

Council Questions

Wednesday 4 November 2020
2.00 pm

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CITY OF SHEFFIELD**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT****MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 4TH NOVEMBER, 2020****COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO****Leader of the Council****Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q.1 What lessons have you personally learnt following the report by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman on the removal of street trees as part of the Council's 'Streets Ahead' programme of works delivered by its contractor, Amey?

A.1 The council has given a formal apology in response to the Ombudsman report, accepting the findings of the report, in addition to this both myself and the Cabinet Member have given an apology. This is in addition to the council publishing a document which was entitled 'Review of Tree Investigations- Lessons learned & Actions' which sets out how the council has learned lessons and the extensive work over the past two and a half years to develop a new approach including a new street tree strategy developed jointly with several partners including STAG.

The Lessons Learned Document sets out 10 specific lessons learned and 14 actions that have been taken to improve practice for the future.

Q.2 Given the opportunity what three things would you now do differently in relation to the street tree issue?

A.2 Please see the answer above, in addition to the response to the Ombudsman the council has published a lessons learned document which sets out 14 actions we are taking and we have apologised for the way in which the dispute was handled by the council through the councils formal apology, my statement to Cabinet and both the current and previous Cabinet Member have also apologised.

Q.3 Will you commit to a full independent inquiry into the city's tree-felling issue?

A.3 The Ombudsman has conducted an enquiry as you have pointed out, in addition to the Forestry Commission and the work the council has undertaken itself to provide a lessons learned document which identified 10 specific lessons learned and 14 actions as mentioned above, if there are any further specific questions that remain unanswered about this issue we are happy to answer them.

Q.4 During your term as leader of the Council, how many Ombudsman complaints have been upheld?

A.4 I will provide a written answer to this question and publish on the councils website.

Q.5 Please provide a list of all complaints upheld since May 2011?

A.5 See answer above.

Q.6 In light of these complaints, what actions have you taken to improve openness and transparency following these ombudsman decisions/complaints against the Council?

A.6 See answer above. As you are aware following all ombudsman's decisions, a response is produced and the council will implement any improvements/changes required.

Tier 3

Q.7 During negotiations with Central Government to move South Yorkshire into Tier 3 lockdown, how many meetings were you involved in? Please list each meeting and the date they took place.

A.7 I was involved in the many meetings, and conversations by email, and telephone regarding Tier 3 lockdown in the 2 weeks prior to the decision being made, between 9th and 21st October and this included with Government Ministers, civil servants, Sheffield City Region, South Yorkshire Leaders, MP's and Core City Leaders.

Q.8 What additional financial support over the £41million from Central Government did you and her your colleagues seek from the Government before signing up to a Tier 3 lockdown?

A.8 Leaders and the Mayor from South Yorks used the opportunity of the discussions to raise a wide number of funding issues related to COVID – this includes extending the furlough scheme to the 80% it was previously and for other workers such as self employed, the proper funding of Leisure Trusts that all 4 SY councils have that are currently excluded from government income support, Track and Trace, increased financial support for business support from the money that was given in addition from the level of support for local government as a whole – both this year and future years and better financial support for people isolating.

As I stated on the day this was announced in the end the government had a clear standard financial package of support they were willing to provide for areas going into Tier 3, with every area getting the same amount per head. The idea of negotiation on this was a charade.

Q.9 Are you disappointed that the Mayor of Sheffield City Region, Dan Jarvis did not seek clarity on the exit strategy for coming out of Tier 3 lockdown before he agreed to enter South Yorkshire tier 3 lockdown?

A.9 You are not correct to say Mayor Dan Jarvis did not seek clarity on an exit strategy before he agreed to enter Tier 3, he did do this and continues to work with South

Yorkshire Leaders to push for this as well as adequate funding for businesses, public services and people affected.

As I said on the day we were put into Tier 3, the government made it clear that they were putting South Yorkshire into Tier 3 due to the continued high level of cases across the region and increasingly concerning levels of hospital admission. The idea of negotiations about support packages or that they would be local decisions to move us into Tier 3 proved to be a charade, seen not only from South Yorkshire but every other area placed into Tier 3.

An exit strategy from the measures was one of the key things that we asked the government for and we are continuing to push for this, South Yorkshire is in the same position as other areas that have been put into Tier 3.

Clearly the situation has moved on since you asked this question with the national lockdown which needs to be factored in and what will happen at the end of the lockdown period.

Sheffield International Venues (SIV)

Q.10 In relation to SIV enterprises could you please list for each year since 2013, what was the annual turnover and profit for SIV enterprises?

A.10 Sheffield City Trust – the top charitable trust that runs everything
 Sheffield International Venues Limited – the operating company that runs the Sheffield Facilities
 SIV Enterprises Limited – a subsidiary trading company that was set up about 10 years ago to run facilities out of Sheffield

All the accounts and other corporate documents for each of the three companies above are publicly available on the Companies House website

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Q. Do you believe the current restrictions Sheffield is under in Tier 3 will be sufficient to bring R below 1, and if not what further interventions will you demand in order to bring R below 1?

A. The situation has clearly moved on from when you asked this question due to the impending national lockdown. At the council meeting there will be a briefing from the Director of Public Health and I would invite you to ask him his view on how effective the new national lockdown will impact on bringing the R below 1 in Sheffield.

In addition the Prevention and Management Board, which has cross party representation, including your Group Leader, will discuss and consider the data at different points as well as Sheffield's response and any potential future measures.

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

Q.1 Will you summarise the latest work that has taken place in the Council to prepare for Brexit?

A.1 The Council is taking appropriate measures to prepare for the increasing likelihood of leaving the EU transition period. We have reconvened the officer working group which had been doing work ahead of the day which Britain left the EU in February. The latest work is at an early stage but deals with the added complications which COVID-19 has brought to the year and will likely bring to the winter months.

The working group is meeting on a fortnightly basis to review the impacts, discuss mitigations and whether any further actions are needed and will update the assessment as more information becomes available.

I will ask the Scrutiny Board to consider Brexit as an item for their next meeting.

Q.2 What is the current anticipated financial impact on (a) the City Council, (b) businesses in Sheffield, (c) Sheffield residents?

A.2 (a) the city council

The working assumption for SCC regarding Brexit and current EU grant funding levels is that the outcome will be financially neutral. The CYP&FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee received a report in 2018 that summarised the key issues. We do not believe there have been material changes in the assumptions since then [Link to paper](#)

(b) Businesses in Sheffield

While we do not have a figure for the financial impact on businesses there are a range of potential implications for local businesses and some specific sectors. In particular if no progress is made on the UK tariff regime this will impact on goods. Free movement of goods would no longer occur so would require tariffs, standards and checks, with implications for supply chains. If there are no new arrangements for hauliers in place by the end of the year, there will be a permit based system with a limit on the number of permits issued. Data sharing will be another cost as the EU Commission has to rule on UK data protection regime being adequate to allow to send personal data to UK.

(c) Sheffield residents

There could be an financial impact on residents as there is the potential for price rises as a result of extra tariffs on businesses and imports. There is also an impact on any EU citizens who have not yet applied or been granted settled status, particularly as that scheme is due to come to an end in the summer of 2021.

Q.3 Please list the latest versions of different risk assessments or impact assessments that have been produced in connection with Brexit. Please provide copies.

A.3 There is not a traditional risk register which has been carried out in the most recent work on Brexit, however we are working on an risk and threat assessment document.

Q.4 What is the estimate of funding needed for (a) the City Council and (b) the city of Sheffield to make up for the impact of Brexit?

A.4 a) We're not expecting a significant direct financial impact on the Council.

b) We are expecting a negative financial impact on the city, but quantifying it is far from an exact science. Also, the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic will be hitting the city at the same time – making it hard to isolate specific impacts. The Council is working with partners to support Sheffield's recovery from the pandemic and any negative Brexit consequences.

Q.5 What further funding has the Council received from Central Government to assist with Brexit planning and preparations since the £305,000 that had been received by February 2020?

A.5 The Council has received a total of £315k from government to assist with Brexit planning.

Q.6 What is Sheffield's current position with regard to benefits from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

A.6 The Shared Prosperity Fund has been announced but the Government has not yet released any information on how it will be allocated or administered. The Institute for Government has summarised the latest position below:

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/european-structural-funds-after-brexit>

“In 2017, the UK government announced that it would replace EU Structural Funds with a successor arrangement called the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In its 2019 manifesto, the Conservative Party reiterated this pledge and committed to “at a minimum match the size of [Structural] funds in each nation”.

The UK will continue to receive EU structural funds during the transition period, which is due to end on 31 December 2020. The political declaration on the future UK–EU relationship does not envisage the UK continuing to contribute to – or receive – EU Structural Funds after that point.”

And :

“The 2019 Conservative manifesto promised that “£500 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund [will be] used to give disadvantaged people the skills they need to make a success of life.

Sheffield’s Latest Position.

The SPF has not yet been consulted upon – a Sheffield position will be developed once the Government produces proposals for its operation. For reference the latest rounds of EU /EU related funding that SCC has approved in recent months are summarised below:

1. EU Funding via BMBC - Business Productivity Programme (£277,000)
2. ERDF - Reopening High Streets Fund (£520,000)
3. Grey to Green (G2G) P2 / Angel Street (£603,000)

Q.7 Given that:

- (a) **the Local Government Ombudsman has found Sheffield City Council to have misled residents not just once but in two different reports relating to the Streets Ahead contract; and**
- (b) **the High Court has found the Council acted illegally in relation to its licensing functions not just once but in two different judgments,**
 1. **Do you agree that this Council sometimes has difficulty in learning lessons from its failures?**
 2. **Do you accept that this Council has been dishonest (as the Ombudsman has found)?**

A.7 1. The council has given a formal apology in response to the Ombudsman report, accepting the findings of the report, in addition to this both myself and the Cabinet Member have given an apology. This is in addition to the council publishing a document which was entitled ‘Review of Tree Investigations- Lessons learned & Actions’ which sets out how the council has learned lessons, including 10 lessons learned and 14 actions. There has been extensive work over the past two and a half years to develop a new approach including a new street tree strategy developed jointly with several partners including STAG.

2. See answer above, I have accepted the findings that the Ombudsman made about the councils actions, the council has issued a formal apology alongside an apology given by myself at Cabinet when the report was presented and the Cabinet Member has also apologised.

Q.8 Given that the reasons for starting legal action to imprison tree campaigners was based on the view that proper and reasonable attempts to persuade the

campaigners to withdraw, but that the Ombudsman has now found a “recurring pattern of the Council failing to be open and transparent in decisions taken under its Streets Ahead policy,” do you now regret starting injunction proceedings against members of the public, including members of this Council?

- A.8 As I stated in my apology at the Cabinet meeting, I regret the level to which situation escalated and believe that the dispute over street tree replacement should have been handled better than it was.

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

- .1 **Would you please explain why you have not yet resigned? During your tenure as the Strong Leader, the following examples provide sufficient reason for you to realise you have failed to uphold the Nolan Principles and must be held accountable and take responsibility by resigning:**

- **The injunctions obtained by Sheffield City Council (SCC) were based on information which misled the High Court. For example, in the High Court, SCC denied the contract contained an obligation to fell 17,500 trees and Mr Justice Males was persuaded to believe this figure was an “outlandish claim” by campaigners. However, it has subsequently been proven to be true.**

- **The Forestry Commission confirmed that thousands of trees were probably felled illegally;**

- **The exorbitant legal costs accumulated by SCC were motivated by a wish to bully and frighten residents peacefully campaigning for a cause which they were ultimately proved right to have campaigned for;**

- **The recent formal report of the Local Government Ombudsman describes a continual and repeated lack of transparency, openness and honesty.**

- **The Legal and Communications departments produced information which was fed to the press with the intention of damaging the campaign and campaigners’ reputation.**

- A.1 I do not agree with the falsehoods and suppositions in your question. As I have stated above the council has given a formal apology in response to the Ombudsman report, accepting the findings of the report, in addition to this both myself and the Cabinet Member have given an apology. This is in addition to the council published a document which was entitled ‘Review of Tree Investigations- Lessons learned & Actions’ which sets out how the council has learned lessons and the extensive work over the past two and a half years to develop a new approach including a new street tree strategy developed jointly with several partners including STAG.

- Q.2 Do you acknowledge that many campaigners lost considerable amounts of money in legal costs and time from work and do you agree they deserve to at least be compensated for their legal costs by the Council?**

- A.2 I acknowledge the campaigners have incurred costs due to decisions that they

have made around a High Court injunction.

Q.3 Do you agree that Street Tree Campaigners provided a great service to their communities and it would be appropriate for SCC to commemorate their efforts with a plaque similar to the one remembering the Kinder Trespass?

A.3 As you are aware over a long period of time we have been working with many stakeholders and groups across the city including STAG and have worked to develop the street tree strategy and the new approach.

The role of people willing to help in the community is an important part of the street tree strategy going forward and something we are really keen to work with tree campaigners and other groups on as we work with many groups on many different issues in the city.

I think the recognition of these campaigners, volunteers and groups such as STAG should be part of this work, which I think is more appropriate than one specific recognition.

Q.4 The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman report made clear that SCC misled the public about its tree removal strategy, misrepresented expert advice and acted with a “lack of transparency, openness and on occasion, honesty”. If the Leader of the Council is not responsible for these failings, who is? Who is being held accountable?

A.4 The council has given a formal apology in response to the Ombudsman report, accepting the findings of the report, in addition to this both myself and the Cabinet Member have given an apology. This is in addition to the council published a document which was entitled ‘Review of Tree Investigations- Lessons learned & Actions’ which sets out how the council has learned lessons and the extensive work over the past two and a half years to develop a new approach including a new street tree strategy developed jointly with several partners including STAG.

Q.5 How many officers, particularly in the Legal and Communications Departments, have been disciplined as a result of the LGSCO report findings?

A.5 As stated in the answers above the council has issued apologies to the people of Sheffield for the failures identified in the Ombudsman report. This is a question about council employees and I believe it is appropriate to be referred to the Head of Paid service if you are making a complaint against the conduct of any specific service or officers.

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q.1 When can we expect to see the complete set of answers to the 35 unanswered questions from the October full council meeting?

- A.1 The majority of these answers have now been provided, where they have not been we will ensure that they are as soon as possible. A total of 163 questions were asked to Cabinet Members at the October Full Council.
- Q.2 Will you and the Cabinet Members be available to their own back benchers in order to allow sufficient time for opposition Councillors to ask supplementary questions of Cabinet Members?**
- A.2 As stated above, Cabinet Members are answering many questions the vast majority of which are from opposition councillors, unlike you I do not believe that councillors of any political party should be banned from participating in the meeting through asking questions just because they come from a particular political party.
- Q.3 What is the exact criteria South Yorkshire will have to meet to leave Tier 3?**
- A.3 This question has been in some way superseded by the national lockdown announced by Government. However, as is the case for all Tier 3 areas there are currently no defined criteria nationally on exit –we will continue to work across South Yorkshire to push Government on what we think they should be. Our Directors of Public Health in South Yorks are working on this. The decision on exit criteria is ultimately one the Government will make but we are making our views known.
- Q.4 Do you believe that all members are entitled to the same information at the same time in order to best represent those who elected us?**
- A.4 With specific regards to COVID, if this is what the question is referring to, at the start of the pandemic a dedicated email address for members to direct any queries or requests for information around this issue to that email and you will receive a response as soon as possible.

In addition to this regular written briefings were given on a weekly basis to all elected members, in addition to this regular updates now being provided at Full Council meetings every month by the Director of Public Health

In addition to regular Zoom briefings from Community Response Teams to provide an update about the position in different localities.

In addition to this we have the Outbreak Control Board which has cross party representation, including from your party. This Board receives detailed information about the ongoing situation.

If the question is around another issues I would advise you to contact the relevant Cabinet Member

Questions around access to information are normally determined by the monitoring officer, if you have a request for any information which you are currently being told you are not entitled to and wish to dispute this I would advise you to contact the Monitoring Officer, or it is something you wish to raise with me

or the relevant Cabinet Member first you can do that as well.

Q.5 What scenarios can you describe where backbench members should not be entitled to the same information at the same time?

A.5 It is clearly difficult to speak about hypothetical scenarios, if there is a specific issue you would like to speak about I am happy for you to contact me or the relevant Cabinet Member directly.

Q.6 What steps have been taken to identify members and officers responsible for the damning behaviour highlighted by the Local Government Ombudsman report of the Sheffield street trees scandal?

A.6 As stated in the answers above the council has issued apologies to the people of Sheffield for the failures identified in the Ombudsman report, the Ombudsman's findings are with regards to the council rather than any individual.

With regards to the element of the question about council employees, it is appropriate to be referred to the Head of Paid service if you are making a complaint against the conduct of any specific service or officers.

With regards to elected members if you wish to make a complaint against the conduct of any specific member you are aware of the processes that are available to do this and that would be investigated as appropriate.

Q.7 Will the Council be making sure those responsible are held to account?

A.7 See answer above.

Q.8 What steps will be taken regarding disciplinary action for these individuals?

A.8 See answer above, disciplinary action of members of staff is an issue for the Head of Paid Service.

Q.9 Will the Council be pursuing those who are no longer at the Council who were key figures during the Sheffield street tree scandal?

A.9 It is not clear what you are referring to by 'pursuing'

Q.10 The Ombudsman said "the imperative for Councils to act with honesty, openness and transparency" suggests that this Council, with you as the strong leader, did the opposite. Will you do the right thing by Sheffielders and resign with immediate effect?

A.10 Over the past two and a half years we have changed the approach with regards to tree replacement, we have at different stages apologised and as said in the report this is not the first time we have accepted that we got things wrong with the way that this was handled. Most notably upon the production of the lessons learnt

document last year which is referenced in the report. With regards specifically to the Rustlings Road incident the council did give a full apology for those events and this is also referenced in the report. We wrote to the residents of Rustlings Road a week after that incident took place and I reiterate that apology today.

Finally, I think on a more positive note it is important to say that the fact that we are now working towards a street tree strategy that has been co-produced with the groups who were previously at the centre of the dispute is a demonstration of how far we have come together. As recognised in the report we are in a very different position today to where we were two and a half years ago and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making this happen.

Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Q.1 Could you give me a full and precise justification of Cabinet Members not replying to Members' Questions when absent on the day of Council Meetings, taking into account that the questions have to be submitted to them a week in advance, that Cabinet Members avail themselves of PAs and knowing full well that ultimately it is officers who prepare the answers?

A.1 The reason that this happened on this occasion last month, was that the Cabinet Member was unexpectedly admitted to hospital over the weekend before the council due to a serious medical emergency and was not able to attend to his email correspondence between the weekend and Council meeting. This Cabinet Member has provided written answers since the meeting

On other cases where Cabinet Members have not been able to attend the meeting, written answers have been provided.

Q.2 Do you believe that Cabinet Members discharge their duty satisfactorily by not replying to questions and thus avoiding scrutiny?

A.1 See above, this was an exceptional circumstance and I believe that given the circumstances it is extremely harsh and insensitive to approach this in the way that you have.

Q.3 Do you think that there should be formal appraisal of Cabinet Members exactly as there is for officers?

A.3 All Councillors, including Cabinet Members, are not employees and do not have formal appraisals in the same way as officers, however, as you are aware they are subject to the code of conduct and standards procedures, in addition they 'appraised' in a way that is very accountable to the people of Sheffield.

Question of Councillor Ben Miskell to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Q. Do you agree that it is appalling that the government have refused to fund free school meals in the half term week?

A. Yes, it is wrong that they have not committed to let children go hungry over half term and Christmas

They should do the right thing but if they do not, as we announced last week, we will continue to step in to provide this essential support

**Question of Councillor Ben Curran to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q. Do you agree that the Government should be providing more support for people and businesses impacted by Tier 3?

A. Yes, the council made this position clear to government, that more money was needed for Track and Trace, more was needed for business support, more was needed for the furlough scheme, more was needed to support people forced to self isolate and more was needed for public services.

It is interesting that now the whole country have been placed under these measures and not just the north of England the government agree that is is not possible to manage without this extra support

**Question of Councillor Ben Curran to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q. Can you confirm if the Government placed stipulations on what support can be provided to businesses and employees that have been forced to close due to Tier 3 measures?

A. Yes, the government would not allow the funding to be used to improve the two thirds furlough scheme they were offering

**Question of Councillor Ben Curran to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q. Are you concerned that the Government's approach is unduly impacting the north of England?

A. I think this has become clear for everyone to see, particularly after events over the weekend. The north of England has been treated with contempt

Question of Councillor Abdul Khayum to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

- Q. Can you provide an update on the first month of the insourcing of youth services into the Council?**
- A.
- The transition went smoothly with no disruption to young people's services
 - Staff have all got the resources they need to do their job
 - Staff have been meeting with colleagues who deliver complementary services and strengthening links and collaborative working
 - Youth Work has been increasing with 36 sessions per week being delivered, mostly through detached outdoor work. They have been working with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services and Community Safety on the Dark Nights initiative
 - Young people are being supported with information, advice and guidance to navigate the further education and employment market in the Covid environment
 - The staff are supporting reviews for those in schools with Education Health and Care Plans continue
 - Casework with vulnerable young people continues to help them to identify and follow positive pathways

Questions of Councillor Steve Ayriss to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care) to be answered by the Leader

- Q.1 In the negotiations leading to the deal struck between leaders in South Yorkshire and Central Government announced on 21st October, what medical criteria or required evidence were discussed as a basis for triggering when we will eventually come out of our Tier 3 'Highest Risk' category?**
- A.1 The government are still clarifying what criteria will be used to de-escalate areas from Tier 3 into Tier 2. We are working with other SY local authorities to influence these criteria.
- Q.2 Given the welcome £11 million secured for South Yorkshire for public health measures, what additional infrastructure and logistics changes will be introduced to the test, trace and isolate system locally to augment the turnaround in testing?**
- A.2 We are currently finalising how we will spend this additional money. Broadly it will go toward enhancing and intensifying the measures we have in place already as per the Outbreak Control plan. This includes prevention activity (such as that already led by Environmental Regulation and Licensing services), communications, supporting people with symptoms to access testing, potentially scaling up the local contact

tracing function that started on 21 October, and providing more support to people to help them successfully self-isolate.

Q.3 People's health and their economic welfare are intricately inter-linked. How will local people be given more confidence that by getting tested they can safely carry on with their lives?

A.3 Testing is just one component of helping us safely carry on with our lives. In addition to testing, we need to help people to understand our current situation in the pandemic, be able to confidently identify Covid symptoms (and get a test), then be supported to successful self isolate, if this is needed. This is at the heart of our Prevent, Test, Trace and Isolate programme, and is underpinned by our communications strategy.

Q.4 Previous local lockdowns elsewhere, without additional support, are shown to have been expensive failures. How will people be supported to enable them to isolate, get us out of the very high category as fast as possible, keep local infection rates down and stop the need for such a wide blanket lockdown again in South Yorkshire?

A.4 We know that many people need to help to self isolate, including financial support. We now have some funding from government to enable payments to help with self isolation, for those on the lowest incomes, however, we do not believe this is currently enough. We also have community teams in place to support people needing help to isolate, delivered through partnerships between council staff and the voluntary, community and faith sector. Our targeted contact tracing service is also assisting with this, as we can make direct contact with people who have tested positive, to ask them how best we can support them to self isolate.

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

Questions of Councillor Gail Smith to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

Q.1 How many people are homeless and rough-sleeping on the streets in Sheffield?

A.1 The last official count from Wednesday 27th October found there were 24 individuals rough-sleeping. Of these 3 were not homeless and had accommodation that they were not using. We do a daily outreach and the number found sleeping rough varies between 9 and 24 at the current time.

Q.2 How many of these people have we re-housed? Please list whether this is in temporary or permanent accommodation.

A.2 Out of the 24 individuals found from the last official count:

- 2 have SCC permanent accommodation
- 1 individual has temporary accommodation
- 1 individual is waiting for temporary accommodation
- 1 individual was offered temporary accommodation but did not accept it.

The remaining people are either new to the service, have an ongoing case or are not engaging with the service at present.

Q.3 When will people be allowed to use the Council House Exchange Scheme again after it was paused because of Covid-19?

A.3 The Mutual Exchange scheme was reinstated on the 17th September and is currently in operation.

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

Q.1 How many refuge places are there in Sheffield in each of the last six months?

A.1 There are 36 refuge places in Sheffield, and there are currently no vacancies. In the last 6 months 79 places have been used. There are also:

- 3 emergency rooms
- 16 Safe Zone properties, with a further 2 properties to be made available this month. (These are properties that were originally set up for people for whom refuge accommodation might not be suitable but have been opened up wider due to the demand for places)

Q.2 How many people/families are waiting for a refuge place in Sheffield in each of the last 6 months?

A.2 There are no waiting lists for refuge places. This is emergency provision that is

offered to people if there is a vacancy when they are referred. If there is no vacancy in the refuge places alternative provision is offered.

Q.3 How many people/families have moved from a refuge to permanent accommodation in each of the last 6 months?

A.3 Please note this is a best estimate as there are complications due to different ways of working and system use during the Covid period. In the last 6 months 20 households have moved from a refuge to permanent accommodation.

May - 7

June - 4

July - 3

Aug - 3

Sep - 3

Oct – 0 (But 5 have been made an offer)

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

Q.1 How many repairs to Council homes are incomplete and pending?

A.1 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.2 Will you provide a rent free period to tenants until repairs are done?

A.2 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.3 How long is too long to wait for repairs?

A.3 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.4 What steps are being taken to speed up repairs?

A.4 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.5 How many staff have there been in the Repairs and Maintenance Department, yearly since the year before it was taken back in house till present day?

A.5 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.6 At what point do tenants receive compensation for incomplete repairs?

A.6 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.7 What steps have been taken to ensure officers in the homes department can deal with urgent repairs after officers in the Repairs and Maintenance Department have left work?

A.7 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.8 How do you anticipate the new IT system in Repairs and Maintenance making the department deal with repairs more quickly?

A.8 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.9 What steps have been taken to improve the woeful communications from Repairs and Maintenance department?

A.9 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.10 How many workers are employed through agencies for Repairs and Maintenance department?

A.10 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.11 How many subcontracted companies are working in the Repairs and Maintenance department?

A.11 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.12 What towns or cities are the subcontracted companies based?

A.12 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.13 What has been done by the City Council to ensure that firework laws are being kept to regarding:

(a) Sales

(b) Times they are set off

A.13 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.14 What work has been done to look into possibilities of banning private sales altogether?

A.14 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.15 What work has been done to look at the effect on emergency services over the 5th November period?

A.15 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.16 What work has been done to measure the effect on air quality during the 5th November period?

A.16 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.17 What work has been done to investigate local options regarding bylaws with fireworks?

A.17 I will provide a written response to this question

Q.18 What work has been done to research the effect on animals during the 5th November period?

A.18 I will provide a written response to this question

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

Q.1 Which firm of solicitors was appointed to provide advice in relation to the Hanover Tower investigation into combustible cladding?

A.1 This information and the final reports (including experts report) can be located on the Council website.

Geldards were engaged to advise on whether the Council had a legal case against any third party. Their costs included the fees for both specialist barrister advice and expert building regulations advice. Their report was key to the conclusions made about the liabilities of third parties. The building regulations expert report appeared as an appendix to the Hanover Tower report.

Q.2 How much were they paid?

A.2 £38,000 including barristers and experts fees

Q.3 Does this include the cost of the architect, Bart Kavanagh?

A.3 Yes.

Q.4 Will this cost fall to council taxpayers via the general fund or to council tenants via the Housing Revenue Account?

A.4 It will be funded from the HRA.

Q.5 Who was the most Senior Officer or Cabinet Member to sign off the Hanover Tower specification, dated 29th July 2010, requiring the use of Alucobond?

A.5 The specification was produced by the Council. The Principal Architect was responsible for this project and the specification and they retired from the Council some years ago. This was a design and build contract and the Principal Contractor had a role in providing information on the cladding that went into the specification. There was no sign off by a Cabinet Member of a technical specification document and nor would this be appropriate.

Q.6 Will you provide a copy of the complete specification?

A.6 All documentation is already in the public domain – a link can be found on the Council's website to the full set of documents that the council has made available

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

Q. Further to your response in October, when you said that a “thorough lesson’s learnt exercise has been undertaken as the investigation has been carried out” and the Council will act on these recommendations, will you please set out exactly what lessons that have been learned?

A. Whilst this was not the remit of the report compiling it did allow the Council to consider the nature of Design and Build contracts where responsibility sits with the contractor and a number of areas that would improve the management of D&B contracts going forward.

- A review of document retention policy to ensure project details are retained in line with legal requirements
- To ensure that any future changes in IT provision document storage is protected as part of any changes
- Review the risk profile associated with design and build projects and ensure these are fully appreciated and evaluated
- Check that the current design protocols and sign off process adopted by SCC is fit for purpose to ensure (the current processes have been adopted since the Hanover project was completed).
- Ensure competent qualified people are appointed to advise and manage on high risk design projects and obtain third party expert opinion of the designs proposed
- Employ third party accredited team to undertake sample checks through the build process to check that what was specified is being installed to the required standard.

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Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Questions of Councillor Jayne Dunn to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Q. Can you provide an update on the current position of how the Council is carrying out its duties to children and families, such as statutory visits?

- A. Our Vision remained the same – ‘ Children and young people are safe and supported to achieve their full potential’
- Children are at the centre of our practice
 - We intervene at the earliest opportunity
 - Our workforce are skilled and supported to do the work that they need to
 - Children and families benefit from high performing and high quality services

The government allowed a flexibility to our Practice Standards. All cases were reviewed and rag rated. Staff continued to contact children, young people and families some remotely some physically, under covid-19 secure guidelines. There was Virtual delivery of Review Meetings, including Child in Need, Child protection and Children Looked After; Child Protection Conferences; and decision making panels, including legal gateway, fostering and adoptions panels. Our workforce worked remotely and we have increased provision and coordination of ICT. Mitigations were put in place for reductions to universal provision eg health, housing and CAMHS. There was some re-prioritisation of service delivery. Unfortunately there was a cessation of some services that couldn't be provided safely eg group, residential, short breaks.

400 masks were initially donated to the Leaving Care Service, with lots more after that. Short break groups with children started at Thornbridge. Activities include football, den making, climbing, biking, walking, table tennis, arts and crafts. Face to face family time was paused until we were assured this was safe. This has now resumed and being increased incrementally. Statutory visits with children are now taking place face to face, additional visits may be done virtually. After a short closure Short break residential homes have reopened to support children and families with respite – Gibson & Chancet Wood.

2000 'Bags of creativity' have been delivered to our children and young people. Our audit process has been strengthened as it now includes talking to young people. 10 children placed for adoption in first quarter of the year. Fostering service running activities for children over the summer. Laptops and Wi-Fi have been distributed to our young people for school/college work and to engage in virtual meetings with their key workers. 5000 books from IVE in Leeds delivered to Talbot school learning centre to distribute across schools in Sheffield. Our children's homes have continued to care and support our most complex young people all throughout the lockdown period.

Although during the lockdown period there was a reduction in the number of contacts and referrals, the number of families requiring assessment remained the

same. Social workers continued to visit families both virtually and face to face. Section 17 payments have increased significantly. The depleted support available through charities in addition to increased isolation and poverty. Enhanced offers of support to primary age children who may have experienced domestic abuse within their home. Direct Contact was suspended until we could be assured this is safe, it has now resumed albeit a significantly reduced offer which is being increased as time goes on. Parenting and reunification assessments were suspended. There was an impact on the availability of foster placements due to carers shielding. Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Union moved to virtual meetings. The Care Leavers Service

- The 'drop in' facility had to close and activities and events for care leavers had to cease.
- The closing down of some housing services functions has meant some young people's plans to move to full independence had to be put on hold.
- Leaving care service created fortnightly Cooking Kits which contained the recipe card and ingredients

Front Door

- Storm telephony system live, SSH taking telephone referrals at the front door for professionals again
- Impact on the MASH function due to partner agencies reducing face to face contact with families.
- There was an increase in excess of 250 contacts to the hub in the last week of September compared to the same week last year, this is being monitored but has a significant impact on capacity through the service.

MAST

- MAST service returned to business as usual: returning to face to face visits. Virtual contact continues where this has proved successful.
- Progress achieve the outcomes the Team Around the Family were working towards has in most cases been delayed, due to the reduction in services provided by other agencies.

Virtual Group work offer continues

Early Help Review

- First work stream meetings have taken place with representatives from each service area – terms of reference and key activities agreed

Youth Contract transfer In

- The project team are working hard to deliver the transfer of the youth contract by the end of September. Key officers are engaged, Wider consultation is planned.

NHS Shielded List

- MAST continued to visit the families with children on the shielded list who have not been contactable throughout the lockdown period

Training has been postponed face to face training for Signs of Safety, risk management and various multi-agency courses. Online training is being introduced with an amended offer. 37 students placement will start in September. Children & Families Workforce Strategy - remains the same and covers the whole of C&F workforce. Workforce planning - continues to ensure we can meet future needs, e.g. social work modelling, manageable caseloads, early help review,

regions adoption agency, Aspire Hubs. Covid 19 support - SCC employee COVID 19 web page, HR info / queries, Public Health advice, Health, safety and wellbeing information, Employee Assistance Programme – available from PAM. Individual risk assessments – available for staff returning to work or already at work. Sheffield Development Hub - Health and wellbeing support and Resources for managers Performance of statutory duties is regularly scrutinised by the Children’s Improvement Board, which is co-chaired by myself and the Executive Director for People. Also the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board has continued to meet.

Questions of Councillor Andy Bainbridge to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Q. What is your view on how the pandemic will impact on child poverty and what actions have the Council taken?

A. I’ve no doubt that there will be a major impact of this pandemic on the poorest and most vulnerable in our City. We are seeing some increase in demand, which we expect to increase in the future. There is an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people so we have expanded our on line support that they can access. We are continuing to work with families to ensure they assess to benefits, we are also making discretionary payments for food and utilities. We continued to fund community groups to deliver our Healthy Holidays programme over the half term holidays. We have also continued to support food poverty across the City.

Questions of Councillor Andy Bainbridge to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Q. What support is available in the holidays for families who are not able to access free school meals?

A. The Council continued to fund the voluntary sector to deliver our Healthy Holidays programme over the half term holidays. We have also continued to support food poverty and food banks across the City.

We have continued to lobby the Government to continue the FSM vouchers over the school holidays and when they voted against that, the Council made the decision to step in and provided 22,700 supermarket vouchers to all eligible FSM pupils across the city. We will continue to lobby government to continue to provide FSM vouchers over every school holidays but if they again decide to refuse, The Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore has made a commitment that Sheffield City Council will again provide FSM vouchers over the Christmas holidays.

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

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

Q.1 In which years has Sheffield International Venues (SIV) Enterprises operated profitably since taking on Scarborough Spa and Whitby Pavilion in 2012?

A.1 I think Cllr Mohammed means SIV Enterprises Limited, but for the avoidance of doubt: Sheffield City Trust – the top charitable trust that runs everything Sheffield International Venues Limited – the operating company that runs the Sheffield Facilities SIV Enterprises Limited – a subsidiary trading company that was set up about 10 years ago to run facilities out of Sheffield All the accounts and other corporate documents for each of the three companies above are publicly available on the Companies House website

Q.2 On commencement of the contract, what was the Directors view of the profitability of the contract, and the anticipated returns over the 10 years of the contract?

A.2 Assuming the councillor is referring to the Scarborough contract, it was created in 2012. The commercial director responsible for the contract negotiations, the chief executive and chairman at that time have all since left the organisation. As this transaction happened before my Chairmanship of SCT, I'm not able to speculate on their thinking but assume that they anticipated making a surplus from the contract.

Q.3 What other opportunities did SIV Enterprises follow up to grow turnover and profitability?

A.3 SIV Enterprises put in bids for a number of contracts including being selected as preferred bidder in Sandwell for their new leisure facilities.

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

Q.1 Some allotment holders, despite having paid their rents at the first asking, have been sent letters from more than one debt collection agency. One of them, from Excel Civil Enforcement directs them to a website where they are told that they must pay within 7 days or face an enforcement fee of £75. Do you think that this is a satisfactory way to treat Sheffield Residents?

A.1 In March the Council made a decision to temporarily suspend debt recovery action due to Covid 19. The Council has now agreed to resume income collection activity.

- Our Integra IT system sends an automated Reminder letter to people who

have arrears after 14 days and a Final Notice after 30 days. If we had just turned on the Integra system to resume income collection activity without a workaround, thousands of customers would have been issued with a Final Notice for their outstanding invoices. This Final Notice refers to a previous reminder letter that would not have been sent, and mentions Debt Collection Agency and Court action (see attached).

- The Council therefore made a decision to send an initial“ softly worded” Reminder letter to customers who were in arrears before turning on the Integra reminder process. The soft reminder letter also provided customers with information to explain where to obtain financial advice and assistance if required (see attached draft).
- There were over 11,000 accounts that needed this Reminder, so to assist with this process our Debt Collection Agencies agreed to send some of these out on our behalf using the wording produced by the Council.
- The Agencies were instructed to only send the letter and not to take any other debt recovery action in relation to these accounts.
- No fee is payable to Excel and Phoenix Collection Agencies for collecting sundry debts as they get their income from other Enforcement work such as Parking and Council Tax. UK Search only deal with Sundry Debts and charge 14% commission on income collected.

Q.2 Why have debt collection agencies been used to collect Council fees before reminders have been sent out? What proportion of the amount owed is paid to the agency under these circumstances?

A.2 In March the Council made a decision to temporarily suspend debt recovery action due to Covid 19. The Council has now agreed to resume income collection activity.

- Our Integra IT system sends an automated Reminder letter to people who have arrears after 14 days and a Final Notice after 30 days. If we had just turned on the Integra system to resume income collection activity without a workaround, thousands of customers would have been issued with a Final Notice for their outstanding invoices. This Final Notice refers to a previous reminder letter that would not have been sent, and mentions Debt Collection Agency and Court action (see attached).
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- The Agencies were instructed to only send the letter and not to take any other debt recovery action in relation to these accounts.
- No fee is payable to Excel and Phoenix Collection Agencies for collecting sundry debts as they get their income from other Enforcement work such as Parking and Council Tax. UK Search only deal with Sundry Debts and charge 14% commission on income collected.
- The soft reminder letters were passed to our Debt Collection Agencies to send on our

behalf during the week commencing 5th Oct. Letters always take a few days to get sent out and reach customers by post. So, unfortunately whenever any Reminders are sent, there will always be some people who have just paid when they receive the letter. · Legally additional fees cannot be added to accounts by Debt Collection Agencies for Sundry Debts such as Allotments. Enforcement fees can only be added to debts where it is prescribed in law, for example Parking Fines and Council Tax etc. · Excel provide a Debt Collection Agency Service to help Councils collect Sundry Debts (e.g. Allotments etc). They also provide an Enforcement Service to collect debts such as Council Tax, Parking Fines etc. The enforcement fees for these debts are prescribed by law in the Taking Control of Goods Act (e.g. the initial Compliance Fee is £75). Excel's website has information regarding the fees payable for Council Tax, Parking arrears etc. However, as outlined above, this does not apply to Allotments.

· The soft reminder period finishes at the end of this week, and from Mon 2nd Nov the standard reminder process in the Integra system will resume.

Question of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)

Q. I understand there is an ongoing depot review within the Council which covers all Council depot sites, and is looking strategically at the way depots are managed. What is the mandate for this review and the present expected timeline for recommendations and decisions?

A. We are currently reviewing work that has been undertaken on the depots to date and pulling together the available information. We will be developing a project mandate which will set out the exact scope and timescale for the project once we have undertaken this review.

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

Q.1 What piece of land is being sold off to cover the costs of subsidising venues in North Yorkshire?

A.1 There is no sale of land being sold in order to subsidise North Yorkshire. We have managed to negotiate the termination of the contract with Scarborough Council without additional cost to SIV Enterprises or SCC. Given that there exists a legally enforceable contract in place, Andrew Snelling, Chief Executive of SCT should be commended for managing this result.

Q.2 Is this owned by Sheffield City Council or Sheffield City Trust?

A.2 A piece of land owned by SCT is being sold as a result of a process commenced in 2019. The Trust does not have the ability to sell land belonging to SCC or any other third party.

Q.3 What is the expected value of this land?

A.3 The agreed price is £555k. This price was realised after taking professional advice and negotiations with a number of interested parties.

Q.4 What is the expected use of it?

A.4 This is a degraded industrial site, previously used by SCT as an overspill car park but disused for many years. The buyer is purchasing the land to improve and grow his business.

Q.5 What is the breakdown of the £5.5 million attributed to central overhead costs?

A.5 SCT delivers services in 17 venues and it's clearly more efficient and cost effective to put some services such as answering the phone, programming swimming lessons, booking events, managing catering etc etc through central departments in order to avoid duplication. The term 'overhead' includes such centralised operational services.

Non-operational overhead in the plan is £3.1m. Of this £800k is estates management and maintenance services, essential to keep the building safe and operative and £850k is ICT costs for the whole organisation, including EPOS, ticketing, and office services.

The remaining £1.5m is administration, finance and HR staff to support several hundred staff and (in a normal year) £32m of earned income through a diverse portfolio of business.

Q.6 How exactly does overhead costs relate to the epidemic?

A.6 Due to the epidemic we have had to make cuts in the services that we traditionally offer to the public and have therefore also made significant cuts in the cost of overheads, thereby reducing total overhead by £2m.

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

Q.1 What impact assessments have been carried out regarding Brexit and the impact on Sheffield?

A.1 Please see the answers by the Leader of the Council to the same question

Q.2 Will you provide copies of the latest versions of the impact assessments?

A.2 I will arrange for these to be sent to you

Q.3 What mitigation measures have been planned to address the identified risks in each case?

A.3 Please see answers above I will arrange for all information to be sent to you and

as the Leader has outlined for the issue to be discussed in more detail at a future Scrutiny Meeting

Q.4 What is the estimated current funding received from the EU, directly or indirectly, per year?

A.4 I will provide you a written response to this question

Q.5 Has the Council now submitted its application to the Government's income compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges? If so, when will you provide a copy of the application form?

A.5 I can arrange for a copy to be supplied to you

Q.6 How many (a) applications for and (b) awards of Covid-19 Emergency Assistance Grant have been made so far?

A.6 376 received and 2 made and 14 pending awaiting further information. 36 have been declined mainly because the applicant has applied for this grant instead of the Test and Trace Support payment in error. We are contact everyone who has done this and assisting them to apply for the TandT instead. We are reviewing the information on the website and on forms to see if we can make this clearer

Q.7 What is the total value of the awards paid out?

A.7 £704

Q.8 How many Test and Trace support payments of £500 have been paid out to date?

A.7 18 and 30 pending payment

Q.8 What is Sheffield Council's approach to deciding if people are "unable to work from home" in order to qualify for this payment? Does it mean that people cannot do any work from home or cannot do all their work from home?

A.8 The government has not given specific guidance on this - the approach we have taken is that whether people can do none or some of their work from home isn't the main factor in making an award. The key point is have they lost any income due to being instructed to self isolate as this is the purpose of the grant.

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

Q. What is the current status of the Big City Conversation? What work, if any, is planned between now and the impending referendum in May 2021?

A. I will provide a written answer to this question

Question of Councillor Adam Hurst to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)

Q. Please can you provide an update on the expected financial impact of the COVID pandemic on the Council?

A. This is set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy

Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

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

The total funding package agreed with Government for the South Yorkshire Tier 3 restrictions is reported to include £30m to support the region's businesses.

Q.1 How much of this will be allocated to Sheffield?

A.1 The money is for a South Yorkshire programme – not allocated per local authority district

Q.2 What will it be spent on?

A.2 Grant support to businesses

Q.3 Who are setting the priorities & criteria for allocating this funding; the Council, City Region or central government?

A.3 Local authorities are working with Sheffield City Region to agree criteria to be used

Q.4 When will businesses start receiving this funding?

A.4 As soon as possible. The form for businesses that are closed is already live.

Q.5 Will the business support funding be managed by Sheffield City Council or the City Region?

A.5 The scheme will be managed at the local level by each local authority

Q.6 How much of the city's business support funding will be in the form of grants?

A.1 Unclear question. If it relates to the £30m, all of it is for grants to business

Q.7 When will more details of the support scheme(s) be made public?

A.7 The Council's website is updated regularly with the latest details

Question of Councillor Roger Davison to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

Q. What proportion of Fargate is Council freehold?

- A. The Council does not have any freehold interests in the properties either side of Fargate. The only freeholds are those that are in the Highway.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

Q.1 In relation to the former public space at Devonshire Green now in the possession of private business (the Forum):

- (a) What is the nature of the agreements and their legal form?**
- (b) How many separate agreements are there and what dates were they made?**
- (c) What is the term of each lease or licence?**
- (d) What is the rent payable for each?**

- A.1
- a) The area is in the form of a lease agreement via Property Services
 - b) There is one agreement
 - c) 11th June 2008 to 31st Oct 2036.
 - d) The initial rent was £5,000/annum, but with rent reviews now stands at £6,250/annum.

Q.2 How confident can the public be that disposal of public green space is in their best interests?

- A.2 The Better Parks initiative was developed to be used as a framework for decision making to assist with maximising the benefits derived from our land and property portfolio.

Q.3 Does the council receive any business rates for the large car parking areas at Meadowhall?

- A.3 The Car Parks at Meadowhall are not separately rated for business rates. Instead, the Rateable Value for each property within Meadowhall has an element included for car parking. The Rateable Value is set by the Valuation Office Agency

Q.4 If so, how much? If not, why not?

- A.4 As above.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure) to be answered by Cllr Mazher Iqbal

Q.1 What progress is being made on the creation of a public park on the site of Sheffield Castle?

- A.1 It is not proposed to solely create a public park on the site of the Castle Market. The former castle market site is a major development site that will include elements of green space and public realm, including the opportunity to make the most of the castle remains. We are undertaking soft market testing and aim to bring the site to the market next year, if market conditions are appropriate.

Question of Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

Q. Can you confirm what action will be taken to support the city's economy through the Business Recovery Group report that went to Cabinet?

A. The COVID Business Recovery Plan provides a framework for action across 6 priorities identified by the BRG and informed by business survey responses. Against these 6 priorities, the plan highlights areas for immediate action (RELIEF), recommends ideas for short term interventions to help businesses adjust to the new economic environment (RECOVERY) and articulates key challenges for long term economic success (RENEWAL).

1. Stimulating demand in the local economy COVID 19 has undermined consumer confidence; even as the economy re-opens demand remains low. Stimulating demand, improving consumer confidence and identifying new market opportunities will be essential in the short term to keep businesses trading and maintain jobs.
2. Opening our city and district centres safely and securely To enable people to re-engage with the city, staff and consumers need to feel safe. This relies on our businesses and infrastructure operating in a COVID-safe way. Ongoing support is required to enable businesses and transport providers to put appropriate measures into place. Without intervention and in the absence of a high quality vaccination programme, people will continue to feel unsafe for years.
3. Developing our skills base as a city to help communities get back to work COVID 19 has disrupted existing training and education, and it will inevitably lead to significant levels of unemployment as Government job retention schemes wind down. This priority puts forward some shortterm steps to alleviate these issues whilst also looking ahead to a longer term strategic response to skills.
4. Helping to stimulate the conditions to encourage more startups in the city Our business density is historically low compared to other major cities and while new start-ups in Sheffield tend to be successful, there aren't enough of them. If there is to be a legacy from this pandemic it should be more start-ups and scale ups in this new environment, taking every opportunity to build further resilience into our economy.
5. Stimulating investment in culture to help rebuild confidence and visitor numbers The culture and hospitality sectors have been most affected by COVID, leaving a lot of businesses vulnerable. The sector is integral to our city's vibrancy and

attractiveness; as such we must identify ways for the broader business community in Sheffield to get behind its recovery.

6. Working with business leaders on a longer-term economic strategy for Sheffield As we learn about the wholesale economic effects of COVID we will need to refocus our plans to tackle systemic economic challenges, both old and new, through a new economic plan. This will require creating a new economic partnership, to maintain private sector collaboration.

**Question of Councillor Andy Bainbridge to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

- Q. What support will the council be providing to District Centres?**
- A. The Council will soon be launching a Covid Recovery Fund which will support district centres. Specific actions will come forward through this fund. This is in addition to the support currently being delivered via information officers, business support, environmental protection and consumer confidence campaigns.

Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

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

In response to a question on the local plan consultation webinar “Is the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) set in stone...?” the answer given was “We always welcome suggestions for new development sites, particularly when ownership and availability is known, and are often made aware of new opportunities. Any new sites that are sent in, will be included within the next version of the HELAA if appropriate.”

Q.1 Can you confirm that the Council owned land submitted in the 2015 SHLAA, and not in the current 2020 HELAA, will not be submitted in future versions of the HELAA?

A.1 The Council’s Property Services team, like any landowner, can submit land for consideration in the HELAA through a ‘Call for Sites’ process. Most sites that were submitted in 2014 (and included in the 2015 SHLAA) were also submitted in the 2019 call for sites and shown in the 2020 HELAA. However, a small number of sites (including some sites in Council ownership) were not resubmitted in 2019 and these were omitted from the HELAA map in 2020 as that map and accompanying site schedule shows only sites referred to in the 2020 HELAA. It also notes that sites submitted which are in the Green Belt are not included within the HELAA for land supply purposes. As with any other landowner, the Council could choose to submit different sites to be considered in a future version of the HELAA, and sites previously submitted (in 2014) remain within the scope of the HELAA.

To make this clear, this administration does not support building on the Green Belt, which is why we have developed Option A to protect our green belt.

Q.2 If that is not the case, under what circumstances will this be allowed to be included in the next version of the HELAA?

A.2 We intend to publish a revised HELAA early in the new year. This will include details of all sites submitted through the 2014 and 2019 Call for Sites, as well as any new sites suggested to us as part of the Issues and Options consultation. At this stage it’s important that all reasonable site options are considered but inclusion of a site in the HELAA does not mean it will be proposed as an allocated site in the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan (due to be published in summer 2021).

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

Q. It is now nearly four years since a teenage child was involved in a road traffic accident while crossing Hangingwater Road on the way to school. This

resulted in a fractured arm and leg with many weeks lost schooling. The junction with Whiteley Road on Hangingwater Road is the only place that pedestrians can cross and is notoriously difficult. Tens of school children make this crossing every day and the Council have informed parents that it is too dangerous to provide a crossing warden. When will the Council begin works to make a safer crossing place?

- A. Road Safety is extremely important and its always very sad to hear news of accidents, especially when children are involved. That's why following the incident in 2016, a number of measures have been introduced, including, the provision of signage to reinforce to drivers the presence of school children, a speed indicator devise, changes to street lighting and the extension of the 20mph zone.

In response to the crossing, many options have been considered and I have instructed that Officers look into this. A number options investigated require a major geotechnical solution, as extending the footpath down on the Whiteley Wood side of Hangingwater Road involves constructing a retaining wall. This would cost in the region of £300k and therefore cost prohibitive. The only possible affordable option is to extend the existing path on the east side of Hangingwater Road. However, this cannot be undertaken in highway land and would require the loss of allotment space.

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

With regards to Section 106 funding agreements across the whole city;

Q.1 How much funding remains unspent?

- A.1 £12,279,255.21 (£7,647,190.86 is committed to projects and £4,632,064.35 is uncommitted to projects but will have to be spent in accordance with the legal agreement)

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

- A.2 245

Q.3 How many of the unspent funding agreements are more than 5 years old and what is the total amount unspent?

- A.3 186 agreements more than 5 years old, total unspent £7,073,844.04 (£3,889,221.34 committed to projects and £3,184,622.70 uncommitted)

Q.4 How many of the unspent funding agreements are more than 10 years old and what is the total amount unspent?

- A.4 97 agreements more than 10 years old (these are also included in the older than 5 years as well), total unspent £1,039,804.51 (£795,748.18 committed to projects, £244,056.33 uncommitted)

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

A.5 No agreements have ‘timed out’ in the last 5 years.

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

Q.1 What is the programme for delivery of “Danger Reduction Schemes” and “Accident Reduction Schemes” and road crossing requests, in the current financial year, and next year under active consideration?

A.1 For 2020/21, the road safety scheme programme includes, Sheaf Street Pedestrian Crossing; Abbeydale / Wolseley Rd Junction; Ecclesall / Greystones Rd Junction and Oughtibridge Accident Savings scheme. The sign-only area-wide 20 mph schemes include Fox Hill; Hillsborough and Sharrowvale. The pedestrian enhancement Block includes schemes at Dyche Lane; Beaver Hill Road; Clarkehouse Road; Nether Lane; Herries Road; Leighton Road; Carterknowle Road and Birley Moor Road. The ambition is to have all the above substantially complete by 31/03/2021 as the LTP funding source finishes at that point and currently there is no indication from Central Government about its extension or replacement. With respect to programmes in 2021/22, a funding allocation has been identified in the current year’s allocation to undertake scheme feasibility work for next year’s programme. Designs for three sign-only area-wide 20 mph schemes will be complete ready for construction in Q1 of 2021/22.

The above relates to Sheffield City Council’s allocation of the regionally managed Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block funding. In addition to this, we are the crossing at Station Road, in the Halfway area is being developed with other funding routes.

Q.2 Central Government have imposed possibly unfeasible delivery targets on their schemes, is it expected delivery of other plans will slip?

A.2 There are challenging delivery programmes but part of this is recognising the challenge, and establishing the specific project management systems to ensure that a focus on delivery is achieved. This is being undertaken and will be kept under constant review in line with the funder’s requirements.

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

Q.1 What action will this Council take when landowners or other businesses block off public rights of way?

A.1 Officers are keen to understand why someone has taken such a course of action

and the first step would be to make contact and understand the reason and need for blocking of the Right of Way. There are many reasons why Right of Way may be blocked, from improper use of the path by users such as motorcycles on footpaths, anti-social behaviour, privacy, unofficial diversion, to concerns over Covid transmission.

Officers will work with the landowner to advise them how best to resolve the issue. This would usually involve asking the landowner to remove the obstruction, but might also involve informing them of the proper route to start a diversion process or how to guide people properly along a correct route or how to stop improper use.

The basic premise is that a Right of Way should remain open and the landowner would be asked to remove any obstruction. If this course of action is not successful, then the Council is obliged to require the landowner to remove obstructions through the serving of an enforcement notice. This allows the Council to remove the obstruction themselves and recharge the costs of doing so to the landowner after the time period, usually 14 days, specified in the enforcement notice has expired.

Q.2 Do you support the view that West Street, Division Street and Devonshire Street are no longer “areas nearing stress” in relation to off-licences and related problems of street drinking and public nuisance?

A.2 The agreement made at Licensing Committee last week and by officers when drafting the policy was not that any specific area was not nearing stress, but to remove the ‘areas nearing stress’ section from the policy as the document lasts for 5 years and this section goes out of date very quickly. For example, the last policy had Broomhill in it due to issues with takeaways and that went out of date within a few months following regular enforcement in the area. (Cllr Johnson will be aware that this was also suggested by the Co-Chairs and himself at Licensing steering group).

It was suggested at Committee last week that, as it was a rapidly moving situation, that Councillors could receive a regular report at full Committee for officers to inform of areas that were receiving complaints or issues and a log to be kept to demonstrate which areas we were currently concerned with. If there was sufficient concern, this could lead to the work required to implement a cumulative impact policy.

Q.3 Have you agreed a timescale for the review of the Clean Air Zone with the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU)?

A.3 Given the implications of COVID-19 on transport patterns, economic growth and many other factors considered within the evidence base of the CAZ, the Council has been in dialogue with JAQU regarding the review of C-19 effects on our current CAZ proposals. We are continuing to discuss a range of issues with JAQU that will inform the modelling exercises and analytical review we will be undertaking. We are still discussing the overall timescales with JAQU, including their assurance process.

Q.4 If not, when do you anticipate this will be agreed?

A.4 Our aim is to reach agreement with JAQU before Christmas on timescales for formal decision making on our final Clean Air Plans.

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

Q.1 Can you give me a breakdown of the cost of removing the planters from the Broomhill shops parade and installing them on Division Street?

A.1 The costs associated with moving the planters are revenue, and not capital. This means that the costs are accrued on a day rate, rather than a definite cost you would get for purchasing a product, for example. Therefore, moving the planters would have been part of a daily routine where other tasks associated with the traffic management of the programme would have been included. It is therefore difficult to disaggregate this cost for these precise actions.

The cost of Phase 1 was £1,840. This included the removal of the planters, the removal of the other street furniture, signage and the painting of the crossing points.

Q.2 Could you also give me a full cost of the first attempt at “Social Distancing” measures put in place at the Broomhill shops parade in May 2020?

A.2 Answered in question 1

Q.3 Can you also provide the cost of returning the planters from Division Street to Broomhill?

A.3 Answered in question 1

Question of Councillor Julie Grocutt to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)

Q. 1. What is your view on the Government’s proposed planning reforms and how will this impact on Sheffield?

A. The proposed planning reforms will bring major changes to our planning system. Although there are some ideas in it that we welcome, such as a more streamlined Local Plan process, overall our view is that it embodies a major centralisation of power and undermining of local democracy, with little detail on how this major upheaval will be delivered.

In terms of impacts for Sheffield , the proposed move to fast track planning permission will focus all local decision making on the zoning of land in the Local Plan process at the same time as Local Plans are reduced in influence relative to the National Planning Policy Framework. This means that planning decisions will have effectively been taken years before, so denying local people the ability to influence the future shape of their area. We will as always try to get more community involvement in plan making however, for most people with busy lives it’s only when a specific proposal arises in their local area that they want to have their say.

In terms of housing delivery, it proposes a centrally set housing target that the Government would be able to make binding on local authorities. Affordable housing requirements would also be set nationally, with little understanding of local needs. The Government's proposed approach is also focused primarily on home ownership, when Sheffield has major needs around social housing for rent.

In terms of infrastructure investment, we currently secure funding for that through Section 106 agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy; the white paper scraps both, replacing them with a single Infrastructure Levy to cover all infrastructure investment and affordable housing requirements. This threatens both affordable housing development and infrastructure. Section 106 contributions are a critical support enabling social housing providers to build new homes. The proposed changes also move the financial risk of infrastructure provision to local authorities like Sheffield, rather than on the developers who are creating the infrastructure need. This clearly presents a major financial risk for the Council.

The proposals are largely focussed on increasing housing delivery and whilst this is undoubtedly important for Sheffield, we also think the planning system is about developing a socially and economically inclusive, and an environmentally sustainable future vision for the city as a whole. Sheffield has demonstrated over the last 30 years that it understands how to build the city as a great place to live, work and build businesses, from the development of the city centre through the Heart of the City schemes, to collaboration with other Councils on developments such as the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District.

We believe the proposals in the Government's white paper would undercut Sheffield's ability to determine its own destiny, and hand this power to the Government. We feel strongly about these impacts and have made these comments formally to Government.

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

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

Q1. Why has the green bin service been suspended at such short notice?

A1. A number of Veolia collection staff were contacted by track and trace over the weekend, meaning they needed to self isolate. We are pleased these staff took the sensible and responsible course of action and did not attend work on Monday. With the reduced number of staff available for collections the priority is to collect scheduled black bins and recycling collections.

Q.2 How many people in Sheffield use the green bin service?

A.2 Approx 14,000

Q.3 What are the plans to make up for the missed collections in March and October?

A.3 This will depend on the availability of resources – and any further track and trace and or positive covid tests within the workforce and we cannot give a definite answer at this time. It should be noted Sheffield garden waste collections have had the least disruption to service across South Yorkshire, with only two scheduled collections missed to date. Rotherham had to suspend the service for six weeks and Doncaster were only able to re-instate their service in September, having missed suspended in March.

Q.4 What are the plans to reinstate the service given that we are in Autumn with a lot of leaf collection needed?

A.4 As per previous question, Veolia will review based on their ability to resource the service.

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

Q.1 How many city-centre events using diesel generators were held on Council-regulated sites (Barkers Pool, Fargate, Tudor Square, Surrey Street, the Peace Gardens, Pinstone Street, The Moor) between the 1st of January 2019 and the 5th of January 2020? Please specify the names of the events and their number of days duration.

A.1 Written response to follow

Q.2 For how many days in total were events held on these sites in the above-specified period?

A.2 Written response to follow

Q.3 How many diesel generators is it estimated were used in total at these events throughout the above period?

A.3 Written response to follow

Q.4 What is the estimated amount of pollution created by the diesel generators.

A.4 Written response to follow

Q.5 Please give a specific estimate of the pollution created by an event of one day's duration using some 16 generators of an average generating capacity of 100 kva (diesel consumption 20 litres per hour) for an operating period of 12 hours.

A.5 Written response to follow

Q.6 Are you aware that over 30 years ago large events were run on city centre sites, including children's and adult fairground rides, without the use of generators?

A.6 Written response to follow

Q.7 What steps are the Council taking to seriously reduce city-centre air pollution at its own and or licensed events?

A.7 Written response to follow

Q.8 When does the Council anticipate it will once again return to only promoting/licensing city-centre events with a zero-pollution output, setting a gold standard practice, which puts the health of its citizens and visitors as its top priority?

A.8 Written response to follow

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

Q. What plans are there to have an educational/publicity campaign to discourage people from littering and fly tipping?

A. The Council has allocated an additional £500k to tackle fly tipping. Officers are currently drafting a cross council plan to deliver this, to maximise the impact of the additional funding.

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

Q.1 As Opposition Parties are currently barred from putting forward Motions, will the Cabinet member propose a debate on the Ecological Emergency, as he suggested at the last Green City Partnership Board meeting?

A.1 The Covid pandemic is rightly consuming much of our thoughts and considerations at this very difficult time. With deaths, anxiety and uncertainty rising it is right that we address the issues that lie before us. We are not neglecting other elements; however we are looking to prioritise keeping our citizens safe and well.

I look forward to the opportunity to talk about Ecological Emergency and the actions this Council is taking to increase biodiversity and adapting to the challenges of climate change.

Q.2 By how much has there been a reduction in CO2 emissions since July 2019, when the Tyndall Centre report informed us we should be reducing emissions by 14% year on year.

A.2 We are awaiting the Government to issue the updated dataset for 2019 emissions which is anticipated to be released at the end quarter one next year. There is always a time-lag in the Government releasing this data as the energy consumption data has to be collected from across the UK from all utility providers and collated by BEIS before being issued.

We do know from our current net zero commission work that Sheffield has already made some good progress in reducing emissions between 2005 and 2017 with the rate of emissions reductions being higher than the national average so far. However, we also know that the city needs to accelerate this rate of decarbonisation and we are developing a plan with our partners to work towards our ambition of net zero carbon by 2030.

Q.3 How much of this reduction is due to Covid restrictions?

A.3 Currently not established as the data is not yet available for this year's city-wide carbon emissions.

Q.4 Are these reductions sustainable once we are out of Covid restrictions?

A.4 Currently not established as the data is not yet available for this year's city-wide carbon emissions.

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

Q.1 Are you aware of the organisation Abundance (or similar) who offer

Community Municipal Investments? As the company states these allow investors to “... invest directly into councils, giving you a lower risk return that still makes a big impact on the climate emergency.” Have any investigations been made to examine the possibilities of gaining funding this way for a local energy company, for example?

<https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/how-it-works/about-municipal-investments>

A.1 We are aware of the organisation and we intend to explore available opportunities that could bring investment and funding for net zero programmes across the city. Our current net zero commission is helping to identify the strategic opportunities, where we will work with partners across the city and beyond where necessary in order to make these a success.

Q.2 The Council has put forward a Public Archive Proposal to become a repository for communications between Sheffield City Council (SCC) and outside agencies and within the Council during the Sheffield Trees Campaign. The stated purpose is to end the need for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and to maximise transparency. Given the appalling record of SCC in its slow and obfuscating responses to FOI requests during at least the period of 2015-2019, what confidence could the public possibly have in the likelihood that information will be complete and transparent? What mechanisms will be in place to enable the public to ask for further information when it is not available in the proposed archive?

A.2 As outlined in the report to Cabinet the archive will look to answer the ongoing FOIA/ EIR requests which the Council continues to receive through providing information publicly and with appropriate exemptions already applied by archivists in accordance with the scheme,

The Council has had previous experience and success in managing potentially contentious high public interest information it holds with the Hillsborough tragedy and Orgreave Miners Strike

Q.3 What will the budget be for the Public Archive project? Which officer will oversee the work? What training in relevant legislation will the archivists have?

A.3 A budget of £45k has been allocated. SCC Archivists are professionally qualified with an post-graduate diploma/masters in Archive Administration. This qualification includes significant amount of study in electronic records management and GDPR/FOI regulations. They are also governed by a Code of Ethics from the ARA(UK) Archives and Records Association (UK) – the main professional body.

The team also undertakes continuing professional development which includes GDPR/FOI legislation as well as digital archiving training. This will be a mixture of sector specific third party training and SCC e-learning. They work to international archive cataloguing standards – known as ISAD(G) – as laid down by the International Council on Archives

The City Archives Service is fully accredited by the National Archives which demonstrates we meet all of the relevant standards managing the information in our care, building fabric, security and public access.

Q.4 Can you tell me how many FOI requests related to tree felling and the contract have been refused and subsequently overturned by ICO?

A.4 Since the start of the contract in 2012, 5.

Q.5 In media interviews, you suggested that an inquiry into the trees dispute may be necessary. What progress has been made towards setting up an inquiry?

A.5 The Ombudsman has conducted an enquiry, in addition to the Forestry Commission and the work the council has undertaken itself to provide a lessons learned document which identified 10 specific lessons learned and 14 actions, if there are any further specific questions that remain unanswered about this issue we are happy to answer them.

Q.6 As we move into winter and pavements and roads becoming frosty and icy the likelihood of accidents increases. Some of Sheffield's roads and pavements have become extremely dangerous as a result of the resurfacing. What is being done to make the surfaces reported last winter as hazardous to StreetsAhead/SCC/Amey safe?

A.6 The previous complaints about the pavement re-surfacing works have been investigated and the construction/ surface is within industry guidelines. It is not possible for us to grit every road or pavement in the event of winter weather. We publish our winter gritting routes and we also have one of the largest networks of grit bins. Our policy for grit bins is on the website and we have a video to advice people of effective grit spreading to maximise coverage.

Q.7 Does the City Council intend to hold a Citizen's Assembly on the Climate Emergency?

A.7 The Council had originally planned to hold a CA earlier this year, however the Covid Pandemic meant that a decision was taken not to pursue this approach, as mass gatherings were banned and it was felt it was not the right time to undertake this work.

We are we are currently working to develop a comprehensive engagement programme to build on the net zero commission work that has been undertaken during the pandemic. This is expected to initially be delivered via virtual means, given the current lockdown, however we will be looking to work across all our networks to ensure that engage widely.

This programme will aim to engage our residents, communities, businesses and other institutions to develop the city's approach to decarbonisation.

Q.8 Do you think the Green City Partnership Board has achieved any success in addressing the Climate Emergency? If yes, can you please outline what the positive benefits there have been so far?

- A.8 The Green City Partnership Board has recognised the key role that it plays in helping us all to achieve this shared goal.

At Board meeting earlier this year its members confirmed that the board's focus should be on working towards achieving net zero carbon. It recognised that it has a clear role in enabling, engaging and communicating with the city and its communities, as achieving this ambition will require everyone in the city to play their part.

At the last Board meeting, we had a presentation from Board Member Liz Ballard (CEO SRWT) on the ecological crisis faced by the planet. Following a discussion the board agree unanimously to support the declaration of an ecological emergency. Without the support, drive and commitment of all the board this would not be possible.

Looking forward, the Green City Partnership Board had a key role in continuing to support the development of our net zero plan, to collaborate with others to support and facilitate this approach across the city, as well as our wider approach to the ecological crisis.

Q.9 How many staff are dedicated to working on the city's response to the Climate Emergency?

- A.9 Currently we have one FTE working on this, with wider dedicated support provided through our commissioned work and a number of other staff providing key input from across a broad range of wider Council functions. We have plans to increase the number of officers working on our climate emergency, including dedicated posts, but our ability to take action towards zero carbon will need to involve staff across the Council and not just one specific team. (details below)

Q.10 Are there plans to increase the number of staff working on Sheffield's response to the Climate Emergency? If yes, when will the new positions be advertised?

- A.10 We are currently promoting an Achieving Change to establish additional posts and we are now seeking to secure the resources required to fund these additional posts. We hope to be in a position to finalise the achieving change and commence recruitment soon.

Q.11 Can you describe what the City Councils is currently doing to address the Climate Emergency?

- A.11 We are close to the completion of the net zero carbon commission. This has already provided us with a detailed evidence base on our city's greenhouse gas emissions and the gap between current business as usual and our 2030 ambition. The final evidence-base report on options and interventions to achieve net zero 2030 will be presented to the Green City Partnership Board later this month.

We are also developing a wider engagement programme that provide some of the

benefits we anticipated from holding a Citizens Assembly, but without the opportunity to hold large gatherings or to meet face-to-face.

The council is also engaged in a number of other activities which are all contributing towards the climate emergency.

The electricity used by the Council is now generated from 100% renewable sources, an increase of 81% on last year.

Over £50 million of investment from the city and successfully raised from government to make travelling in Sheffield greener and cleaner and make it safer and easier for people to travel by bike.

£896,000 funding for electric vans which businesses can hire to try before buying and 32 electric cargo bikes for small businesses

Energy Surgeries have been established to provide advice on sustainable energy in the home and Smart Energy Meters have been installed for Council tenants – creating a 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy

We are working with partners across the city region to develop a low-carbon business support programme for the private sector, as well as exploring the opportunity to secure government funding to improve the energy efficiency of private homes, which as well as reducing carbon emissions can help to reduce fuel poverty, as well as supporting local businesses engaged in this work.

A commitment to plant over 100,000 trees over the next ten years.

The award-winning Grey to Green sustainable urban drainage system which has replaced roads with cycle paths and drought-friendly, pollen rich planting which is designed to capture water to prevent flooding, has been extended to now create one of the largest SUDS in the country.

Agreement to declare an Ecological emergency, alongside our climate emergency.

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

Q.1 Could you illustrate what action the City Council is taking to prevent possible fires arising from “zombie” batteries (discarded batteries that can ignite if punctured and/or crushed) at its household recycling centres?

A.1 All electrical goods, including those that are likely to contain a battery, can be taken to any of the five household waste recycling centres in the City where they can be placed into dedicated skips. Unlike other waste types, these skips are not mechanically compacted, ensuring that any batteries are not punctured or crushed. Large electrical batteries can be placed in this skip, while smaller disposable batteries can be placed in dedicated battery bins.

Q.2 What specific training do staff at those centres receive on the safe disposal of discarded batteries and prevention of fires that they may cause?

A.2 Site staff are trained to understand the risks associated with battery fires and what action to take if they find one. They are also required to ask residents about the types of waste they are disposing off onsite to ensure that batteries and electrical items are placed in the dedicated skip. They routinely inspect this skip to look for damaged items that could lead to a fire.

Q.3 How are residents informed of how to safely dispose of exhausted batteries, including those contained within electrical goods?

A.3 Every product containing a battery, as well as individual batteries, are required to be labelled with the crossed out wheeled bin symbol and applicable chemical symbols. The Council's own A-Z of how to dispose of household waste is currently being reviewed, it will be back available online by the end of November. However there is a wide range of information available on the internet, residents can also phone the Veolia call centre on 0114 2734567 for advice.

Q.4 What checks are in place to ensure that businesses in the city comply with The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009?

A.4 Checks for compliance sit with The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) who are directly responsible for enforcing the regulations in the UK in relation to the:

- manufacture and labelling of all batteries
- compliance of producers of automotive and industrial batteries
- take back scheme for distributors and retailers

Other aspects of the regulations are enforced by the Environment Agency.

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

Q.1 Are we using the greenhouse gas accounting tool by the LGA to benchmark our carbon emissions? There is an opportunity to participate in the benchmarking if we email the baseline to ghgaccounting@local.gov.uk by 31 October 2020.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/greenhouse-gas-accounting-tool>

A. We would very much like to participate in this programme, as we have just produced a comprehensive Greenhouse gas emissions inventory as part of our net zero carbon commission.

The LGA have not yet responded to our email requests sent last week and the prior week, however we are continuing to pursue this as we would like to be involved.

Q.2 Given that the Tyndall report only establishes what our carbon budget is, not how we will stay under budget, where is the detail on how we are aiming to stay

under the established carbon budget?

- A.2 We are close to the completion of the net zero carbon commission. This has already provided us with a detailed evidence base on our city's greenhouse gas emissions and the gap between current business as usual and our 2030 ambition.

The final report on options and interventions to achieve net zero 2030, and which sets out the action required to stay under the established carbon budget will be presented to the Green City Partnership Board later this month.

- Q.3 What progress has been made on formulating the plan to be carbon neutral by 2030 recently?**

See Sheffield's page on climate emergency here:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/climate-emergency-response>

Contrast this to more detailed assessments from other councils, including more detailed assessments even where the Council's have less ambitious targets:

<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/community/climate-change/>

https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500002/council_policies_and_strategies/3833/climate_change/2

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-council-2030>

- A.3 We are close to the completion of the net zero carbon commission. This has already provided us with a detailed evidence base on our city's greenhouse gas emissions and the gap between current business as usual and our 2030 ambition.

The final evidence-base report on options and interventions to achieve net zero 2030, and which details the action required to stay under the established carbon budget will be presented to the Green City Partnership Board later this month.

Following this, we will be working with both our partners on the GCPB as well as others across the city to produce our net zero carbon plan – alongside the wider engagement which is being planned in-lieu of a CA.

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

- Q. Can you provide an update on what measures the Council is taking to support businesses to comply with the new restrictions and what enforcement action is being taken against those who do not work within these regulations?**

- A. Some basic facts and figures regarding enforcement of Covid Regulations on Businesses

Between ERS and Licensing we have undertaken over 4,500 pro-active visits to a whole range of businesses across the city offering support and advice; on top of this

we have undertaken over 2,000 re-active visits following up on complaints, reports and breaches of regulations etc.

As a result of the above work we have issued 19 prohibition notices under closure regulations and 5 prohibition notices under the HASAWA, revoked 2 premises licences (pubs) under Licensing Act, issued 10 FPNs and undertaken 1 prosecution. Over and above this there have been over 500 warning letters served on businesses.

This has included approximately 65 staff, covering 7 days a week, working both during normal working hours, evenings from 6pm till 3am in the morning and weekends.

Support to Businesses is provided through Business Sheffield, to help businesses understand the measures required to be Covid Secure through a number of different measures:

Providing a phone line for any business to call to get support on any of their business questions with access to a Business Advisor for critical intervention over the phone or via zoom and on the same day wherever possible. Covid security is often part of those discussions alongside the viability of the business, financial support, cashflow advice amongst many other things.

Advise on the covid security guidance that the government have provided for different industries with referrals through to the Health Protection team where a business has a specific query on their own individual needs, where health protection are able to provide very detailed and specific responses for the business.

In addition Business Sheffield has a team of three Information Officers funded through the ERDF funded Reopening the High Streets Safely project, in district centres with high retail and hospitality density much of their work is going from business to business developing relationships with those businesses helping them to be covid secure alongside helping them with the viability of their business. This is a supportive role and involves referral through to Health Protection colleagues for enforcement only when a business is not willing to comply and those are few and far between. The Information Officers are operating in Hillsborough, Crystal Peaks, Mosborough High Street, Woodseats, London Road, Ecclesall Road with other district centres to follow.

The support to businesses from Business Sheffield will change focus now that the Government have announced a national lockdown. Our immediate requirement will be to fully understand the government guidance with the comms team to provide key messages to businesses that will be required to close whilst offering same day advise for businesses on the phone with a Business Advisor.

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

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

Q. Delighted to hear that Sheffield has received funding from Arts Council England for our Theatres, what support does the City Council plan to give to ensure our Theatres open as soon as safe to do so?

A. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been working closely with Sheffield Theatres Trust to support them as they navigate this challenging time. Their well-deserved Culture Recovery Fund grant is a vital lifeline which will safeguard the Trust into the spring.

We have continued to provide agreed levels of City Council funding during their period of closure and continued to work closely with them. As an independent organisation, Sheffield Theatres has to balance financial, safety, and artistic considerations in planning their future reopening.

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

Q.1 If a Trust is in receipt of public money , do you think they should be publicly accountable?

A.1 It is publicly accountable in the same way as all organisations in receipt of public money.

Q.2 Do you agree that when a Councillor sits on a Trust, they have a responsibility to the Council?

A.2 All Trustees have a responsibility for the proper management of a Trust, the specific responsibilities will be dependent on the nature and detail of the appointment.

Q.3 If you agree with the above should those representing the Council have a responsibility to question a Trust if the spending is in excess of that which it has budget for?

A.3 All Trustees have a responsibility for the proper management of a Trust.

Q.4 Were the Administration aware of losses made by the Scarborough Spa pre-Covid?

A.4 Despite the misinformation you have put in leaflets I want to confirm that all of the funding given to Sheffield City Trust has gone to Sheffield facilities, the council have not and will not subsidise other venues outside the city. This was a condition the council placed on providing financial support. This is confirmed by David Grey, Chair of Sheffield City Trust

The council have taken that action has saved our venues from closure, the money that has been given to the City Trust is for this purpose and this purpose only and without it the venues would not have survived. This was not just about re-opening the venues when lockdown was lifted, without support they would have been financially insolvent and shut down.

Due to the pandemic there has been a massive loss of income from people not visiting our gyms and pools, loss of membership income and cancellation of events. This has put the future and existence of our facilities at risk. Without action from the council they would have been lost to Sheffield forever.

SIV have also confirmed that they have terminated the Scarborough agreement without any cost.

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

Q. Friends of Graves Park have submitted proposals for a further restoration of Norton Nursery to unrestricted public access, will you be supporting these proposal?

A. A new Graves Park Manager was appointed in April this year. Their remit is to manage the whole park and they will be developing a master plan for the entire site, including the farm, nursery, playgrounds and sports facilities. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic response, work on developing the plan has been on hold. Rather than taking a piecemeal approach to how the park develops in future, the Norton Nursery area needs to be part of a holistic approach. Development of the overall plan will involve getting the views of all park users, stakeholders and the local community to ensure plan meets the needs of everyone that uses the park and, as the largest park in the city, encourages new people from across the city to visit. However we are always interested in the views of the friends of Graves Park as we are from the wider community.

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

The Building Better Parks strategy identified 12 assessment criteria against which any proposal to alter any usage or disposal of park land would be measures.

Number 6 asks: Has any consultation been carried out with key stakeholders, including, for instance, local Councillors, parks friends groups, sports clubs, park users and the wider community?

Number 7 asks: Are there any equalities issues resulting from the proposed change i.e. are any particular groups disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged? An Equality Impact Assessment should be carried out.

Neither seems to have been carried out in the case of land in Millhouses Park where planning permission is being sought by the Waggon and Horses public house to allow it to expand its business through leasing some land.

Q1 Why has the Council's own policy not been followed in this case when discussions with the business owner and the Council reached a conclusion before the Covid-19 outbreak

A.1 The original enquiry for the Outdoor Seating Area came into Parks and Countryside (P&C) in 2017, prior to the Better Parks initiative. The proposal was discussed with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure and it was viewed favourably by the service. Parks and Countryside began consultation with the Friends of Millhouses Park at the end of 2017 and this continued through 2018, including a meeting between the Friends of Group and Lisa Firth in Moorfoot. This consultation led to discussions about how Sheffield City Council would agree a formal process to manage and maximise the benefits derived from the land and property portfolio and the Better Parks approach was formulated. This was approved by Cabinet in November 2018, discussed at Scrutiny Committee in March 2019 and at the Sheffield Green Spaces Forum in April 2019.

Public Consultation on the more recent Waggon and Horses proposal was expected to be informed by pre-planning advice. A pre-application was submitted just prior to the first national lockdown. Pre-Application advice would have guided us on whether the proposal would be feasible and informed P&C's consultation process. However, as the applicant submitted the Full Application in advance of receiving the Pre-Application feedback, the Planning Dept closed the Pre-Application, meaning P&C never received this information. P&C were only made aware of this situation when the Full Planning Application was validated.

Stakeholders including Cricket Club, Ice Cream, Café, Children's Rides were contacted in July 2020 and encouraged to comment on the Planning Application. The P&C service has assessed the proposal and does not feel this is an equalities issue as no groups would be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged through the proposal. The Outdoor Seating Area will be fenced and will not overlook the park. There are many other shaded areas in the park and the service has not observed this area being regularly used by anyone.

Q.2 Why did the Council subsequently open a consultation on Citizen Space on 7th October and open for four weeks only?

A.2 P&C agreed with the Friends of Millhouses Park to undertake consultation in relation to the proposed outdoor seating area. Given the global pandemic all consultation is limited to that which can be undertaken safely (i.e. online). When the consultation was designed it was felt that four weeks was an appropriate time period to capture public feedback. However, the Friends of Group have requested that this period be extended, and the service have agreed. It has therefore been extended by a further 2 weeks.

Q.3 Why is the consultation framed in a way which assumes planning permission has been granted?

A.3 This is not the case. The consultation is primarily designed to understand people's response to the concept and to help shape the development of the space in the event the proposal is taken forward. This consultation is not designed to replace the planning process which provides a separate opportunity for people to state objections or support the proposal put forward by TNB. In the event planning were to be granted, this consultation would help shape the plans for the future and in the event planning were not granted, the questions asked in this consultation would no longer be relevant.

Q.4 Why does it include an artist's impression of the proposals which are at odds with the published plans?

A.4 The artist impression is, as the term suggests, an indicative illustration of how the proposed outdoor seating area could look. The designs have been iteratively updated since the production of the artist impression, therefore the picture was included with the appropriate caveats.

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

Q.1 What progress is being made on the creation of a public park on the site of Sheffield Castle?

A.1 To be answered by Cllr Mazher Iqbal (moved to Cllr Iqbal's questions).

Q.2 When can we expect to see all our parks reopened and play equipment restored, given the importance of open-air exercise in the pandemic?

A.2 All Sheffield parks have remained open throughout the pandemic with an unprecedented number of people enjoying and valuing their local green spaces.

All playgrounds that could be reopened following the Covid-19 closures were reopened with new safety measures in place. Three playgrounds did not reopen on the same schedule due to issues unrelated to the pandemic (Hillsborough Park playground remained closed due to the current renovation taking place, Rundel Road playground remained closed due to surfacing issues and some play equipment requiring replacement, and Brunswick Road Housing Play area remained closed due to damage from vandalism). These playgrounds will be opened as soon as it is possible to do so.

Maintenance work and new installations will continue throughout winter and therefore playgrounds will be closed as required to facilitate this.

Q.3 What plans are there to review park opening and path lighting times to temporarily extend the after-dark hours that some parks are available for safe exercise this winter?

- A.3 All Parks, with the exception of the Botanical Gardens and Hillsborough Walled Garden, have open access 24/7. Path lighting to most parks is controlled by daylight sensors. Hillsborough Park has lighting controlled by a timer set to operate until midnight. All Park's MUGAs (Multi Use Games Areas) with lighting have been or are in the process of being reset to operate from 5.30pm to 9.00pm. These times are used to provide a balance between providing facilities for users without impacting on local residents too late in to the evening.

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

- Q. In relation to the proposal to lease part of Millhouses Park to a private business (the Waggon & Horses), what is the proposed term of the lease and what is the proposed rent to be obtained for the loss of this public space. What will the public receive in return?**
- A. The proposal for the Waggon & Horses to lease space for an Outdoor Seating Area has not yet been granted planning permission. The specific terms of the lease have not therefore been negotiated. The current consultation which is live on Citizen Space would help shape the terms of any agreement in the event planning permission was granted.

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

- Q. Before the epidemic struck, 500 people were dying each year in Sheffield due to poor air quality. There is also evidence of a link between poor mental health and poor air quality. The current pandemic attacks the respiratory system and there is direct correlation between air pollution and the chances of survival from the Covid 19 virus. To delay action on this issue is to be complicitous. Will you introduce a citywide ban on allotment fires with immediate effect?**
- A. The banning of bonfires on allotments has been a contentious matter in the past and has been discussed at previous Allotment Advisory Committee meetings. This resulted in an introduction of a seasonal ban from 1st May till the 30th September several years ago. Temporary restrictions were also put in place over the lockdown period with Directors approval.

There is currently little evidence that allotment bonfires are contributing to worsening respiratory conditions in communities surrounding allotments and we would need to work with Environmental and Regulatory Services to make this case.

The matter would under normal situations be one for the Allotments Advisory Committee to consider and we are looking at options for how we might have a meeting of the committee during the proposed lockdown period currently being proposed from Thursday.

**Question of Councillor Sioned Richards to Councillor Mary Lea
(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)**

Q. Can you provide an update on measures to continue people's access to libraries including e-books through the pandemic?

A. Sheffield Libraries have continued to plan for safe access to its services during the pandemic. An Order and Collect service is available from Council run libraries, where customers can request by phone or online a selection of 5 books for both adults and children. Public computers are also available to be booked at Central Library. All services are reviewed regularly against the current Government and local Public Health advice.

Throughout this period we have also enabled people to sign up online to our e-library which contains a wide range of e-books, e-magazines, e-comics and e-audio books. We have added more content to the e-library to meet the rising demand. Our Facebook Rhymetimes has now reached episode 25 and our Creative Poetry meetings have also moved online.

Our Sheffield Libraries Blog (<https://shefflibraries.blogspot.com/>) provides up to date information on all our services and programme of online events like our 'Rebel Season', as well as special readings of books by children's authors direct to Sheffield children. Library staff have also been helping make activity and reading packs for families who needed help at home who may not have access to our online activities.

The 16 volunteer run libraries in Sheffield have also been providing support for their communities, more information at Volunteer Libraries in Sheffield.

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

Q. Can you confirm the rules for leisure facilities following Tier 3 including the status of each Council owned venue?

A. All Council owned leisure facilities are open to the public and operating under the current Tier 3 rules. Details of the rules are available on the gov.uk website, we advise that our partners continue to check this page, as it is regularly updated as further guidance is developed by central government. However the facilities will close from mid night on Wednesday 4th November to comply with new government restriction.

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

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

Q.1 In the negotiations leading to the deal struck between leaders in South Yorkshire and Central Government announced on 21st October, what medical criteria or required evidence were discussed as a basis for triggering when we will eventually come out of our Tier 3 'Highest Risk' category?

A.1 To be answered by the Leader.

Q.2 Given the welcome £11 million secured for South Yorkshire for public health measures, what additional infrastructure and logistics changes will be introduced to the test, trace and isolate system locally to augment the turnaround in testing?

A.2 To be answered by the Leader.

Q.3 People's health and their economic welfare are intricately inter-linked. How will local people be given more confidence that by getting tested they can safely carry on with their lives?

A.3 To be answered by the Leader.

Q.4 Previous local lockdowns elsewhere, without additional support, are shown to have been expensive failures. How will people be supported to enable them to isolate, get us out of the very high category as fast as possible, keep local infection rates down and stop the need for such a wide blanket lockdown again in South Yorkshire?

A.4 To be answered by the Leader.

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

Q. Following a recent meeting of the South East People Keeping Well Partnership, the overriding concern from all members of that group was the dramatic and detrimental effect that the Covid-19 pandemic is having on the mental and physical health of elderly residents in the South East; mainly due to isolation and inactivity. What support is the Council providing to our elderly population to stave off a ticking timebomb that can only serve to increase the pressure on Sheffield NHS services in the future?

A. We have been making thousands of health and wellbeing checks and calls to vulnerable people, carers, and families, and delivered practical support through our community hubs, as well as our adult social care workforce. We have worked hard

to, up to date, avoid enacting the social care easements allowed for under the covid bill despite the unprecedented demands on our services and the reductions in capacity due to workforce covid related absences, and continue to endeavour to provide as much support as we can to existing social care customers as well as people newly referred. We have worked closely with statutory and voluntary sector partners such as Healthwatch and VAS, the Carers centre, CAB to target support where needed, and gain feedback about people's experiences and needs.

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

Q. Can you provide an update on how the Council is working with the NHS and care homes to ensure there are sufficient supplies of PPE?

A. Care Providers – We continue to provide our Emergency 7 day supply top up service, weekly deliveries to around 100 of 180 Care Providers registered to order from our online portal, fulfilled by for delivery by our Transport Teams.

Weekly demand numbers then inform the stock we procure or draw down from government. This recognises that Care Providers do now have direct routes now that they didn't at the start of the pandemic. These however remain limited with caps on direct government supplied stock. We remain committed to ensuring all registered provides have access to the PPE they require.

We have recently secured the first months of supply through the new direct channel offered by the Department of Health and Social Care and will distribute this to these setting not eligible for direct DHSC support.

We work closely with Sheffield CCG to continue our partnership on supply, distribution and training for specialist care PPE with a robust winter contingency plan in place.

NHS hospital trusts in the city have dedicated supply lines with NHS logistics, we do maintain links for mutual aid purposes along with the CCG. A recent example saw SCC providing 4800 bottles of hand sanitiser to ensure the safe delivery of flu jabs at GP's in October.

Councillor Abtislam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

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

Q.1 How many schools in Sheffield have reported COVID 19 positive cases?

A.1 There have been 359 total number of confirmed cases reported within time period

School closures reported - Nil

Identified contacts required to self isolate or bubbles asked to isolate in:

84 primary settings

26 secondary settings

3 special schools

Not possible to give details of numbers self isolating due to reporting being sent to different places as outlined below

In terms of definitive number of schools with COVID 19 cases

At any one time we are unable to give a definitive figure of the numbers of schools with confirmed COVID-19 cases. There is no single source of information that gives a complete picture – information is held across each individual school, the local authority, DfE and PHE. There is no single monitoring system that answers all questions people have, thus we keep an ongoing and fairly dynamic situational awareness.

The figure is changing on a daily basis and schools will report confirmed cases of COVID-19 to a number of different places, not just Sheffield City Council.

What we are able to confirm is that we are seeing single cases among pupils and staff in schools rather than outbreaks. This reflects the fact that the majority of virus transmission is in the community and relates to households.

It would not be appropriate to provide such details on a school by school basis because of the risk of deductive disclosure. We are confident that our schools are taking all appropriate measures, including isolating cases and contact bubbles. All settings are also receiving advice and support from the DfE, the Local Authority Public Health Team and Public Health England (PHE).'

We are seeing in the main single cases among pupils and staff in schools rather than outbreaks. This reflects the fact that the majority of transmission is in the community and relates to households.

Our schools are taking appropriate measures, including isolating cases and contact bubbles.

It is worth noting that all our schools are currently open, however some children, young people, and staff have been sent home to isolate. Where there is an incidence of Covid-19 the school will continue to carry out appropriate health and safety measures with support from our Public Health team at Sheffield City Council to work out the best course of action.

Every school and case is different and so advice and guidance to schools is provided on an individual basis. This depends on how many contacts that a person with COVID-19 has as well as the duration of contact.

The DPH has strongly recommended against publicly name places, settings or institutions where there are outbreaks. There are a number of reasons for this.

These include

medical confidentiality and deductive identifiability of individuals

we are all bound by code of data protection (and the law)

To my mind, there is no operational advantage to naming institutions to those not involved in operational incident management

This is a long standing recommendation and is standard practice in outbreak and incident management across many different settings and illnesses. COVID19 and schools doesn't change the broader context.

where there are cases we work with the setting to identify who have been in contact with them so those who need to isolate are identified and informed. Those who need to take action (i.e. school leaders to isolate bubbles, individuals who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive) are informed through national test and trace or locally by their school so those who need to know in order that they can take action do.

The DPH is not aware of and Local Authorities who are share case data with anyone not directly involved in an operational response to an incident. We get frequently asked to do this.

Q.2 Please list the number of cases by type of school and name the schools as follows:-

a. Secondary Schools (including academies)

b. Primary Schools

c. Special Schools

A.2 See answer above

Q.3 As a result of positive Covid 19 cases reported in schools, how many children are self-isolating in Sheffield?

A.3 See answer above

Q.4 As a result of positive Covid 19 cases reported in schools, how many teachers are self-isolating in Sheffield?

A.4 See answer above

Q.5 How many children were being home schooled prior to the march lockdown and how many are being home schooled now?

A.5 I am assuming this means Elective Home Education. Before Lockdown there were 462 families known to EHE, since September and to date this is currently 650.

Q.6 What support is being given to parents for home schooling?

A.6 We have separated this into two identifiable groups. Home Learning is for children and young people who cannot attend their educational establishment due to the school enforcing self isolation rules, due to the breakdown of bubbles or children who have been in contact or tested positive in the community. Home school is where parents exercise their right to withdraw a child from a school and teach a child at home. Often known as Elective Home Education (EHE).

Home Learning

Schools have been providing a range of opportunities and resources to support home learning for their wider cohort.

Learn Sheffield have created a page on their website <https://learnsheffield.co.uk/Covid-19>. These pages have been created to support our work during the current pandemic. This includes supplements which have been created by partners across the city to produce a home learning supplement which will go out weekly with the Star Newspaper every Thursday in May which started on Thursday 7th May. The website has a range of good quality home learning links and also signpost emotional and wellbeing support links to a number of providers.

Schools have been encouraged to check in with students regularly. This regular 'checking in' creates the opportunity to both guide pupils to appropriate and realistic home learning opportunities and also monitor and to support the emotional wellbeing of children and young people regardless of their circumstances.

There is a significant danger that one of the outcomes of this period is considerably wider gaps for disadvantaged pupils and other vulnerable children and young people if our home learning offer is not sufficiently inclusive. COVID-19 is an unprecedented emergency that is impacting greatly on schools. Leaders and staff in schools have responded with extraordinary speed to establish routines and approaches as quickly as possible to support pupils while the majority of staff are well and available for work.

As Andrew stated in his recent newsletter

We know, for example, that the requirement to ensure quality provision for those learning at home, while self-isolating, while other children in their bubble continue to attend schools is very challenging in itself. It almost feels like colleagues are being asked to do two jobs simultaneously. Speaking last week, the Chief HMI, Amanda Spielman, said:

“One of the things that’s very important for me is to make sure that people’s expectations are realistic. Aspirational, but also realistic.

“When I have seen some people saying in public that every school should be able to provide full on-screen taught programme for all children all the hours they would normally be in school, I have not supported that. I don’t see that as something that is necessarily sensible or realistic at either end.”

Home Schooling

If this is for Home Educating families, then we have a process, this includes:

- A school meeting to look at the reasons for EHE and if this is the right choice for the child and family (this is limited at the moment and planning on being rolled out in line with new DfE update)
- A visit from MAST in the first 3-6 weeks if the decision to home educate – this is to discuss the choice, and ask if this is feeling like the right choice and ascertain if they are happy to continue or if they would like to return to the school which they left, or apply for a new one.
- The Advisory Teacher is in contact within the first 6 weeks to ask families to consider their curriculum intent and how they plan on providing a full time and efficient education.
- The Advisory Teacher is then in communication with families until there is evidence of a full time and efficient education.

We have revised the new policy linked to EHE and we are looking at how we support families longer term. As there is only one Advisory Teacher and there are many children and families entering EHE there has been a limit to the ongoing support.

With discussion between MAST, Inclusion and Attendance, Admissions and Access we have been thinking about how we all work to better support families who are EHE at this time.

We have additional support offers from Strategy and Commissioning for Project Support, and an offer of additional teaching time on an interim basis from SEND and Life Long Learning and Skills to help with the communication and contact with families.

As we move to better understand the needs of delivery in Education and Skills and therefore EHE we can make longer term plans for how families are supported on an ongoing basis.

We have been in discussion about the impact of so many families coming into EHE and this being due to the worries about COVID – we have a worry that when things are more settled and the infection rate reduced a lot of families will wish to return their child to school and if they are in a high demand area for school places they are unlikely to have their original school place to return to, which in turn will lead to an admissions issues later next year. We don’t have the answer to this as EHE is a parents right to choose, we just have to make sure they fully understand the potential consequences to this decision.

**Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed
(Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

Q.1 How much is Taylor Shaw being paid to provide grab bags in schools?

A.1 I will provide a written answer to this question and publish on the councils website

Q.2 How much was Taylor Shaw paid to provide food parcels during the lockdown?

A.2 I will provide a written answer to this question and publish on the councils website

Q.3 How many schools is Taylor Shaw supplying grab bags to and how many schools are being provided with hot meals?

A.3 Taylor Shaw manage 93 schools in the School Catering Contract. There are 35 schools with hot meals in place, 31 have a mixture of hot and cold grab bags with no hot meals and 29 have both hot meals and grab bags. All arrangements are subject to space in schools, bubbles of children and year groups, and include Secondary school information who traditionally always have some 'grab and go' food on offer.

Q.4 Has the Taylor Shaw workforce remained the same since before lockdown or has it reduced or increased?

A.4 Taylor Shaw have reduced their area management team by 4 but this is not related to Covid-19. It is because 16 schools had already chosen to leave the School Catering Contract at the end of the contract year 31st July to self-manage catering or work independently in their Trusts.

Q.5 How many schools have had their food provision inspected year on year?

A.5 In the School Catering contract, Taylor Shaw must inspect their own schools annually using the audit process agreed with the council that is prescribed in the contract documents. Any or all of these can be checked further if it is felt necessary to do so. The council randomly inspects 20% of the schools. Schools outside the contract do not have any routine inspections by the council's School Food Service as those schools manage their own provision.

Q.6 How many meals have been provided by Taylor Shaw during the school half term holiday?

A.6 Taylor Shaw only provide meals during term time only so they haven't provided any meals during the half term holiday.

Q.7 How has the quality of the food provided been assessed?

A.7 There are national, legal standards as well as Sheffield's own quality standards built into the School Catering Contract. The School Food Standards dictate a level of variety, quality and portion size. A range of tools are available to the council to test quality, such as annual performance audits, and an independent audit

programme with visits carried out at random. We expect Red Tractor and Marine Stewardship standards ensuring traceability and authenticity of items, particularly meat and poultry. Trading Standards are commissioned annually to check both halal and non-halal meat and poultry, including species testing. Fat content is also checked against the specification and contract standards, and milk is checked for freshness as well as fat content. We also approve menus for content, variety and choice and have access to all the recipes in use. Medical diets are managed robustly so that dietary needs are catered for with as wide an element of choice as possible, often using specialist foods. Any complaints that come through to the School Food team are investigated, and there are comments cards in school dining rooms for pupils to comment on the meal that day. These are collected and used to investigate any complaints.

Q.8 What is the uptake of free school dinners as grab bags compared to before the epidemic?

A.8 This is not possible to establish. Not all primary schools have a grab bag option under normal service conditions as it is a choice schools can have if they wish. If schools have them on the menu, pupils can choose to have them if they wish. With secondary schools, there are daily sandwich options alongside other 'handheld' foods, at break times and lunchtimes. Again, we do not collect any details on choices made by students, as the provision is agreed by Taylor Shaw with individual schools.

Questions of Councillor Peter Garbutt to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Q.1 How many parents in Sheffield have opted to home-educate their children since the beginning of August?

A.1 There has been a rise of about 200 families from August until now (the system is down today so I cannot get an exact for today)

Q.2 What support is available to those parents and are they sufficient and robust enough?

A.2 We have a very robust system in the beginning of the EHE process. Due to restrictions of the LA where EHE families are concerned our hands are somewhat tied as to how much we can offer without this being perceived as unreasonable / excessive oversight. We have looked at the support needs over the summer and have been in contact with families known to EHE either by phone or letter. We have reviewed the RAG rating of families, what this means and what the support offer should be. We have one Advisory Teacher for the city, so we are also reviewing the longer term support needs within this service area to make the support robust and sufficient.

Q.3 What systems are in place to ensure the needs of neurodiverse children in home education are being met?

- A.3 Where a family chooses to home educate they take on full responsibility for the educational needs of their child. This means that they will not have access to local authority or school based services around Special Educational Needs. Where they are open to health services, their access remains the same and so provision via services such as the neuro-disability service based at Ryegate at Sheffield Children's hospital would continue through hospital appointments. Where a child has an EHC Plan and is home educated, the local authority will arrange a review of the EHC Plan and ask the parent how they are meeting the needs of their child. Parents should always think very carefully about home educating any child, and particularly children with special educational needs, as they will need to be able to ensure that the educational needs are met.
- Q.4 How has the progress of pupils on Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) been affected by the Covid19 restrictions, and are there systems in place for reviewing the EHCPs in the light of Covid19 restrictions?**
- A.4 Throughout lockdown local authority services contacted all education providers on a fortnightly basis to discuss how they were supporting individual needs of all children with SEN and particularly those with an EHC Plan. This was to ensure that schools had the right advice in place to support children remotely. Since the start of the new academic year, services have remained available to schools to offer support. Alongside health colleagues, the LA produced guidance for families and schools to support the return to school and how needs should be met. It is still too early to tell what impact covid-19 restrictions have had on the academic progress of children with EHC Plans across the city, but the process of annual reviews will enable schools to target support as needed and advisory services will continue to work with schools to support them in this. All EHC Plans must be reviewed on an annual basis and education providers should review the progress of all children with SEN at least 3 times per year. Work is currently taking place to deliver further training to education providers and practitioners on the annual review process. Whilst this was always within the training plan for SEND in the city, it will understandably also now have a focus on covid-19.

**Question of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed
(Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

- Q. Women fleeing domestic violence situations can find it very difficult to find new school places for their children when they are forced to leave their home. Sometimes it is not safe for them to give the details of their current address as they are in fear of violent partners finding them. Do we have any policy to take account of these types of stressful and potentially dangerous situations when a child has to be taken out of school and needs to find a new school place? Children can lose months of education under these distressing circumstances.**
- A.1 All families who have to flee Domestic Abuse and where children have been removed from their school place and require an 'in year transfer' will now be covered under the Fair Access Protocol, this amendment has been made under

the new Admissions Code from Government and after consultation will be incorporated into the DfE statutory guidance. Domestic Abuse is covered in SCCs Fair Access Protocol and it would be expected that schools respond to a request for the placement of a child who has had to move under these traumatic circumstances.

Alongside being covered within the Fair Access Protocol, there is support available from Social Care, MAST and Inclusion and Attendance which would always consider school placement. Our systems and processes ensure confidentiality of residence and addresses are not available unless a professional is working with the family.

Sheffield Women's Aid who operate the commissioned Women's Refuges in Sheffield:

- liaise with Children Missing from Education currently (sounds like this is changing)
- It is usually a smooth process however during COVID this has slowed down and also children are being offered places in schools not local to the refuges and parents then have to put appeals in
- SWA have good relationships with local schools
- They attend the first visit if possible to support the family, discuss safeguarding concerns re. the perpetrator etc.
- If the child is remaining at the same school that the attended already they liaise to discuss safeguarding concerns
- If necessary they support mum to get a Prohibited Steps Order

Question of Councillor Andy Bainbridge to Councillor Abtislam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Q. How many children in East Ecclesfield ward receive free school meals?

A. There are currently 315 children with free school meals eligibility according to our data.