

Council Questions

Wednesday 2 December 2020
2.00 pm

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CITY OF SHEFFIELD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 2ND DECEMBER, 2020
COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

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

Q.1 At full council in November I asked the following questions and was told I would receive a written response. I have yet to receive a written answer.

(a) During your term as Leader of the Council, how many ombudsman complaints been upheld?

I have responded to these questions with a written response, which have been published on the council's [website](#).

(b) Please provide a list of all complaints upheld since May 2011?

See answer above.

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

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 System

Q.2 With the new tier system coming into force at the end of the current lockdown, will you be able to provide the people of Sheffield with a clear exit strategy unlike when the Government put Sheffield into Tier 3?

A.2 We have several indicators we are tracking which Public Health England and regional colleagues have identified as important. Please note, these are not formally agreed, central government has the final say, and there will undoubtedly be other context/nuance to the decision around de-escalation that will play in. We are tracking these indicators locally as they are important to keep an eye on regardless. Please also note that these are not in the public domain as criteria for de-escalation.

It is also worth noting that caution is needed in reducing the current situation to a

series of numerical targets. COVID remains a very dangerous virus with a fatality rate many times higher than seasonal influenza and – whatever tier we end up in in December – there will still be a need to wash hands regularly & properly, maintain social distancing, limit contact in enclosed spaces, and wear face-coverings.

De-escalation of restrictions should not be confused with de-escalation of vigilance.

SIV

Q.3 When were you first aware of losses being incurred by SIV Enterprises Limited operations in Scarborough and Whitby?

A.3 This information was included in the update given to the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in 2019. However, I would like to correct the false and misleading information that you have been circulating about this issue.

Sheffield's leisure facilities like towns and cities across the country have been under threat due to the pandemic from loss of income from memberships, individual visits, event cancelations etc. Without additional financial support there is simply no way that they would continue to exist.

As said by the editor of the Sheffield Star, on 7th July: "It is very sad news that SIV have started to think about redundancies at both venues, but also completely predictable. With no live performances, what other option is there? I am very worried how many of this city's big names will remain when we eventually discover what our new normal actually looks like. But we must equally care for the sports halls and gyms in our more deprived neighbourhoods. They are just as needed in their neighbourhoods as the big venues are for the city economy. It doesn't matter if it was Sheaf Valley Baths or Ponds Forge where you made your first splash. They were accessible to all and must remain that way. As soon as we can, let's get behind all our venues by using them. Til then, our politicians must bend over backwards to make sure they are still there when that time comes. Anything else would be unforgivable."

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/business/editor-lets-pull-together-save-our-big-names-soon-we-can-2906236>

The council have taken that action and 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.

All of this money provided by the council has gone to Sheffield facilities, this was a condition the council placed on providing financial support. This is confirmed by the Chair of Sheffield City Trust who took the unprecedented step of writing to you and said "SCC has been clear in all funding negotiations that no SCC funds can be spent in another local authority area. The process has been open and transparent and Sheffield's council taxpayers have not and will not subsidise losses in Scarborough."

As the Star have said the only responsible thing to do was to bend over backwards to support our venues in their hour of need. Without this they would not have been there for future generations. By saying you oppose the money that has been given to the City Trust you are saying you would not have supported our venues and would have been happy to wash your hands of venues like Ponds Forge, Hillsborough, Sheffield Arena, the City Hall and see permanent closure.

The Lib Dem Cabinet set up the trading company when you controlled the council in 2008 which led to SIV taking on the management of other facilities, in 2012 they took over Scarborough venues, however, SIV have terminated this agreement without any cost to them also confirmed by the Chair of SCT in his letter to you that SIV “will exit the contract at the end of the year without cost. “

The council have not and will not subsidise other venues outside the city, it is regrettable that you are playing politics with a pandemic. At a time when the rest of the city is coming together to do everything for Sheffield, you have been spreading misinformation and playing political games. As said by the Chair of Sheffield City Trust, “it is unreasonable to make inaccurate statements about a local charity without fact checking or considering the impact on local services and local people employed by that charity.”

Q.4 What involvement did you have with the signing of and creation of the 2012 Scarborough SIV Enterprises Ltd contract?

A.4 SIV Enterprises Limited was established following a [cabinet report in June 2008](#) with the decision recorded in the [minutes available on the website](#). Cllr Mohammed was a Member of the Cabinet at that time as stated above.

SIV Enterprises Ltd (SEL) entered into the contract with North Yorkshire. The Council did not need to consent to SEL entering into the contract and this was an independent decision of SEL. SEL needed to obtain funding for capital investment in the venues and did so by way of a bank loan for which SIV, as parent company of SEL, was asked to provide a Parent Company Guarantee (PCG). Under the arrangements in place for Sheffield facilities, SIV needed the consent of the Council to give the PCG. However, a condition was placed on this agreement that ‘no liability arising from this contract should it be awarded will be attributable to the City Council’. As stated above the Chair of SCT has made it clear that they have reached an agreement to exit this contract without cost.

**Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Leader of the Council
(Councillor Julie Dore)**

Q.1 Following the transfer of Sheffield Futures staff into Sheffield City Council on the 1st October 2020, have the terms and conditions of these staff been harmonised into the Sheffield City Council’s terms and conditions?

A.1 The transfer of Sheffield Futures staff into Sheffield City Council was subject to the TUPE regulations, therefore in line with these regulations the former Sheffield

Futures staff retain Sheffield Futures terms and conditions.

Q.2 Have these staff been placed into the appropriate pay spine of their equivalent existing employees in Sheffield City Council, and if not, when will this take place?

A.2 At this time the staff remain on their former Sheffield Futures salaries. Under the TUPE regulations which the transfer was subject to, an Economic, Technical or Organisational (ETO) reason must be in place before changing terms and conditions, including salaries, and this is usually part of a wider service change. No identifiable plan has been formulated which could result in an ETO reason for the employees to be placed onto Sheffield City Council pay or other terms and conditions. However it is usual for the Council to review a service following an insource, and this service will likely be reviewed in the same way, following a period of time to embed the Service in the wider Council and allow for service stabilisation and redesign, whereupon the service will review if there is change required.

Q.3 What is the additional annual salary, pension and other costs as a result of employing the Sheffield Futures staff in Sheffield City Council?

A.3 From our perspective there are no additional costs, however there may be differences between employer contribution rate to the pension scheme in which case this could result in a difference in cost. This would need to be confirmed with Financial Services.

Q.4 Of the £2m additional spend in 2020/21 over and above the £3M operating costs, how much has been spent on a) transfer costs, b) additional employment costs through to end of 20/21, and what is the anticipated outturn spend of the £2M allocation?

A.4 Following the safe transfer of staff we are reviewing the service and consulting with staff and stakeholders including young people and will have the plans to invest the £2m early next financial year.

Q.5 What is the proposed budget increase for Youth Services in 2021/2022?

A.5 £2m

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

Q.1 Having announced your resignation as Leader, what do you consider your greatest achievement in office and what is your biggest regret?

A.1 I am not sure I would point to one individual thing as my 'greatest achievement', but I'll give you some examples of some achievements I'm proud of: my time in office has coincided with the harshest central government cuts we have ever had to make, but we have sought to give greatest protection to council services for the

people in greatest need and the most vulnerable in the city. Despite the impacts of austerity we have also done a number of things which made a difference such as paying the living wage and becoming a Living Wage Foundation accredited employer; insourcing a number of services back into the council including the council housing service, repairs and maintenance, customer services, youth services and many others; the regeneration of the city centre which is taking hold and the council's role in this has been significant in the Heart of the City; other projects such as Grey to Green and outdoor city; we have built new council housing and invested in our housing and neighbourhoods; investment and management of our parks and our environment including receiving a number of awards; immediately on taking office saving our museums and galleries from closure, and being the first member representing Sheffield on the Arts Council England; working with the Women of Steel to create the award winning statue in Barkers pool; the successful development of the Olympic Legacy Park and the strengthening of advanced manufacturing in the city; producing a new local plan which protects the green belt from development despite the level of new housebuilding targets imposed by central government; working with other Leaders of the Core Cities to put devolution more on the agenda and getting our South Yorkshire devolution deal done and electing a Labour Mayor; ensuring the route of HS2 brings high speed rail into the city centre; involvement and the development of creating 'Transport for the North' and the subsequent investment into our transport network across the North; working collectively and collaboratively with all our partners across the city and region at many levels, throughout my tenure including the South Yorkshire Leaders, SCR, LEP, Fairness Commission, LAP's, Business Advisory Panel, Sheffield Strategic Advisory Group, Health and Wellbeing Board etc. and most recently, and probably the most emotionally difficult supporting the city through COVID.

Other than Sheffield Wednesday not making it to the Premier League, my biggest regret would be the impact austerity and government cuts have had in the city seeing a growth in use of foodbanks and homelessness as we have seen across the country. For example recently when the free school meals issue came about we looked at the figures of how many children are on free school meals per ward, comparing this there was almost a direct correlation to the research Sheffield Hallam University undertook about the impact of welfare reform which showed an almost direct correlation between the families greatest impacted by welfare cuts and families on free school meals, showing how it has been the poorest families hit hardest. One of the hardest decisions that I had to take as Leader was when the government 'localised' council tax benefit and cut the funding by 20% whilst handing it over to LA's and despite the hardship fund we were able to create it was really hard to accept that there was nothing more we could do for the poorest families.

As Leader of the Council, as is the case for all councillors and things in life you learn all the time and gain experience. As you are aware, and I think you would expect me to say so, I have apologised for the failures of the way that the council handled elements of the street trees issue, and I'm aware that there have been other times where we have got things wrong that of course I regret, no one sets out to do the wrong thing, and we have apologised where those have occurred.

In addition to what I have said above I have also had a role in the recruitment of the new Chief Executive, which we were both on the panel for, who I think will be a great appointment for Sheffield, and I will play a role in electing and appointing the new Leader as my replacement on the 6th January. I wish everyone well for the future.

Q.2 Will this Council declare a biodiversity emergency and start protecting valuable sites like Owlthorpe Fields, accepting that decisions made 20, 30, 40 or 50 years ago are not necessarily valid now?

A.2 Question to be answered by Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

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

Q.1 In August, the number of referrals to the MAST team was around 600 per month. What is the current rate of referral and what is this likely to be in March 2021?

A.1 There were 427 referrals into MAST in August 2020, which is lower than the usual average rate of around 600 per month.
There were 747 referrals into MAST in October 2020.
It is not possible to accurately predict what the referral rate will be like in March 2021, there were 604 referrals into MAST in March 2020.

Q.2 What was the backlog of referrals in August, what is it now, and what is it expected to be at the end of March 2021?

A.2 At any point in time there are referrals being screened awaiting allocation for MAST, we aim for all referrals to be allocated within 14 days, where this is not possible support is offered whilst families are awaiting allocation.

For a number of children and families the covid-19 pandemic created disruption to the interventions that support them, some children did not attend school as frequently, some interventions were unable to be delivered and some professionals were unable to visit family homes. In September most children returned to school and most professionals began visiting children again. This has created an increase in demand for early help services. New referrals are being received at a higher rate but families receiving support need that to continue until interventions can be delivered. In order to manage the additional demand approval was given for additional MAST staff to be recruited.

Q.3 How many additional MAST staff have been recruited to date, and what will be the anticipated numbers in March 2021? How many of the new recruits are achieved through staff redeployment, and how many is that likely to be in March 2021?

A.3 17 additional Intervention Workers and 4 additional Prevention Workers have been recruited. None were from the talent pool however one member of the talent pool has been offered a work-trial. No further recruitment is planned prior to March 21. Due to the high staff turnover in MAST it is anticipated the establishment will return to the usual number (without the additional 21 posts) within the next financial year.

Q.4 What is the additional spend to date, and anticipated additional spend at the end of the financial year?

A.4 We are forecasting a £350k additional in this financial year and £350k next financial year, the recruitment has taken place and we are on track to spend that. All additional

covid spend for Children and Families is being captured in its entirety for the service

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman published a report dated 25th September 2020 “Investigation into a complaint against Sheffield City Council (reference number: 18 004 957)”.

In this report, the ombudsman stated “The Council must consider the report and confirm within three months the action it has taken or proposes to take. The Council should consider the report at its full Council, Cabinet or other appropriately delegated committee of elected members and we will require evidence of this.”

Q.5 Will both the report and the action plan be placed before the appropriate scrutiny committee, namely Children, Young People and Family Support within the timescale laid down by the ombudsman?

A.5 Question to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed

Questions of Councillor Steve Ayris to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care) to be answered by Councillor Jackie Drayton

Q.1 Of the £3.1m Sheffield City Council received towards the start of the coronavirus pandemic under the Contain Grant to local authorities, please could you give a breakdown of how this money was spent?

A.1 In June 2020 SCC was allocated a ring fenced grant (Contain) of £3,101,989 from DHSC towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.

On September the 23rd the Cabinet approved the report entitled “COVID-19 Test, Track & Isolate Programme Funding”. This report described the funding available at that time and the Investment Plan of how that funding was intended to be used.

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=7548&Ver=4> (item 13).

This funding was described in the Cabinet Report entitled “COVID-19 Test, Track & Isolate Programme Funding” approved on 23rd September 2020. This report described a £5m Investment Plan consisting of Programme Management, Additional Staff Resources, Communications, Local Testing Services and VCFS Services. This report estimated a potential overspend of £2m unless further funding was provided to cover costs such as local contact tracing. The report also described the Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies known as the DEFRA Grant for local authorities to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. In August 2020, Sheffield City Council received a DEFRA Grant of £774,649 through this scheme.

TTI Programme Estimated Costs (Investment Plan) as of September Cabinet

Report:

Programme Management	£1,133,500
Staff Resources	£1,373,702
Communications	£630,000
Local Testing Services	£898,000
VCFS Services	£505,000
Local Test Site Costs	£565,000
Total	£5,105,202

At the time it was noted these figures were estimates based on the best information available at the time of writing and subsequently costs for Programme Management and Local Testing Costs have been revised down.

The Covid Response Hub (November 2020 onwards)

As we approach December the TTI Programme has completed its work and has handed over to a sustainable 'business as usual' operational function that is able to support the prevention, mitigation and management of outbreaks for the longer term called the "Covid Response Hub".

The Investment Plan has been revised to account for actual spend from June to October 2020, and for a revised forecast of planned expenditure from November 2020 to March 2021.

Revised Investment Plan

	Estimate Sept 2020	Revised Forecast Nov 2020
Programme Management	£1,133,500	£500,000
Staff Resources	£1,373,702	£1,168,019
Communications	£630,000	£630,000
Local Testing Services	£898,000	£898,000

VCFS Services	£505,000	£505,000
Local Test Site Costs*	£565,000	£0
Total	£5,105,202	£3,701,019

* Local test site costs were funded centrally by DHSC

Q.2 As the consequence of going into Tier 3 lockdown, how much did the City receive for public health indicatives including test and trace and can you provide a breakdown of how that money is planned to be spent?

A.2 October 2020: Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) : c£4.6m

This funding followed the move to Local COVID Alert Levels. A payment of up to £1 per head of population provided to Local Authorities in Local COVID Alert Level Medium, £3 per person for High and £8 per person for Very High. Funding is one-off. Repeated movement between Local Alert Levels will not enable reoccurring support from this fund. This funding is incremental, not additional. There are constraints over what the funding can be used for, this is described below:

Financial support for Local Authorities at Local COVID Alert Level Medium and High is to fund the following activities as set out in what is known as the COMF letter:

- Targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes.
- Additional contact tracing.
- Enhanced communication and marketing e.g. towards hard-to-reach groups and other localised messaging.
- Delivery of essentials for those in self-isolation.
- Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces.
- Harnessing capacity within local sectors (voluntary, academic, commercial).
- Extension/introduction of specialist support (behavioural science, bespoke comms).
- Additional resource for compliance with, and enforcement of, restrictions and guidance

For places in Very High it is expected the funding will also cover activities such as

- Measures to support the continued functioning of commercial areas and their compliance with public health guidance.
- Funding Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (marginal costs only).
- Targeted support for school/university outbreaks.
- Community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population.
- Support for engagement and analysis of regional areas to assess and learn from local initiatives.
- Providing initial support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who are following tier 3 guidance.
- Support for rough sleepers.

November 2020: Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Funding: £319k
 Additional funding of £319,000 to support the CEV during Lockdown 2 (e.g. Humanitarian Support).

Description of funding not yet received

December 2020: Government Budgetary Announcement on Tier 3
 Up to £2.3 million for being a tier 3 authority estimated at £4 per head not yet received.

Q.3 Please could you provide a full breakdown of Council posts that have been or are intended to be backfilled and financed from Covid-related Government funding?

A.3 These are staffing resources that are intended to be backfilled or financed from Covid Related Govt Funding.

Covid Response Hub

1	Service Manager
	BCIS Staffing Resource
1	Lead Operational Manager
2	Risk & Contingency Planning Officers (Public Health)
1	Tactical MI & BI Officer

1	Lead Operational Manager
3	Covid Response Hub Lead Coordinators
5	Environmental Health Officers
2	Health Advisors (Contact Tracing)
10	Health Advisors
2	Covid Response Hub Coordinators
2	Trace Team Leaders
12	Contact Tracers
2	Business Administrators
1	PH Consultant 0.35 fte
45	Total

Wider Council Roles

There have been Communications Team Posts dedicated to the Covid Response. The Councils Public Health Team and Environmental Regulations Service have effectively been deployed into Covid work since the beginning of the pandemic. Peoples work has significantly diverged towards Covid roles across all portfolios at this stage we don't fully understand the scale of this activity.

Questions of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care) to be answered by Councillor Jackie Drayton

Q.1 Could you please explain what role Sheffield City Council plays in test and trace. How many staff are allocated to this role and what is the cost? Also, do you feel it's working?

A.1 Sheffield City Council supports and augments with the National System of Test and Trace. It is well documented that the National System is significantly more resourced than any local approach. In terms of Local Testing we can see that the Local Test Sites are being accessed by local people and we are reaching into communities, the collaboration with the DHSC, SCC, Voluntary Sector and Communities has meant we have got as much as we could out of the national system and put Sheffield in the

best position we could going forward. We continue to be disappointed that the DHSC will not permit “walk ins” to our test sites as we feel this would also improve their reach into communities.

Our local contact tracing service works with cases the national system has not been able to contact and we are successfully able to complete contact tracing on average 75% of these cases a figure which has improved week on week since we went live just over 4 weeks ago. This contrasts with the national system that has around a 55% success rate. I do feel that our service is working well and have no doubt that their effort will have undoubtedly contributed to saving lives.

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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 For each of the following streets, list how many parking tickets have been issued on each road/street for each month since January 2020. (These roads are just off London Road in the Highfield Area of Sheffield)
Alderson Road
Woodhead Road
Thorpe Close
Harwood Close.

A.1 To be answered by Councillor Bob Johnson

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

- Q.1 Members have been notified of Officer Non-Key Executive Decisions including “Additional Extension to ICT Service Continuity Contract” The report states that “Unfortunately, the delay does incur additional work and cost for the council” and the figure stated for a one month extension 1st-30th November is £425245 + VAT. How “unfortunate” is this delay and cost?

A.1 I will provide you with a written answer.

- Q.2 What was the budget for this work at commencement? (The present extension is a second extension of this contract, and I am thinking the first extension of four months July to October was not anticipated)

A.2 I will provide you with a written answer.

- Q.3 What is the expenditure to date on this work?

A.4 I will provide you with a written answer.

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

- Q.1 Last month, you promised to provide the latest versions of the Brexit Impact Assessments for Sheffield. When will you do this?

A.1 We are revising our impact assessments on Brexit and these will be discussed as part of an item on Brexit preparedness to be taken to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 17th December 2020.

Q.2 You also committed to providing an estimate of the current funding received from the EU, directly or indirectly, per year? Again, when will this be provided?

A.2 In the Oct 2019 Scrutiny paper, we said the below but that definitely doesn't cover everything (directly and indirectly) so is not a comprehensive amount:

"Sheffield City Region was notionally allocated £191m as part of the European Structural Investment Fund programme 2014-20. Over 75% of the allocation is either contracted or is being considered by the Managing Authorities. Calls for ERDF and ESF have recently been published and the Government is planning a further round of calls in the new year to maximise the use of all ESIF funds before the end of the Programme".

Q.3 How many (a) applications for and (b) awards of Covid-19 Emergency Assistance Grant have been made so far?

A.3 Since the start of the first lockdown to date SCC have provided support and assistance in response to the Covid-19 emergency and continue to do so.

We have since April 2020 to date provided –

Funding to support foodbanks and Emergency Food Parcels £450,000

We have provided the following number of actions for those shielding, self isolating and requiring support

Shopping – 2,017 Medication 1,063 Helpline Calls 18,132

We called approximately 29,000 people who were shielding offering advice and support

We have since the beginning of November (2nd lockdown) sent a letter to the list of approximately 22,000 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people (provided by government) plus 18,800 texts where phone numbers were provided and have followed up calls for further help and support. We have also proactively called those who required support during the previous lockdown who are no longer on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list.

We have provided various packages of financial support to the voluntary sector and worked in partnership with them and our communities to ensure support was available throughout the period and for the Test, Trace and Isolate programme.

We have recently received a number of grants from government to meet the current covid-19 emergency with different criteria and requirements for distribution. We are diverting resources currently as we are aware, we need to increase capacity to deliver these as quickly as possible to ensure the funding gets to those people/organisations that require support.

We are intending to provide an update on grants and how we are deploying them as part of a report to Cabinet in December.

Q.4 What is the total value of the awards paid out?

A.4 See above

Q.5 What progress has been made with the Policy for the Disposal of Land and why has this been delayed for so long?

A.5 The Council's current framework for the Disposal of Land was approved in 2013. The policy will require review and update to take account of any changes in legislation and case law and to ensure that it fits with the 'Sheffield Land and Property Plan' which will set out how the City Council will use and manage its estate to deliver Council priorities.

The Policy will therefore be brought forward for decision alongside or after the Sheffield Land and Property Plan. This plan has been drafted but the decision has been delayed in order that the plan can take account of the impact of COVID 19.

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

Q.1 What has been done to ensure the government knows we can safely run elections in Sheffield and that we do not want another fallow year?

A.1 The Government has confirmed that the elections postponed from May 2020 will go ahead in May 2021 as planned. No changes to primary legislation are planned, and therefore voting will take place in person or by postal vote where requested. The Electoral Commission is in the process of releasing guidance to Returning Officers on the safe running of the May elections. To date guidance has been released on broad planning considerations, the nominations process and on postal voting with further guidance expected over the coming weeks on other aspects of the electoral process. In Sheffield, work is already underway for the May 2021 elections, and this includes substantial planning to ensure that these take place safely within the context of Covid-19 and that voters feel confident in being able to cast their vote whether in person, by proxy, or by post. We are working closely with the other South Yorkshire authorities in respect of the shared Police and Crime Commissioner elections. We are in regular dialogue with the Electoral Commission and Cabinet Office both directly and through the Association of Electoral Administrators.

Q.2 How many code of conduct complaints have there been about members since the all out election in 2016?

A.2 Please see the answer to Q3 below.

Q.3 Please provide a breakdown by party for each municipal year since 2016 for the following:-

- 1. How many complaints have been made about members of each group?**
- 2. Which complaints have been made by members of the public, officers,**

the monitoring officer and anyone else? Please provide a full breakdown.

3. **What did each of the complaints relate to?**
4. **How long did each of the complaints take to deal with from initial complaint to conclusion?**
5. **What sanctions were imposed on members?**

A.3 Information concerning complaints about Members is the subject of an annual report from the Audit and Standards Committee. Last year's annual report was not reported to Full Council due to COVID 19 and so the next one, due to be considered by the Committee early in the new year, will cover both years.

Q.4 You can tell a leader from a bully by the way they treat people who disagree with them. What has been done to ensure the leader of this council treats people with respect, whether they are elected members or members of the public?

A.4 These are outrageous and unfounded insinuations, if you have a complaint to make you are aware of the council procedures open to you to do this.

Q.5 Has the leader been warned, or has a complaint about their behaviour in the November full council meeting been made, by a member of the public, an elected member or the monitoring officer?

A.5 I am not aware of any complaints, however, you would need to direct this question to the monitoring officer.

Q.6 What steps will you take to prevent a repeat of the shocking personal attack on a member of the public by the leader in November full Council meeting?

A.6 The Leader of the Council did not make a personal attack on a member of the public, the incident you are referring was where a candidate for the local elections presented a party political petition which had been promoted through the website of the Liberal Democrats, the Leader made political points in her response.

Q.7 A bullying culture is off-putting to those considering standing for election or re-election. What steps will you take to ensure that candidacy is a positive thing for someone to do safely in the knowledge they will be respected for their decision?

A.7 I fully support as many people from a wide range of backgrounds feeling confident to stand for election. Everyone should be treated with respect.

Looking at your Twitter account I can see the following comments from you just in the last few months:

'About bloody time!!!! Spiteful, hate filled, incompetent individual. (That's my speech written!!)'

'I've heard it said parties, in the same way as dogs, are like their leaders/owners.'

Well this leader is bitter, angry, entitled and hates everyone!
'This council is a dictatorship. This leader is a dictator.'

Therefore, if you are looking at tackling bullying and personal attacks it might be an idea to start closer to home and some of your own conduct?

Q.8 What is the process when an elected member or senior officer is dishonest in full Council meetings?

A.8 Any complaint about alleged misconduct on the part of a Member which may give rise to a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct would be reported to the Monitoring Officer. The Protocol for Member / Officer Relations sets out the process for dealing with Members concerns about Council Officers.

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

Q.1 Many allotment holders were sent debt collectors letters less than a month after they were invoiced for their allotment fees. Plot holders have a month to pay their invoices and normally there is also a grace period. Many holders had already paid their fees when the letters arrived. Why did this happen and what has been done to rectify the error?

A.1 This was explained in the answers to questions at the last meeting .

Q.2 Has any action been taken to establish any responsibility?

A.2 Yes, we have already instigated a review into our invoicing, printing and reminder processes in the light of this incident, with a view to identifying any improvements that can be made to our systems and procedures.

Q.3 Has any data protection legislation been breached?

A.3 No.

Q.4 Have any complaints regarding this issue been received by Sheffield City Council? If so, how many?

A.4 Finance & Commercial Services has dealt with four individual complaints, all of which have received personal responses. Parks and Countryside (P&C) have been contacted by eight parties regarding this issue. All have been responded to (often with a combination of P&C and finance information. There is likely to be some crossover between the Finance complaints and the P&C complaints. Other customers have contacted P&C by phone – where any issues / questions were resolved straight away, they were not counted in the number of complaints.

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Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

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

Q.1 To date how many businesses have applied to Sheffield City Council for a Lockdown Business Support Grant, how many have been paid and what is the total value of that payment?

A.1 Applications: 2,896
Paid: 1,987
Value: £3,095,860

Q.2 Small businesses that are entirely reliant on supplying outlets that have been required to close in lockdown (or the Tier system) appear to be ineligible for support under either the Lockdown or Discretionary Lockdown grant schemes. What is the Council doing to provide short-term assistance to them?

A.2 Working with the SCR and three other South Yorkshire Local Authorities, a Hospitality, Accommodation, Leisure and Entertainment supply chain scheme has been developed that will provide grants to businesses with commercial property costs (rate payers and non-rate payers) that have not been forced to close but support those sectors. This scheme is expected to go 'live' at the start of December.

In addition consideration is being given at City Region level as to whether there are sufficient funds to provide grants to home based businesses in this sector.

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

Q.1 How many Council tenants of commercial premises applied to have their rents and service charges deferred earlier this year, and how many were successful in their application?

A.1 There have been 53 requests in total. All applications were successful. Rents have been deferred for 44 tenants and 9 were suspended.

Q.2 The Council has announced that the Covid19 Economic Recovery Fund is be financed by reducing the money allocated to district centres. Which investments or other activities in district centres will be cancelled as a result?

A.2 Nothing is being cancelled. The Covid Fund will have an explicit focus on District Centres, you voted against the money allocated to District Centres.

**Question of Councillor Julie Grocutt to Councillor Mazher Iqbal
(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)**

- Q. Is the Council intending to ‘build back better’, producing a more sustainable and prosperous future for the city, as advocated by the national Labour Party?**
- A. A range of recovery activities are underway, including around the economy where we are working with the Business Response Group. The intention across all agendas is to try and recover to a better place than before, not simply aiming to returning to what we had before. This includes sustainability and a fairer, more prosperous city economy for everyone.

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 written question in the November Council, “Can you confirm that the Council owned land submitted in the 2015 Sheffield Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), and not in the current 2020 HELAA, will not be submitted in future versions of the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)?”, you replied that “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.....a small number of sites (including some sites in Council ownership) were not resubmitted in 2019.....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”. That being the case, then a small number of green space sites namely Parson Cross Park (465 homes), Mortomley Park (162 homes) and Wolfe Road Park (32 homes) and many dozens of hectares of council owned agricultural land remain in the scope of the HELAA. Can you confirm that is the case?

You also stated “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”.

Q.1 If you are going to publish all the sites submitted in 2014 in the next version of the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), why did you choose to exclude certain sites from the first version of the HELAA in the Issues and Options consultation?

A.1 The September 2020 publication of the HELAA report, sets out the scope of the update (paragraph 1.12), and states that an update was needed to ‘publish sites submitted to the Council during the last Call for Sites’ (‘last’ being the 16 December 2019 to 07 February 2020), and this is what the report does.

The HELAA report, in line with National Planning Guidance, should consider all available types of sites and sources of data, including (but not limited to) sites included in previous call for sites.

Ideally, sites submitted through the 2014 call for sites would have been included in the HELAA published in Sept 2019. However, due to IT difficulties arising from officers working from home (as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic), it was not possible for officers to run a full cross-check against sites submitted in the 2019 call for sites. The decision was therefore taken to proceed only with sites submitted in 2019. We are aiming to publish a revised HELAA in the new year that will cover all sites submitted in both the 2014 and 2019 call for sites, as well as any new sites submitted through the Sheffield Plan Issues and Options consultation.

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

Q.1 When do you anticipate completion of the Planning Service re-structure?

A.1 The Planning Service restructure (MER476) was launched in August 2019, but has been delayed by a number of factors, including a Collective Dispute (also submitted in August 2019) which was not resolved until January 2020, then delay resulted from difficulties in posts graded via the Council's processes. Covid 19 resulted in the MER being paused in March 2020, but work has recommenced, with the job grading process currently underway again. It was hoped to recommence the final stage of staff and union consultations in December 2020, but delays in getting the grading process finalised under a new system have resulted in that being pushed back. Implementation is currently targeted for early in the new year.

Q.2 Is COVID adversely impacting on delivery of the Sheffield Plan?

A.2 The Covid pandemic caused a delay of around 6 weeks to the scheduled consultation on the Sheffield Plan Issues and Options document (Regulation 18). As a result, all subsequent stages in the process (as set out in the Local Development Scheme published in November 2019) are also likely to be delayed by around 6 weeks.

Q.3 Will bus services receive additional support over the Christmas and New Year Period? (Covid restrictions permitting)?

A.3 Funding continues to be provided for public transport through a mixture of central government and local transport authority funding. This funding does not change although how the current temporary funding arrangements may change is not yet known from the Department of Transport.

For the past 12 years, Sheffield Council has funded bus services on Boxing Day and New Year's Day, when no commercial services operate, known as Festive Buses. This has helped ensure that people making essentially journeys on public transport can continue to do so. I will once again be providing a budget of £37,000 to provide a basic day time service on both public holidays every 30 minutes, one hour or two hours depending on demand, across as much of the city as resources allow.

Q.4 Will car parking concessions apply over the Christmas and New Year Period? (Covid restrictions permitting)

A.4 The council is making an enhanced Christmas parking offer this year. Due to the national lockdown introduced on 5 November which shut most retail and hospitality businesses in the city centre, it wasn't feasible to provide the normal Christmas Parking offer. The parking offer normally consists of free all day parking in the City centre on a Sunday, beginning with the Christmas Light switch on and ending on the Sunday before Christmas. Instead, this year it will begin from the first weekend at the end of lockdown. To support retail and hospitality sector across Sheffield in

district centres, the offer will include all Sheffield City Council pay and display parking, not just in the city centre. The offer is free parking on Saturdays and Sunday's. It will be applicable on 5-6 December, 12-13 December and 19-20 December.

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

- Q. Darwin Lane, which has a school and is on a bus route, had a major incident in February, 2020 due to unprecedented weather conditions resulting in many traffic collisions. Will this be looked at with a view to mitigating any further problems this winter, including the provision of further grit bins?**
- A. Darwin Lane is a Priority 2 Precautionary Gritting route and there is already a grit bin within 200 metres of this location on the junction of Darwin Close and Darwin Lane, and as such it is not eligible against the Council's published criteria for another grit bin to be provided.

Sheffield already operates the largest percentage precautionary gritting network of any Local Authority in the UK, and have more grit bins for public use than any other UK Local Authority – more than Manchester and Nottingham combined so our service offer to the people of Sheffield is significant.

We are aware of media coverage of a small number of incidents involve cars skidding over a very light dusting of snow, thankfully with no injuries reported.

Our forecasting system had highlighted that there was a chance of a small amount of snowfall on higher ground, and as such, in line with national guidance, all roads over 200m above sea level were treated at the maximum possible spread rate from 7pm the day before. Roads below this altitude were treated from midnight.

This is called creating a debonding layer, which endeavours to prevent the snow from settling as effectively, and is in line with national best practice for this particular forecast.

A further treatment commenced at 6:15am, due to snow starting to fall.

Given the size of the highway network in Sheffield, a full gritting run takes in the order of 6 and a half hours, this road was treated by 11am.

Spreading of salt is not a magic bullet, and as such, we do rely on motorists driving appropriately to the road conditions to traffic the salt into the snow, which creates a "brine" – this salty liquid and repeated vehicle movements is what actually melts the snow – given that we had already treated at the maximum rate, provision of more grit bins at local level would not have assisted this process.

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

- Q.** From the last Full Council meeting, regarding the risks to schoolchildren crossing Hangingwater Road, you say that the only affordable option is to extend the footpath on the east side with a loss of allotment space. Please can you tell what is being done to pursue this option and when will it be completed so children can be safe walking to school?
- A.** The Council's receives many requests for crossings and the available budget and scheme selection needs to reflect where there is greatest priority. We have a robust approach for assessing this, and every year a programme is developed, taking into account the whole of Sheffield to ensure that crossings are built in the locations where they are most needed.

In respect of this location, the scheme has been scored and given the priority of other locations, we were unable to take forward within this year's programme.

However, I would like to add that although a crossing has not been built, we have completed a number of measures to raise driver awareness. This includes children triangular warning signs with supplementary school plates, a Speed Indicator device (SID), changes to street lighting times on Hangingwater Road and an extension to the Greystones 20 mph area to include this area.

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

- Q.** Which schools in Sheffield have Modeshift STARS accreditation and to what level?
- A.** We have 42 Modeshift STARS accredited schools – 8 Gold, 9 Silver and 25 Bronze. In addition, there are 37 schools actively working towards accreditation. (Full breakdown attached).

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

- Q.1** What is the implementation date for Safe School Streets schemes that have been identified for schools under current proposals?
- A.1** April 2021 onwards. Due to Covid 19 and the subsequent lack of resource, scheme designs have been delayed.
- Q.2** Is there scope for Council officers to accept school streets outside schools not identified in the process if parents/teachers/local residents effectively do it themselves and submit plans to the Council for sign off?

- A.2 Schools and communities can run one off events which include a temporary road closure, (like Greystones Primary did (Nov 16th) as part of their Road Safety week). However they would be unable to create a “School Street” . School Streets are permanent schemes (open to change in accordance with consultation, objections etc), they require a different Traffic Regulation Order, permanent signage, parking restrictions, a traffic management plan, consultation with local businesses and residents and enforcement – all of which needs to be Council led and approved as with any other highways scheme.

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

- Q.1 Will you arrange for the Licensing Service to produce a report of complaints received on a month-by-month basis?**

- A.2 The service have indicated that they would be able to provide a report on complaints on a month by month basis moving forward. Please email myself and the Head of Licensing with more detail specifically about what you would like to see included in the reports.

- Q.2 The Licensing Service does not currently publish its accounts. Will you arrange for it to do so at the end of this financial year?**

- A.2 Licensing Accounts are published as part of the Councils Annual Accounts on an annual basis.

- Q.3 What is the current position with the city’s Clean Air Zone?**

- A.3 As we announced in September we are currently reviewing the current Clean Air Zone proposals. In finalising our clean air plans we will review the possible impacts of COVID-19 on businesses, transport, and air quality. This will help us decide if the same action is needed, or if changes are required to be successful in reducing air pollution for the long term. We continue to work with Government’s Joint Air Quality Unit on the review.

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

- Q.1 How many crashes have occurred on the tramline in the past 12 months? And how many of these involved bicycles?**

- A.1 For the 12 months ending July 2020 there were 18 collisions recorded on the tram tracks, 12 were slight and 6 were serious. Three of the collisions involved injury to a pedal cycle rider, one of which received serious injuries and 2 received slight injuries.

Q.2 What actions has Sheffield City Council taken to alleviate the difficulties for cyclists of navigating the tram track when this is not segregated?

A.2 Several actions have been taken. Temporary signs have been erected at locations where cyclists have fallen off at tram tracks to warn them of the risks and to cross the tracks at an angle approaching 90 degrees. A short animation film was created in-house showing cyclists how to cross tram tracks safely which was distributed through social media. A short live action film was made in-house promoting the Portobello cycle route compared to the West Street route, again distributed through social media. Currently, an interactive cycle map is being developed in-house to support cyclists in choosing cross City routes that avoid the tram tracks. It is intended to develop this further next year to create a mobile phone app.

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

Q.1 Can you tell me more about the plans to increase cycle parking provision in Sheffield and when can we expect to see these facilities installed? What provision will there be for people living in flats and/or shared accommodation?

A.1 The Emergency Active Travel Fund includes the provision of high quality cycle parking in the City Centre. These are in the process of being installed following survey work and as they are a new, exciting product for the city, one which I hope the users will consider a very welcome addition to the cycling offer.

As a more longer term plan, matching our ambitions for major route based improvements in the Connecting Sheffield proposals, I am looking to open a Bike Hub, right in the heart of the city centre. This will be a step change to current provision and with this in place, we will be able to give residents, workers and visitors a safe place to store their bike and give them much needed peace of mind.

In terms of flat based living, the city centre Bike Hub hopefully will provide this facility those living near by. However, I recognise that there are many flats across the city and I am talking to officers as to how this can be provided. There is always a funding gap with many of these, and as demonstrated with recent planning applications, where this is required as part of new developments, we will seek to ensure this type of facility is provided from the outset.

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

Q.1 Residents write to tell me they have asked taxi drivers not to let their engines idle on residential streets and drivers ignore them. Have licensing officers explored the possibility of sanctions against drivers that do this? Could we help empower the community to reduce air pollution by enabling residents to report taxi drivers to Licensing service who let their engines idle for long

periods?

A.1 Residents can already report this issue and any other issues that are of concern to licensing and they would be investigated.

Q.2 Do you support the movement towards urban agriculture and do you agree that, given the climate and biodiversity emergency, the Council has a duty to zone land to enable an increase in food growing and replace grass with more suitable plants to increase biodiversity?

A.2 To be answered by Councillor Mark Jones.

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

Q. The Government has recently announced plans to promote public transport, cycling and walking, although no new schemes have been announced and further details are scarce. Whilst the government have been found wanting, what has the Council been doing in recent years to promote active travel throughout Sheffield?

A. Through a mixture of capital and revenue funding sources, over recent years the Council has delivered a number highway works to improve the cycling facilities across the city. We have also complemented these physical changes with initiatives like modeSHIFT, cycle training and bike loan schemes help enable a wider behavioural change.

There have also been a number of public transport bases projects, ranging from smaller scale hotspot type interventions, to bigger interventions to help lock in public transport priority and use, such as the Chesterfield Road Bus Lane.

In addition to this, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight recent commitments from the Council for promoting active travel. The previous and future phases of the Emergency Active Travel Fund has been a clear statement regarding our push to get more people cycling. This is further broadened out in our Connecting Sheffield proposals, which bring in the public transport element to the investment plan, further prioritising sustainable forms of transport into our core economic centres

**Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Terry Fox
(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance) to be
answered by Councillor Bob Johnson**

Q.1 For each of the following streets, list how many parking tickets have been issued on each road/street for each month since January 2020. (These roads are just off London Road in the Highfield Area of Sheffield)

**Alderson Road
Woodhead Road
Thorpe Close
Harwood Close.**

A. Count of Tickets									
Ticket Number	Column Labels								Grand
Row Labels	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total	
Alderson Road		5	4	3	5	5	5	4	31
Alderson Road Car Park		1	2	2					5
Alderson Road North		4		2	3	1	2	5	17
Grand Total		10	6	7	8	6	7	9	53

Count of Tickets										
Row Labels	Column Labels								Grand	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total	
Woodhead Road		17	15	7	10	17	17	16	5	104
Grand Total		17	15	7	10	17	17	16	5	104

Count of Tickets								Grand
Row Labels	Jan	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total	
Thorp Close		3	1	3	1	2	1	11
Grand Total		3	1	3	1	2	1	11

Count of Tickets								
Row Labels	Column Labels							Grand
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Harwood Close		3	3	1	1	1	1	11
Grand Total		3	3	1	1	1	1	11

Modeshift STARS accreditation – Breakdown

School Name	Dfe Nui	Type of	Current Accreditation Level				
Carterknowle Junior School	2023	Primary	3 - Gold				
Holt House Infant School	2213	Primary	3 - Gold			Bronze	25
Dobcroft Infant School	2283	Primary	3 - Gold			Silver	9
Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School	2302	Primary	3 - Gold			Gold	8
Peak Edge Trust, Oughtibridge Primar	2313	Primary	3 - Gold			Total	42
Waterthorpe Infant School	2319	Primary	3 - Gold				
Porter Croft Church of England Prima	3427	Primary	3 - Gold			Working towards	37
Oasis Academy Fir Vale	2018	Primary	3 - Gold			Total	79
Hunter's Bar Infant School	2060	Primary	2 - Silver				
Ecclesall Primary School	2206	Primary	2 - Silver				
Bradway Primary School	2233	Primary	2 - Silver				
Stocksbridge Junior School	2303	Primary	2 - Silver				
Phillimore Community Primary Schoo	2332	Primary	2 - Silver				
Anns Grove Primary School	2343	Primary	2 - Silver				
Watercliffe Meadow Community Prin	3432	Primary	2 - Silver				
Southey Green Community Primary S	2009		2 - Silver				
St Mary's Primary School, A Catholic V	3423	Primary	2 - Silver				
Nether Edge Primary School	2002	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Intake Primary School	2063	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Lydgate Junior School	2071	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Lydgate Infant School	2072	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Meersbrook Bank Primary School	2081	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Nether Green Junior School	2087	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Mosborough Primary School	2257	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Halfway Junior School	2279	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Stannington Infant School	2294	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Wharcliffe Side Primary School	2311	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Reignhead Primary School	2334	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Athelstan Primary School	2340	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Carfield Primary School	2344	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Shooter's Grove Primary School	2349	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Greystones Primary School	2356	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Pye Bank CofE Primary School	2366	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Pipworth Community Primary School	3433	Primary	1 - Bronze				
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School	3412	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Silverdale School	4229	Secondary	1 - Bronze				
Hinde House 3-16 School	4225	All through	1 - Bronze				
Pathways E-Act Primary Academy	2016	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Sacred Heart School, A Catholic Volun	3401	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Totley Primary School	2203	Primary	1 - Bronze				
Astrea Academy	4014		1 - Bronze				
Hatfield Academy	2049	Primary	1 - Bronze				
The following schools are working towards accreditation							
Abbey Lane Primary School	2001	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Brightside Nursery and Infant School	2014	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Hunter's Bar Junior School	2058	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Lowfield Community Primary School	2070	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Marcliffe Community Primary School	2079	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Ecclesfield Primary School	2080	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Rainbow Forge Primary Academy	2363	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Nether Green Infant School	2221	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Tinsley Meadows Primary School	2230	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Netherthorpe Primary School	2272	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Beck Primary School	2274	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Ballifield Primary School	2281	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Grenoside Community Primary Schoo	2296	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Coit Primary School	2312	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Bankwood Community Primary Schoo	2322	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Rivelin Primary School	2338	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Westways Primary School	2352	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Hallam Primary School	2357	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Malin Bridge Primary School	2358	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Deepcar St John's Church of England	3422	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A \	3424	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
High Storrs School	4257	Secondary	0 - Not Accredited				
Broomhill Infant School	5204	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Sheffield High School for Girls	6021	Not applic	0 - Not Accredited				
Dore Primary School	2364	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Abbeyfield Primary Academy	2365		0 - Not Accredited				
Lower Meadow Primary School	2368		0 - Not Accredited				
Hartley Brook Primary School	2004		0 - Not Accredited				
St Thomas of Canterbury School, a Ca	3414	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Fox Hill Primary	2010	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Greengate Lane Academy	2305	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Lound Junior School	2298	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Concord Junior School	2026	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Newfield Secondary School	4008	Secondary	0 - Not Accredited				
Lowedges Junior Academy	2029	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
High Hazels Junior School	2042	Primary	0 - Not Accredited				
Mercia School	373/4015		0 - Not Accredited				

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

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

Q1. There are reports of members of the public not being allowed to access household waste recycling centres using cargo bikes. Please can you confirm whether the public is allowed to access household waste recycling centres on foot or by bicycle and, if not, where such access is restricted?

A1. A1. Together with Veolia, the Council is not aware of any complaints or reports of entry to the Household Waste Recycling Centres being refused due to access on a cargo bike. As all our sites are accessed via the public Highway any vehicle needs to be fully roadworthy to access the sites. Access to our sites may be refused if the site operatives have concerns that the site is being used for commercial waste disposal. We also have a no tolerance approach to aggressive behaviour towards our operatives and will refuse access accordingly to the sites.

Thank you for your question. I am pleased to say that we worked hard over the summer to keep our Household Waste Recycling Centre open 7 days a week, and for longer hours than usual. We will also be increasing opening times over Christmas week to allow more people to access our sites in a Covid safe and responsible manner.

The safety of the public access our sites is paramount. They are busy sites, small sites, aging sites. We are reviewing sites and access currently.

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

Q.1 Does the Council have a Carbon Reduction Plan to be embedded into the emerging Local Plan Draft?

A.1 The Sheffield Plan Issues and Options document (Sept 2020) highlighted the need to work towards being net zero carbon by 2030. The Zero Carbon Commission that is being conducted by Arup and Ricardo will inform the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan that is due to be published in summer 2021. A range of policies will be included in the plan to reduce carbon emissions and respond to climate change in accordance with national planning policy and guidance. These policies will be developed over the next few months.

Q.2 How does the Council monitor the levels of Carbon Emissions and the potential Carbon footprint for construction projects that take place across Sheffield?

A.2 We do not currently assess or monitor the carbon footprint of the construction

element of new developments. There is no requirement in national planning legislation or guidance to do so. However, applications for new development must show how they comply with current requirements for meeting their predicted energy needs from decentralised renewable or low carbon energy, or how they will incorporate other design measures to reduce the development's overall predicted carbon emissions.

Q.3 Does the Council plan to declare an Ecological Emergency for Sheffield? How might this take place and when?

A.3 At the last Sheffield Green City Partnership Board meeting members of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership (SYLNP) asked the Council to consider declaring an Ecological Emergency in Sheffield along-side its current declaration of a Climate Emergency for the city. Labour members also spoke in favour of declaring an Ecological Emergency in the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2020. We will be making recommendations to the next Green City Partnership Board. A number of projects are currently being considered by strategic partners which would contribute to this aspiration around tree planting ,Nature Recovery Networks and Bio-diversity Net Gain which are in the early stages of development.

With regard to urban agriculture , food growing and the desire to replace grass with more suitable plants to increase biodiversity, two specific projects are worth noting. Firstly work to refresh the Council's Allotments Strategy in collaboration with Sheffield University which will review current approaches to urban food growing in particular the role our 2,500 allotments can make to this.

Secondly we are looking to roll out a further phase of the Urban Nature Programme in our Parks and Greenspaces identifying additional areas of grassland where a change of mowing regime could enhance amenity grassland and make these areas richer in bio-diversity.

As and when we move forward with an Ecological Emergency further projects will come forward where funding opportunities can be identified.

**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 1st January, 2019 and 5th January, 2020? Please specify the names of the events and their number of days duration.

A.1 I have replied to you with a written answer to this question which has been published on the council's [website](#)

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

A.2 See above.

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

A.3 See above.

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

A.4 See above.

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 12hours.

A.5 See above.

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 See above.

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

A.7 See above.

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 See above.

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

Q.1 What central Government funding has the Council (a) applied for and (b) received from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme?

A.1 We are still exploring what we can apply for, the deadline for applications is January.

Q.2 What central government funding has the Council (a) applied for and (b)

received from the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund?

- A.2 (a) £40,000
(b) None

Our initial bid to Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (PSLCSF) is £24,050 which will provide for Energy Audits of identified sites along with feasibility/cost estimates to carry out the works required. We are looking at install of Air Source Heat Pumps, BMS upgrades, connections to District Heating Network, LED lighting, Solar PV, and, Insulation improvement works.

The second phase of our bid is for £15,950 to provide costed decarbonisation plans for each of the identified sites. These will enable us then to submit a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Early estimates of cost suggest that the bid will be for around £1.1 million to cover the value of works required and a further £165,000 for design, project management and delivery.

These works would see a potential saving of £380,000.00 per annum in utilities and an overall carbon saving of 1,200 tonnes of CO2 per annum.

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

- Q.1 What progress has the Council made towards declaring an Ecological Emergency, bearing in mind it hasn't paused whilst we deal with Covid19?**

- A.1 At the last Sheffield Green City Partnership Board meeting members of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership (SYLNP) asked the Council to consider declaring an Ecological Emergency in Sheffield along-side its current declaration of a Climate Emergency for the city. Labour members also spoke in favour of declaring an Ecological Emergency in the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2020. We will be making recommendations to the next Green City Partnership Board. A number of projects are currently being considered by strategic partners which would contribute to this aspiration around tree planting ,Nature Recovery Networks and Bio-diversity Net Gain which are in the early stages of development.

With regard to urban agriculture , food growing and the desire to replace grass with more suitable plants to increase biodiversity, two specific projects are worth noting. Firstly work to refresh the Council's Allotments Strategy in collaboration with Sheffield University which will review current approaches to urban food growing in particular the role our 2,500 allotments can make to this.

Secondly we are looking to roll out a further phase of the Urban Nature Programme in our Parks and Greenspaces identifying additional areas of grassland where a change of mowing regime could enhance amenity grassland and make these areas richer in bio-diversity.

As and when we move forward with an Ecological Emergency further projects will

come forward where funding opportunities can be identified.

Q.2 What progress has been made on preparing a detailed decarbonisation plan following the declaration of Climate Emergency in February 2019, and the report from The Tyndall Centre in July 2019, bearing in mind climate change hasn't paused whilst we deal with Covid19?

A.2 GCPB has seen work packages 1 and 2. WP 3a and 3b are being discussed for distribution currently.

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

Q.1 Last month you claimed that the dangerous pavement resurfacing is within industry guidelines. There are paths in Nether Edge that are entirely unsuitable for walking on during icy periods. Is the Council protected from potential litigation in the event of serious accidents as a result of the claim that the pavements are "within industry guidelines"? I have witnessed people struggling, sliding, and falling. I have had three falls myself since the pavement was resurfaced and had no falls before they were resurfaced. Is this just a coincidence? How are elderly people expected to cope under these conditions? What solutions can you propose for this real problem?

A.1 As per my previous answer, the surface is within safe industry guidelines. Any concerns about the condition of the pavement should be report to streetsahead. The Council and Amey have the appropriate insurances in place for our public liability.

Q.2 What is being done to address the question of food security in respect to the climate emergency? Does the City Council have a plan to increase local food production? Can you provide details of the work done so far?

A.2 A written response will be provided.

Q.3 Hackney Council supported residents in social housing to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce fuel poverty with a community energy scheme. Do you think the City Council should emulate their success? [hackney council community energy scheme](#)

A.3 Yes, and then some...

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

Q.1 The Tyndall Centre report stated we must reduce CO2 emissions by 14% each year, how much has been reduced since the presentation to full Council in July 2019?

A.1 A written response will be provided.

Q.2 What is being done to amend the report each year to keep up with the overall target?

A.2 A written response will be provided.

Q.3 What work has been done towards looking into adopting the Doughnut economics model designed by Kate Raworth?

A.3 A written response will be provided.

Q.4 What has the City Council set up to closely monitor the outcomes of the Doughnut Economic model in Amsterdam?

A.4 A written response will be provided.

Q.5 Has the citizens assembly been completely dropped now?

A.5 Not at all, it will happen.

Q.6 How many Green Home grants have been awarded in Sheffield?

A.6 The Green Homes Grant voucher scheme is managed by government. Local Authorities have not been provided with data on uptake of the grant by government. However, requests have been made to government that this data is shared.

Q.7 How many approved suppliers are based in Sheffield?

A.7 As with A.6 the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme is managed by government. Local Authorities have not been provided with data on approved suppliers by government. Nationally, householders have found challenges finding local suppliers. Government has recently extended the Green Homes Grant Voucher scheme to March 2022. This extension will give contractors more confidence in signing up for Trust Mark accreditation to deliver works under the Green Homes Grant. This should mean more approved suppliers become available. Requests have also been made to government that this data is shared also.

Q.8 What has the City Council done to aid and promote this initiative?

A.8 The City Council reshared government social media posts promoting the scheme. This initiative was also promoted via the Green City Partnership Board, partners were asked if they would be willing to promote the initiative via their networks, e.g. with Sheffield Climate Alliance.

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

Q.1 Do you feel the Government's new '10 point green plan' goes far enough in producing a sufficient plan for tackling the climate emergency and creating new jobs?

A.1 No, and the order is all wrong. The Government focuses far too much on cars, new-builds and energy solutions that will not come on stream for years to come. This is wholly inadequate. Government has done nothing to advance the infrastructure of our power grid, nor has it acted to sufficiently boost retrofit, a key and what should be prominent feature of our immediate focus.

And Government is still obsessing on flights and people jetting off on holiday. Yes, we should all get to see the world, but why is this so high in the Governments rankings?

A fuller response will be provided in writing.

Q.2 What lessons could the Government learn from Sheffield City Council?

A.2 They could forget their target of 2050, it will be to little way too late. Government would do well to look at the long legacy of forward-thinking initiatives that Sheffield has already delivered. We know what needs to be done, and we are doing it.

Q.3 The Climate emergency affects every one of us. It is damaging to the air we breathe and leading to extreme weather, causing flooding. What efforts is the council undertaking to help people understand about the climate crisis and to foster 'carbon literacy' by raising awareness of the carbon costs and impacts that everyday activities have, and how people can reduce their own emissions?

A.3 A written response will be provided.

Q.4 What is the Council doing, not only to help people take positive actions in reducing carbon emissions, but to ensure they are leading from the front themselves?

A.4 A written response will be provided.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) to be answered by Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q.2 Will this Council declare a biodiversity emergency and start protecting valuable sites like Owlthorpe Fields, accepting that decisions made 20, 30, 40 or 50 years ago are not necessarily valid now?

- A.2 At the last Sheffield Green City Partnership Board meeting members of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership (SYLNP) asked the Council to consider declaring an Ecological Emergency in Sheffield along-side its current declaration of a Climate Emergency for the city. Labour members also spoke in favour of declaring an Ecological Emergency in the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2020. We will be making recommendations to the next Green City Partnership Board. A number of projects are currently being considered by strategic partners which would contribute to this aspiration around tree planting ,Nature Recovery Networks and Bio-diversity Net Gain which are in the early stages of development.

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Secondly we are looking to roll out a further phase of the Urban Nature Programme in our Parks and Greenspaces identifying additional areas of grassland where a change of mowing regime could enhance amenity grassland and make these areas richer in bio-diversity.

As and when we move forward with an Ecological Emergency further projects will come forward where funding opportunities can be identified.

Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) to be answered by Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

- Q.2 Do you support the movement towards urban agriculture and do you agree that, given the climate and biodiversity emergency, the Council has a duty to zone land to enable an increase in food growing and replace grass with more suitable plants to increase biodiversity?**

- A.2 At the last Sheffield Green City Partnership Board meeting members of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership (SYLNP) asked the Council to consider declaring an Ecological Emergency in Sheffield along-side its current declaration of a Climate Emergency for the city. Labour members also spoke in favour of declaring an Ecological Emergency in the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2020. We will be making recommendations to the next Green City Partnership Board. A number of projects are currently being considered by strategic partners which would contribute to this aspiration around tree planting ,Nature Recovery Networks and Bio-diversity Net Gain which are in the early stages of development.

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

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

At the last meeting of the Full Council, I questioned whether the Council's own Building Better Parks Policy has been followed in the case of an application made by True Brew North to lease a parcel of land adjacent to the Waggon and Horses Pub in Millhouses Park. These questions are supplementary to those I raised.

An email from Business Manager for Place, to Councillor Mary Lea dated 09/07/2020 states:

"You may remember the attached briefing that I shared at the end of 2018, where we were looking into proposals submitted by one of our commercial partners, Waggon & Horses Public House, Millhouses Park. The proposal was for an outdoor seating/dining area, subject to relevant approvals for a lease with a market rent...."

The 'attached briefing' shows a proposal virtually identical that currently lodged with the Planning Department, with the recommendation that Parks officers should allow the proposal to proceed subject to the normal caveats.

The answer to my question

"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?" states that the original enquiry for the Outdoor Seating Area came into Parks and Countryside (P&C) in 2017, prior to the Better Parks initiative and that it was viewed favourably by the service.

Joanne Holland's email strongly suggests that Parks and Countryside and Cllr Mary Lea were aware the proposals were still live in late 2018 when the Building Better Parks Strategy was approved by Cabinet.

Q.1 Can you confirm that you were aware of the application and that it had been approved in principle?

A.1 The discussions between the business owner and the council had not concluded before the Covid-19 outbreak. The proposal that came into the council from True Brew North (TBN) was the catalyst for Better Parks approach – to ensure that criteria should be applied to such proposals, whereas previously these had been considered on an ad-hoc basis. The proposal was still live in 2018, but was on hold, pending the approval of the Better Parks approach by Cabinet. When the Better Parks initiative gained cabinet approval the TBN proposal was adopted as a Better Parks submission and then began to follow the new process. It had not previously been formally approved in principle.

Q.2 Were discussions being held with True Brew North and Council officers over the proposals to lease land for an outdoor seating area between 2017 and 2019?

A.2 Yes, some discussions were taking place following TBN approaching the Council regarding their proposal.

Q.3 If so, what was the nature of those discussions and which Council officers were involved?

A.3 These were largely to keep TBN updated on the progress of Better Parks. TBN were speaking to the Council to develop their proposals and assess whether they were feasible. The process at this time (prior to the Better Parks initiative) was for Parks and Countryside to submit the proposal to Property Services for advice. The proposal did not proceed beyond this point prior to Better Parks being formalised.

Q.4 At what stage should any proposal be subjected to the six stages of the Decision Making Process and be assessed against the 12 Assessment Criteria as specified in the Building Better Parks Policy?

A.4 This can be at any stage and is likely to vary between proposals. Some proposals may come to us fully formed whilst others are early conversations regarding an idea. However, all proposals are subject to assessment against these criteria before being advised for approval to proceed, or rejection.

Q.5 Was the proposal from True Brew North put through any of the stages set out in the Decision Making Process or assessed against the 12 Assessment Criteria so that people can be confident a robust assessment criteria and checklist for each proposal is in place as specified in the Building Better Parks Policy?

A.5 Yes.

I understand that the decision on the planning application made by True Brew North has been postponed until 2nd February 2021. This is said to allow more time for information to be provided and also to extend the consultation period.

Q.6 Can you clarify whether the consultation is for planning purposes only, whether it is to extend the consultation on Citizen Space which is only to help shape the development of the space in the event the proposal is taken forward or whether it is to form part of the Building Better Parks consultation process.

A.6 The planning application has been postponed in agreement between TBN and the Planning Department to allow further information to be provided to Planning.

As a result of this Parks and Countryside have extended the consultation being undertaken on Citizen Space that aim to shape the proposal / terms of any lease agreement in the event planning is granted – to be clear, Parks and Countryside consultation and Better Parks are the same thing: The Planning application and the Parks and Countryside consultation are separate entities.

Q.7 Can you clarify which parts of the Decision Making Process and Assessment Criteria is this consultation to address?

- A.7 The Parks and Countryside consultation addresses stage 2 and informs stages 3 and 4 of the decision-making process. It also addresses all the assessment criteria, particularly criteria 3,5,6,7 and 11. As previous emails and council questions have explained, this would usually have been done before the planning application was submitted by the applicant.

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

- Q. Given the rebuilding of the Bolehills Pavilion has been delayed, what is the new timescale for its rebuilding and when should it reopen for use by the public?**
- A. We are working in partnership with local groups including the bowls club and Sport England to secure the funding needed to deliver a new pavilion for the recreation ground. We hope to have the funding in place shortly. Once funding and approvals are in place, design, procurement, and construction will take approximately 6-months. We therefore anticipate opening the pavilion to the public by September 2021.

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

- Q Last month you said “There is currently little evidence that allotment bonfires are contributing to worsening respiratory conditions in communities surrounding allotments.” Can you tell me what “little” evidence there is and what research has been undertaken to collect evidence?**
- A. We are not aware of any significant evidence proving a link between bonfires on allotments and worsening respiratory disease in communities surrounding allotments, nor of any research being conducted to look at the potential links. We will however of course follow any new guidance that may be issued by bodies such as Public Health England. In the meantime, we ask allotment holders to comply with the current rules set out in the Allotment Handbook but furthermore to avoid burning if possible.

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

- Q. When will the children of Sheffield be given their swings back in their parks?**
- A. All playgrounds with swings will have one or more swings available for use unless it has been closed for other Health and Safety reasons. Individual swings have been removed where spacing between swings is less than 2m in order to aid social distancing and help keep people safe. Similarly, basket swings have been removed

as they don't support social distancing. All swings will be returned to playgrounds when social distancing rules are no longer needed.

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

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

Q.1 Of the £3.1m Sheffield City Council received towards the start of the coronavirus pandemic under the Contain Grant to local authorities, please could you give a breakdown of how this money was spent?

A.1 To be answered by Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Q.2 As the consequence of going into Tier 3 lockdown, how much did the City receive for public health indicatives including test and trace and can you provide a breakdown of how that money is planned to be spent?

A.2 See above.

Q.3 Please could you provide a full breakdown of Council posts that have been or are intended to be backfilled and financed from Covid-related Government funding?

A.3 See above.

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

Q. Could you please explain what role Sheffield City Council plays in test and trace. How many staff are allocated to this role and what is the cost? Also, do you feel it's working?

A. To be answered by Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

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

Q.1 How many deaths in Sheffield care homes have there been since 24th March 2020 to date?

A.1 We only have deaths of care home residents who were funded by SCC. We do not have deaths data for the whole market. Deaths in private care homes will be held by them. CQC and ONS may hold these datasets, but there is nothing published that allows us to answer these questions.

The numbers for deaths of care home residents who are funded by SCC in the two time periods is:

Number of deaths of SCC funded residents in Sheffield care homes

Period 24/03/20 to 24/11/20 = 628

Period 24/03/19 to 24/11/19 = 392

Please note that this only includes SCC funded residents as we do not record privately funded resident information on our systems. The actual place of death could be in another setting – for example hospital. This is based on the latest information recorded on our Liquid Logic case management system and may not include very recent deaths.

Q.2 What was the equivalent figure for 2019?

A.2 See response above

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

Q. Please see the message from a resident pasted below. What should I say to this resident? What will be done to address the system which is failing to effectively support people with disabilities in a timely and caring manner?

“I applied for a blue badge in 2019, they took ages to process it and eventually asked me to go in for an assessment, the problem was that assessment was in March this year, my GP told me to stay at home as I’m medically vulnerable so I couldn’t go, as a result they cancelled my application, they didn’t tell me about it so when we came out of lockdown I contacted them to arrange an appointment only to be told that I had to reapply. I was told to apply online which I did at the beginning of September, I have phoned them roughly once per month, today I have been told that they are just starting the September applications, mine is apparently still in the queue and has not been looked at, I still don’t know if they have even received it, to top it all I was told today that if I had sent for a paper application it would have been much quicker, in the meantime my arthritis has become much worse and I’m struggling to walk and even stand, I can’t go up and down steps outside as I go up and down at home on my bottom, if there’s anything you can do to help I would be very grateful.”

A. We’re really sorry about this constituent’s experience of applying for a Blue Badge, we are striving to process applications as quickly as possible. Their experience of applying for a blue badge does seem to be at odds with the way we are delivering service to customers. We have been consistently offering telephone mobility assessments to any customers that needed them and would be happy to do so in this case. We also take care to help customers as best we can through the process, especially when entitlement to badge is discretionary rather than automatic and

further independent mobility assessments are required. It would be helpful to have the customer's details, so that we can contact them to help with the application.

It is true that applications are taking longer to be processed than would normally be the case. This is a direct consequence of the challenges we faced due to the Corona Virus epidemic. Between March and August 2020, discretionary Blue Badge applications were not designated as "critical activity", so only applications from customers with terminal conditions or automatic renewals were allowed to be processed. This was decision was taken because there was no street enforcement during lockdown and existing Badges were treated as "not expired" until the end of September 20. Also, the service has had to deal with the impact of the virus on its staffing resources and a shift to predominately working from home. Consequently, the service has a backlog of cases which it is striving to work through alongside other new priorities such as the provision Free School Meal Vouchers during half term and new schemes, such as the £500 Self-Isolation Grants and other schemes designed to support people in financial crisis due to the epidemic.

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Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

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

Q.1 Parents and teachers are very concerned about increasing numbers of Covid-19 positive cases in schools. Has there been any thought given to closing schools earlier this Christmas?

A.1 Our local intelligence continues to say that school-based cases are mostly reflective of community transmission. People acquiring an infection outside of school but then happen to come into school. What we are able to confirm is that we are seeing single cases and clusters among pupils and staff in schools rather than a high number of outbreaks. This reflects the fact that the majority of virus transmission is in the community and relates to households. We are confident that our schools are taking all appropriate measures, including isolating cases and identifying contacts. All settings also receiving advice and support from the Department for Education, the Local Authority Public Health Team and Public Health England.

Regarding the question of whether or not the Christmas school holiday dates will be amended: either locally or nationally. The Winter Plan, at paragraph 73, sets out the Government's clear expectation that schools, education and childcare settings will remain open. Added to this also, there has been an example where the Focus Trust, an academy trust based in Oldham, announced that it was to close all its schools for an additional week at Christmas, only to reverse this a few days later following an intervention by their Regional Schools Commissioner. There is no legal basis or means for schools or academies to proactively close early for the Christmas holiday. It is important for schools to stay open to provide an education to children and society has made other trade-offs to enable schools to continue to stay open. There isn't a benefit to closing schools early at Christmas and this would be detrimental to missed education opportunities. Even if schools closed early, there would be no guarantees that there would not be community transmission of the virus in other settings such as Christmas shopping.

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

Q.1 Are you familiar with the critical analysis of the ONS statistics on Covid19 transmission in schools published by Sara Rasmussen, which suggests that teachers are at far higher risk of contracting the virus than previously thought?
[sara rasmussen](#)

A.1 The ONS data has been published please see the link to the published information.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyoccupationenglandandwales/deathsregisteredbetween9marchand25may2020>

Q.2 Will you be changing the advice to schools as a result of that analysis?

A.2 The ONS data has been published please see the link to the published information.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyoccupationenglandandwales/deathsregisteredbetween9marchand25may2020>

The statistician note is worth dwelling on in terms of recognising the complexity of this data and the ability to draw firm conclusions.

There are lots of complex things playing out during the pandemic and the risk of death involving COVID-19 is influenced by a range of factors including the job someone does, but also age, ethnicity and underlying health conditions. We also know that people living in the most deprived local areas, and those living in urban areas such as London, have been found to have the highest rates of death involving COVID-19. “Today’s analysis shows that jobs involving close proximity with others, and those where there is regular exposure to disease, have some of the highest rates of death from COVID-19. However, our findings do not prove conclusively that the observed rates of death involving COVID-19 are necessarily caused by differences in occupational exposure.”

Ben Humberstone, Head of Health Analysis and Life Events

The ONS confirm that “since the start of the school year there has been no evidence of difference in the positivity rate between primary and secondary school teachers and their households, other key workers and their households, and other professions and their households.” This infers that teaching or school staff are not at higher occupational risk.

We are continuing to work with schools across the city to reduce risk, manage incidents effectively. Schools should be commended for the work they have done in this whilst maintaining education for the city’s children and young people.

The twitter thread highlighted in the question relates to a breach of a code mainly and it does not come from a recognised epidemiological expert.

We do not have any plans to change our approach on account of it and will continue to support schools as we have been doing.

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

Q.1 How much is Taylor Shaw paid for school grab bags?

A.1 Please accept my apologies for the time it is taking to get this information, I will write to you with this information as soon as I have it.

Q.2 How much was Taylor Shaw paid for food parcels during lockdown?

A.2 Please accept my apologies for the time it is taking to get this information, I will write to you with this information as soon as I have it.

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) to be answered by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman published a report dated 25th September 2020 “Investigation into a complaint against Sheffield City Council (reference number: 18 004 957)”.

In this report, the ombudsman stated “The Council must consider the report and confirm within three months the action it has taken or proposes to take. The Council should consider the report at its full Council, Cabinet or other appropriately delegated committee of elected members and we will require evidence of this.”

Q.5 Will both the report and the action plan be placed before the appropriate scrutiny committee, namely Children, Young People and Family Support within the timescale laid down by the ombudsman?

A.5 The report is being presented to cabinet which is the required committee with the actions that the Local Authority is taking.

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

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

Q.1 Is a garage refurbishment and/or demolition scheme planned for Batemoor and Jordanthorpe? If so, when?

A.1 We have 5 garage sites included in the demolition programme at Jordanthorpe and Batemoor. The addresses of the garages are listed below:

HAZLEBARROW ROAD 481-490
 BATEMOOR ROAD 55-68
 BOWSHAW VIEW 81-88
 DYCHE ROAD 549-552
 DYCHE ROAD 557-564

These are on phase 5 of our programme and we anticipate they will be demolished in the Summer of 2021.

These are pre-cast concrete garages so will require full demolition. Where the block provides a boundary wall, we will fit new fencing panels with concrete posts and gravel boards. This will provide a good level of privacy and security. The cost to rebuild the walls is not financially viable

There are no plans to invest in any garages or build new ones in this location.

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

Q.1 How many gas safety checks for Council tenants were carried out during lockdown?

A.1 2019 / 20 – 10968 Completions. 6215 no access

Q.2 What was the number for the same period in the previous year?

A.2 2018 / 19 – 13007 Completions. 4910 no access

Q.3 How many private sector residential properties in Sheffield still have combustible cladding installed?

A.3 Sheffield City Council is working in partnership with South Yorkshire Fire Rescue Authority to ensure the safety of residents living in high rise blocks across the city. This includes gathering information from owners of high-rise blocks as to what external cladding materials are on the individual blocks. Investigation is ongoing to

ascertain the combustible nature of the insulation. However, this is only 1 aspect of assessing the fire risk of any property, as a number of factors need to be taken into account in order to fully assess the risk.

We can confirm that we are aware of 20 high rise blocks in Sheffield that have ACM in the external wall cladding. However, it is important to note that the presence of ACM alone does not mean that it is dangerous and needs to be removed. The amount, location and type of ACM has to be investigated fully in order to assess the risk. If after investigation it is identified as a fire safety risk then enforcement action can be taken to ensure it is removed.

From the 20 high rise blocks 5 have removed the ACM, 5 are in the process of having it removed. A further 10 are being investigated in order to confirm the risk level to ensure appropriate action is taken.

Q.4 Of these, how many have applied to the Government's private sector Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding remediation fund to meet the cost of making the buildings safe?

A.4 The remediation fund is administered by MHCLG so we do not hold this information.

Q.5 What steps has the local authority taken to enforce action in this area of work?

A.5 The Council is working closely with SYFRA as the duty of fire safety is a shared enforcement role. To date SCC has not taken any formal enforcement action.

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

Q.1 What is being done to prevent firework shops exploiting loopholes to sell fireworks all year round using click and collect?

A.1 Trading Standards Commercial Team response - licensing and thus regulation of sales periods for fireworks is enforced by South Yorkshire Fire Service for Sheffield.

Q.2 Have any suppliers been sanctioned in any way for their products being in the possession of minors?

A.2 Trading Standards Commercial Team response - Each year we contribute to Operation Dark Nights, a police led multi-agency operation tackling the numerous issues caused by bonfire night in Sheffield. Our particular contribution is in advance of sales starting, by providing free advice and materials to businesses selling fireworks as to their responsibilities regarding preventing underage sales (Over 18 years being the requirement for fireworks).

During the firework sales period, we visit businesses with a test purchase volunteer over a number of nights. Enforcement action is taken and re-tests soon after for those failing to comply, with further escalated enforcement action as necessary.

However, no businesses required sanctions during the 2020 Operation.

In addition to operation Dark Nights, we receive intelligence regarding the sale of 'Commercial Grade Fireworks' to the public. We investigate and take appropriate action against these individuals as well as share that intelligence with other relevant agencies for them to act eg South Yorkshire Fire Service (who are responsible for licensing firework sellers & checking explosive storage requirements are met). We also, investigate any complaints regarding alleged unsafe fireworks eg rocket that has failed and exploded on the ground.

Q.3 What is being done to ensure homeless people are continued to be housed?

A.3 Sheffield City Council alongside our partners offer support, advice and accommodation to people who contact us who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Sheffield's vision is to minimise homelessness in Sheffield by focussing on early prevention to help people keep their home or move in a planned way into a settled home, If crisis occurs we provide housing options for people.

We have a strong network of advice available to people in the city including the council's housing options and advice service. The team works with people to prevent homelessness and to look at other options available to people when prevention of homelessness is not successful.

Each household is assessed, and a personal housing plan is agreed. When people come to us in crisis and do not have anywhere to live the housing options team will look for suitable alternatives.

Sheffield City Council has temporary accommodation for people who have nowhere to stay and in-house support and advice is given so a more suitable housing option can be found. This includes accommodation through our choiced based lettings, with registered providers, help to obtain accommodation in the private rented sector and for those people who need it supported accommodation. The team also support people to reconnect to areas where they have support.

Sheffield City Council commissions a number of services to support people who are homeless and help people settle into their community and sustain their tenancy. There are floating support services for singles, couples and families, young people and those who have drug and alcohol or mental health issues. We also commission a number of accommodation based services for more vulnerable people and families where people can stay for up to a year to gain the skills and support to be able to move into their own tenancy.

Rough Sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness. Sheffield has low numbers of rough sleepers compared to other large cities and outreach reports fluctuate from between 8 and 25 people sleeping out at any one time. Sheffield City Council has an in-house rough sleeper team and commission an outreach service. This group of people can be the most vulnerable and have very complex needs. We have agreed a rough sleeper pathway with our partners in the city to ensure every rough sleeper has an of accommodation. Street outreach occurs 7 days a week. There is a multi-agency information sharing/operational group that discusses every

rough sleeper / individual seen begging and a plan of action is put in place for each person. We work closely with our partners in health, community safety and the voluntary sector to ensure we have a robust approach.

As part of the response to the COVID 19 pandemic we set up a cell group to oversee the work to support rough sleepers in the city and ensure people could be as safe as possible. This group is attended by senior managers in housing, health, commissioning, adult social care and community safety. The government asked that every rough sleeper be offered accommodation ('everyone in')during the pandemic and Sheffield has made 191 placements so far. Everyone in ended in September but we continue to offer rough sleepers emergency accommodation and support and have plans in place for severe weather. Not all people who are seen begging on the streets are sleeping rough and not all rough sleepers will engage and accept the offer of accommodation but we continue to work with people to ensure there is an offer available when they are ready to come inside.

Sheffield City Council has also established a new housing first service offering 30 of the most vulnerable people in the city accommodation and very intensive holistic support. We work closely with our partners to ensure each person gets a bespoke offer of support and we also ensure that the customers' wishes and feelings are taken into account. The service has a mental health nurse attached to it and we are working closely with other services such as drug and alcohol to ensure that services can be made available on an outreach basis.