 2    | Hinde House Secondary<br>King Ecgbert Secondary   | 2030                 |
| PFI 3    | Westfield Secondary<br>Meadowhead Secondary<br>Hinde House Primary<br>Grenoside Primary   | 2032                 |
| PFI 4    | Silverdale Secondary<br>Newfield secondary<br>Talbot special School   | 2034                 |
| PFI 5    | Bradfield Secondary   | 2037                 |

All the current contracts have significant building and asset lifecycle investments programmes which replace roofs, flooring, boilers, electrical wiring, fire alarm systems etc.

These PFI lifecycle models are continually updated and refreshed by regular conditions survey which bring forward, defer or spend funding to ensure the asset are effective managed through their life.

This funding is built into the PFI contractual payments to ensure that the building should not need replacement at the end of its life.

A significant number of the PFI schools have been altered and expanded to accommodate pupil and teaching and learning changes to ensure they are fit for purpose. These additions and changes will be maintained in a similar way to the original PFI school assets.

The contractual requirements mean that subject to fair wear and the buildings will be handed back in the same condition as provided at the start of the contract.

There are review and dilapidation process that establish this has happened and the contractors are required to put right any issues identified before the end of the contract.

Planning and engagement has started with Central Government in preparation of exiting the PFI 1 contract to ensure continued maintenance is funded via the school condition allocation for maintained schools and condition improvement fund for academy schools.

**Q.2 Primary Schools are under increasing pressure in particular around stretched budgets. What measures are in place to support headteachers and governing bodies?**

A.2 Historically, Sheffield schools have been underfunded, but by managing the implementation of the National Fair Funding, the Sheffield School Forum has protected the base rates of Sheffield primary schools.

Sheffield anticipates receiving an additional £19m for the Schools Block in 2020/21 and is currently working with the School Forum to manage the gradual movement towards the National Fair Funding.

For Sheffield maintained primary schools, the Local Authority provide support for schools facing financial pressures. This includes practical support in producing spending plans, modelling and advice for financial management in future years and close monitoring of schools actually in deficit through the Deficit Steering Group. We also provide cash flow loans to avoid difficulties with cash flow.

Our support for primary schools, which are academies, is limited by our responsibilities. Supporting academy schools in deficit lies with the Education Skills Funding Agency. They provide a range of tools to support academies and Multi Academy Trusts (MAT) for benchmarking and measuring best value.

**Q.3 There are schools which have not had Ofsted inspections for years. What is the longest period between inspections?**

A.3 Please see the table below for our schools with the most time elapsed since their last inspection:

| Phase     | School Name            | Date Inspected |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|
| Primary   | Dobcroft Junior        | 13/12/2006     |
|           | Beighton NI            | 14/03/2007     |
|           | Dobcroft Infant        | 15/05/2007     |
|           | St Wilfrid's Primary   | 23/10/2007     |
|           | Holt House Infant      | 26/02/2009     |
| Secondary | Notre Dame High School | 18/09/2008     |
| Special   | Holgate Meadows        | 01/11/2016     |
|           |                        |                |

Schools previously graded as Outstanding by Ofsted are exempt from the routine inspection cycle and, so, can go for periods of time without re-inspection. They are, however, still subject to regular risk analysis by Ofsted which means that Ofsted can inspect them if they have cause to.

Of the schools listed above, all the primary schools and the secondary school shown were previously graded as Outstanding, hence the greater time that has elapsed since their last inspections. The table shows the school in each sector – primary, secondary and special – with the greatest times elapsed since inspection. The table also lists the next four primary schools, in order, for additional context.

The Secretary of State, issued a statement on 1 September 2019 that plans would be issued to withdraw the exemption for inspection for Outstanding schools. However, the current Ofsted inspection framework, brought into effect from 1 September 2019, still includes the exemption for Outstanding schools. The DfE have not clarified when they will announce their new plans nor when they will be implemented from.