

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 20TH JULY, 2022

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 What plans are in place to improve response times for the Council Tax collection service so that enquires and changes of status are dealt with promptly avoiding unnecessary losses of revenue and cases of hardship?

A.1 The Council continues to seek ways in which it can improve its processes and the performance it gives to our customers. To this end, a full review of the Council Tax Service is currently underway. Alongside this, the Council's Customer Service team is embarking on a programme of recruitment in order to increase the capacity of the Council Tax Call Centre to deal with customer calls.

Q.2 What was the average waiting time on the Council Tax Enquires phone line before answering in the last 3 months?

A.2 Question 2 and 3 answered together below.

Q.3 What was the longest wait on the Council Tax Enquiries phone line before answering in the last three months?

A.3 In April 2022, the average call wait time for the Revenues and Benefits Contact Centre team was 76 minutes and 5 seconds, and the longest wait was two hours, 46 minutes and 42 seconds

In May 2022, the average call wait time for the Revenues and Benefits Contact Centre team was 80 minutes and 12 seconds, and the longest wait was two hours, 46 minutes and 41 seconds

In June 2022, the average call wait time for the Revenues and Benefits Contact Centre team was 54 minutes and 37 seconds, and the longest wait

was two hours, 19 minutes and 21 seconds

In May it was agreed that we could recruit an additional eight Customer Service Advisors to the Revenues and Benefits Contact Centre team, and recruitment is in process. In addition, a Recovery Plan in respect of this strand of the Contact Centre will be finalised by the end of July.

Q.4 How many properties in Sheffield are currently in Council Tax arrears?

A.4 For the current financial year 2022/23, no properties are in arrears as accounts will not fall into arrears unless they remain unpaid after 31/03/2023

Q.5 What is the total value of Council Tax arrears in Sheffield currently?

A.5 As at 31st March, 2022, the total amount owing for all years, including amounts for South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority precepts was £83, 376,000

It should be noted that since its introduction, Sheffield will, over time, collect 99% of Council Tax. Currently 97.3% of Council Tax billed has been collected. The figure of arrears as on 31st March 2022, which is owing across all financial years stands at £83,376,000. However, to put this in context, this equates to 2.77% against a figure of £3b Council Tax that has been billed over time.

The value of arrears outstanding has changed considerably over the last two financial years, where the year-end figure carried over has increased and is outside of the usual pattern in previous years due to the covid pandemic. Naturally, the decision to suspend Council Tax recovery during the pandemic greatly impacted this. We have now recommenced our procedures for the recovery of Council Tax once again, which includes making customer contact on the relevant accounts and putting in place suitable repayment arrangements (which are also being requested more frequently by customers in the current economic climate).

Sheffield's position is comparable with other core cities, most of who have experienced a trend of a steadily increasing in Council Tax arrears since 31st March 2018.

Q.6 Over the last year, how much Council Tax support funding has the Council received and how much of this has been allocated to Sheffield residents struggling to pay their Council Tax?

A.6 The Council does not receive discreet funding for Council Tax Support. Funding for the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (known as Council Tax Support) is included in the overall funding the Council receives from central Government, and as such, it's not possible to separately identify the funding the Council receives.

However, in 2021-22, £39,882,762 was awarded in Council Tax Support in respect of that financial year.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.7 How many Council owned properties are in rent arrears?

A.7 Answer to be provided by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Chair of the Housing Policy Committee).

Q.8 What is the total value of rent arrears in Sheffield currently?

A.8 Answer to be provided by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Chair of the Housing Policy Committee).

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

It is almost two years since Youth Services was insourced for Sheffield Futures, with a commitment at the time to invest a further £2 Million into provision

Q.1 Why was none of the £2m invested in 2021/22 despite repeated assurances being given that this would happen, as recently as December 2021 where it states "The £2M is part of the overall youth spend.....and it is our intention to see investment spent by the end of the financial year."?

A.1 We made a £500,000 saving contribution to the corporate saving expectations in 2021/2022, alongside this we capitalised £500,000 for refurbishments of current youth property to ensure that we have working

kitchens that can help respond to food insecurities for young people.

There is more development needed for youth services in Sheffield than was originally anticipated, this has included 50% vacancy in Youth Workers, an issue that is being reflected in the VCF (voluntary, community and faith) sector also. Not having staff has meant we have been unable to offer the provisions required.

However, with saying this we must highlight that we had a very successful Dark Nights programme, an excellent school holidays programme, Celebration of National Youth Work Week and three residential activity weekends took place before the end of the financial year. We have seen a significant increase in provisions covering all 28 wards, fulfilling a Labour commitment, by the end of the financial year compared to the 11 that were covered August, 2021.

It is clear that the re-organised youth services, alongside the additional investment, will provide a more localised delivery model throughout all our Wards. Despite the national challenges in youth worker recruitment, we remain steadfast in our commitment to doing everything we can for the city's young people and ensuring that the support they get is suitable for their needs, and that of their communities. It was a Labour budget amendment that brought additional investment worth millions, something the Liberal Democrats voted against, and were it not for this investment the progress we have made would have been significantly stalled.

Q.2 Is the additional allocation of £1.5M for 2022/23 a full or part year effect?

A. £1.5m is now a full year addition to the youth budget, this is ongoing and reflects a new, agreed budget.

Q.3 Why did it take until March 2022 to create a Youth Strategy some 18 months after insourcing. Who will monitor the annual service (partnership) delivery plan and quarterly action plan apart from the Youth Partnership Board? When will ward councillors receive their quarterly activity reports?

A.3 In the time between insource and the strategy being proposed and approved there was still a lot of change taking place.

Outside of the obvious pressure brought about by the pandemic, which were considerable, there had been two Head of Service which disrupted the plans originally. In this time there was clear indications more was needed to support the development of a sustainable youth service. This included a restructure of the current model which is going ahead at the moment. All Councillors received their Quarterly Action Plans w/c 11th July 2022 and have previously received them first week in April for Q1 action plans.

Summary Local Area Committee (LAC) reports will be received end of July. If Councillors are not receiving their action plans, please contact Chelsea Renehan the Head of Community Youth Services.

There is delay in establishing a youth partnership structure due to ongoing capacity issues, therefore we have decided to recruit a full-time partnership officer 1 year fixed term. This is to expedite this process, and this will then be managed by a new 0.5 role in the new structure.

Q.4 What is the plan for recruitment of youth workers to cover the whole of the city, and what progress has been made?

A.4 We are launching a rolling recruitment for Part time youth workers and Assistant Youth Workers in the city, and we are working with University of Huddersfield to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities which are Government funded.

Alongside this, we are part way through our service restructures MER which is due to be implemented September 2022. This will see additional vacancies of LAC based FT Qualified Youth and Community Workers. Until this MER (managing employee reductions) is complete this cannot be implemented. Our work with unions is positive, and ongoing. This will help strengthen the local delivery model we are committed to and strengthen youth support across all wards.

Q.5 The North LAC is now implementing youth provision in the north of the city. Will the Youth Service take over the operation of this once establishment is complete?

A.5 Youth Services staff are working with the North LAC to advise and support this delivery and there is an ongoing commitment to support with staffing as we recruit to vacancies. This is the beginning of a partnership delivery option between ourselves, the Local Area Committee and the High Green Development Trust and the intention is for this is to build additional youth provision in the west Ecclesfield area that is community based and sustainable going forwards.

Questions of Councillor Kurtis Crossland to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 How many people in Sheffield were eligible for the £150 Council Tax Energy rebate?

A.1 Around 218,000 have been identified as being eligible for a Council Tax Energy Rebate.

Q.2 How many payments have been paid to direct debit customers to date?

A.2 137,106 payments have been made to Council Tax payers who pay by direct debit.

Q.3 How many 'Post Office Pay-out' vouchers had been sent by the end of June?

A.3 78,671

Q.4 How many 'Post Office Pay-out' vouchers have been sent out so far in July?

A.4 As at midday 15th July, 2022 the number issued in July was 2,182. Around 300 vouchers are due to be issued by close of business 15th July, 2022.

Q.5 What communication has the Council had with people eligible for the £150 payment?

A.5 A leaflet was included in all Council Tax bills advising eligible households that they would receive a Council Tax Energy Rebate.

A letter was sent to every household who received a Post Office Payout voucher, advising them that they could take the letter to the Post Office along with proof of their identify, and cash the voucher for £150.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 What action has been taken to implement the motion passed at Full Council on 1st June, 2022 where the Council was asked to develop a Customer Service Improvement Plan?

A.1 A draft Contact Centre Recovery/Improvement Plan was completed in early June. The plan has been shared with Performance and Delivery Leadership Board and with Strategy Leadership Board. The next step will involve

discussion with the Strategy and Resources Committee, and there will be further discussion with the Chairs of this Committee about the detail and timings of that discussion. This work sits within a wider strategic review aimed at supporting ongoing improvements in the customer journey for our citizens.

Q.2 What action will you take, through your role on the Combined Authority, to encourage other South Yorkshire authorities to support public transport by reducing subsidies for individual car use through policies such as free town centre car parking?

A.2 Clearly, we are in a very challenging time where commercial operators are responding to the drop in patronage as a result of Covid and the end to the Government funding by cutting a number of bus services across South Yorkshire.

The Mayor is working with Local Authorities and Bus Operators on an Enhanced Bus Partnership and work is being undertaken to consider what needs to be done to improve bus services and attract and encourage more people to use them. This will look at a range of issues from improvements to services and networks, ticketing, information, and communications but demand management measures, such as parking charges, will also be part of this work looking more long-term.

As part of the MCA Board discussions on this, I will be keen to understand the benefits of the range of potential actions the Enhanced Partnership could take and to have full discussions with colleagues across South Yorkshire on the best way to deliver this. However, at a time when people are struggling through the cost-of-living crisis, we have a bus offer that is simply not fit for purpose, and our local economy is building back from the pandemic, I do not believe we should abolish free parking as Green Councillors call for.

Q.3 How appropriate and democratic do you feel it is for the Council to publish substantially different written answers to questions, compared to the responses actually given to elected members at full Council meetings?

A.3 This is obviously not appropriate, and the Democratic Services team work tirelessly to ensure that this does not happen. However, due to an administrative error, on the day of the June Council meeting, there was inaccuracies published for that meeting. This mistake was quickly identified and rectified by staff.

Full Council requires a lot work for Council staff, and mistakes are rarely made, so I hope that Members understand that whilst this mistake should not have happened, it is understandable that problems may sometimes

arise, and that every effort will be made to ensure administrative errors such as this do not occur in the future.

Questions of Councillor Henry Nottage to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 In view of the failure to secure rights of re-entry with tickets to Tramlines in Hillsborough Park this year, will the Council develop a re-entry policy as a condition for future events held on its land?

Q.2 Will it also seek in future to ensure that local groups and businesses have a greater opportunity to be involved as franchisees to facilitate community wealth building in those events?

A.1 & A.2 With regards this year's event, it is important to understand that this is not a decision for Sheffield City Council or the Safety Advisory Group. However, after extensive conversations between Sheffield City Council and the festival organisers, Tramlines has agreed to take a pragmatic approach and confirmed those with unforeseen or emergency circumstances during the weekend should speak to staff at the Customer Service tent located next to Medics and Welfare. The Customer Service Team will also make arrangements for parents who need to take children home and wish to return to site on their own later. This will not address all of the concerns raised but will, we hope, allow some people the re-assurance they need.

With regards the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) relating to Tramlines, this is administered by Sheffield City Council (SCC), its core members are:

- SCC Health & Safety
- SCC Highways
- SCC Licensing
- SCC Major Events Team
- South Yorkshire Police
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

As the name suggests, the group acts on an advisory basis. Following the 2021 Tramlines event, the continuation of the no re-entry policy was put forward by Tramlines **for review** from the SAG who agreed it was the best proposed option operationally, on the grounds of public safety and to mitigate anti-social behaviour. The SAG understands the reasons for continuing to adopt the no re-entry policy, which support a more manageable environment throughout the festival weekend both on and off site. The SAG supports the policy and would not advise against it unless issues relating to public safety are identified as a result of the policy, that cannot/have not been mitigated. The SAG only considers safety issues.

Tickets for the 2022 were subsequently sold, by Tramlines, on this basis.

Our experience has shown that Tramlines are one of the best event organisers in Sheffield for resident consultation and their commitment to both the safety of attendees and protection of the park is paramount in everything they do. The combined attendance at both the Hillsborough Park event and the Sheffield Fringe events is around 110,000 people, bring an economic value of around £1.2M into the local economy and the festival was recently voted the Number One “urban” music festival in the UK.

Tramlines responded to the feedback and a survey by Hillsborough Councillor George Lindars-Hammond to allow re-entry to the festival to those who experience unforeseen or emergency situations across the weekend, including with childcare, can make arrangements to leave and re-enter. It is not possible to change the policy for this year as this will change the SAG agreement and the T&Cs under which tickets were sold.

Once this year’s event is over, a full debrief will begin, including consideration of feedback about future events. I think there needs to be a wider impact assessment and consultation with residents and businesses so that we can all best judge what may need to be done for next year to ensure it supports what the local community and ticket holders want, including around readmittance which I would personally support.

This is something that local Councillor George Lindars-Hammond has been asking me for and I think this would be welcomed by residents and local businesses, and we will be sure to keep people updated as the progression of this.

Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 At the Budget Meeting in March, it was resolved that the Council would “lead by example and decarbonise appropriate buildings utilised by our communities, a proposal of £3.5m capital investment is sought to install renewable energy along with the required energy efficiency measures to support the installation of renewable energy on our estate, especially community hubs, such as schools, libraries, community centres and review Council housing stock that may also be potential.” - what progress has been made so far?

A.1 Key Council departments, Facilities Management (FM), Housing, and Education have been consulted with regarding the allocation of the £3.5M to start determining which buildings would be in scope. A Project Mandate setting out the scope of the programme based on discussions with service

areas has been drafted and awaiting approval by Committee prior to proceeding to feasibility and business case development.

Q.2 Despite the wholesale price of gas falling 75% in the last 3 months; the price has continued to rise for consumers, including the Council and commercial traders in the Moor Market and other Council properties. Installation of Solar PV would reduce bills for the council and traders alike. Will the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee immediately establish a tendering process for providers who can install solar PV on new build and existing Council buildings at cheapest or no cost to the Council, prioritising offers from local partners who are committed to the City and will reinvest profits locally?

A.2 Moor Market was one of our buildings to benefit from the first phase of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding to replace lighting to more efficient LEDs and to install solar PV. All internal lighting has now been installed. However, the design for the solar PV has to be rescoped due to issues around its location (Sheffield City Council don't own all the roof space) and to allow greater space for roof edge protection.

As raised in your previous question, we're looking to invest in retrofitting renewables on our buildings along with any associated energy efficiency works, but we know that this investment alone will not be sufficient to retrofit all the buildings we need to achieve net zero across our assets and agree with you that we need to look at additional alternative financing solutions. As stated in our 10 Point Plan for Climate Action, we're committed to support and increase the amount of community owned energy across the city and procuring such model you refer to could assist with this. Officers are working to identify buildings that will benefit from the £3.5M investment along with others that would be more suited to alternative financial arrangements. A full procurement exercise will be required for both once buildings are identified and, in the meantime, officers are looking to carry out some soft market testing on the models similar to your suggestion.

Q.3 Will the Committee investigate whether all new Council buildings - such as the new Older People's Independent Living at Hemsworth - be fitted with Solar PV to help protect the Council and people who use Council buildings are protected from energy price rises and help meet our commitments to Net Zero?

A.3 The Hemsworth Older Persons Independent Living Scheme is part of the Stock Increase Programme which is building new energy efficient Council owned homes across the city.

The budget for the Hemsworth scheme cannot currently accommodate the installation of Solar PVs. However, the scheme has been designed in a way that not only future proofs it for the installation of solar panels, but also

allows for the installation of further renewable technologies as they become available. Specific future proofing design features include the orientation of roofs to maximise the efficiency of solar PVs, and sufficient space to accommodate the equipment necessary to operate the panels.

The overarching principal for Hemsworth and other stock increase programme schemes is that the new buildings should be easy and affordable to keep warm whilst reducing the overall energy demand and reducing CO₂ emissions.

This is being delivered by adopting a fabric first approach that ensures the buildings are highly insulated, achieve good air tightness and have efficient heat recovery ventilation systems, reducing building heat loss and consequently reducing the need to use the installed heating system.

Future schemes within the Stock Increase Programme are now being designed to respond to the new statutory requirements that came into place via the Building Regulations update from the 15th June 2022. As our new build programme was already achieving high thermal performance, air tightness and renewable ventilation requirements, our required upgrades in design and specification are relatively small, compared to other developers, as we are already achieving the majority of the new requirements. The additional requirements that we need to include relate to the electrification of heating systems, Electric Vehicle charging and biodiversity net gain in developments.

Nevertheless, the requirement to install Solar PV is still not currently mandatory and therefore is still subject to budgetary constraints, particularly in due consideration of the additional cost required to meet the current Building Regulations upgrades. It is anticipated that the installation of Solar PV and related battery storage will become mandatory in the Future Homes and Building Standards Building Regulations update, expected in 2025, to achieve net-zero ready new build homes (net-zero when the grid decarbonises).

Q.4 Will the Strategy and Resources Committee investigate, following the examples of Oxford, Oldham, Peterborough, Cannock Chase, Greenwich, Bingley, Lincoln, Edinburgh, Trafford, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Seaton Valley, Birmingham City, North Tyneside, Lambeth, Exeter, Cheshire West and Chester, Northumberland, Torfaen and Newcastle Councils, in signing the Fair Tax declaration? Councils for Fair Tax Declaration - Fair Tax Foundation (fairtaxmark.net)

A.4 Labour Councillors are committed to ensuring that Sheffield City Council adheres to a robust ethical procurement policy. This means that companies the Council contracts with, must share our desire to create a city economy that works for all by paying their taxes, respecting workers' rights and equal opportunities, and invest in the talents of their employees through good

training and healthy, safe working conditions.

We want to encourage companies to think about the wider social impact on Sheffield communities of their activity. Of course, tax avoidance is counter to this objective, and the Council encourages fair tax practices amongst suppliers when buying goods and services.

However, we must always seek to go further and last month Councillors from across the Chamber supported our amendment to Full Council committing the Council to revising and going further with its ethical procurement policy as part of a renewed drive to deliver Community Wealth Building polices (such as pushing for fairer employment, and progressive procurement of goods and services).

Labour councillors have already committed publicly to ensuring that the 'Councils for Fair Tax declaration' is adopted as part of this work, and the plans for Community Wealth Building and ethical procurement will be going to the Strategy and Resources Committee within the next few months.

At Committee training, I asked Andy Fry OBE - Chief Executive of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny - the question; "do we need a leader in the Committee system?" and his answer was a clear "no". He did say that the public may like to have somebody to identify with as the Head of the Council but there is no actual requirement for a leader

Q.5 What is in the Sheffield City Council Constitution to say we need to appoint a leader now we no longer use the strong leader model?

A..5 Part 2 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Articles of the Constitution. Article 6 deals with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Group Leaders and Article 6.01 says that 'At its Annual Meeting the Council *will* appoint a Leader of the Council, who shall act be the political head of the Council.

Article 6.02 sets out the Role and Function of the Leader and Article 6.03 the Key Responsibilities. These reflect the recommendations made by the cross-party Governance Committee at its meeting on the 22 February 2022.

The Constitution including these Articles was approved by Full Council at an Extraordinary Meeting on the 23 March 2022 with all members in favour and was reaffirmed at the Annual general meeting on 18 May 2022.

Q.6 What is the role of leader in a modern committee system now they have no decision-making powers and can neither appoint people to positions of power or delegate decision making to another?

A.6 See response to Q5 above.

Q.7 Do you think Sheffield City Council could be a leader for progressive change and do things differently by scrapping the role of leader altogether in favour of something more co-operative?

A.7 I believe this question shows a fundamental lack of understanding in what it takes to provide stable and secure organisational leadership needed for an organisation the size of Sheffield City Council.

I am not aware of, in the entire history of UK local government, such a proposal as outlined being adopted

Q.8 Do you think we could have a shared figurehead role between the parties, or a rotating role on a quarterly or six-monthly basis?

A.8 See answer above.

Q.9 What is the possibility of “rebranding” the role to something other than leader? e.g. spokesperson, Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee etc.

A.9 See response to Q5-7 above.

Questions of Councillor Sophie Wilson to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox)

Q.1 How many staff are employed directly by Sheffield City Council?

A.1 8,697 Including Casual and Bank Pool.

Q.2 How many agency staff are working for Sheffield City Council?

A.2 None. We do have staff working on internal agency and bank pool arrangements, but these are not zero-hour contracts.

Q.3 How many staff are on zero hours contracts?

A.3 No. They receive the Real Living Wage as determined by the Living Wage Foundation, this exceeds the Living Wage.

Q.4 Are agency staff receiving the Living Wage?

A.4 No. They receive the Real Living Wage as determined by the Living Wage Foundation, this exceeds the Living Wage.

Q.5 Are they receiving the Real Living Wage?

A.5 Yes. They receive the Real Living Wage as determined by the Living Wage Foundation.

Q.6 If so, how does Sheffield City Council know this?

A.6 Through monthly Management Information Reports which are discussed at monthly contract meetings

Question of Councillor Ruth Milsom to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q. Can you please detail what has been done this year to promote the student waste collection scheme?

A. The student moves out campaign, or to use its wider title 'Donate Don't Waste' is a joint programme of activities between both Universities, the Students Unions and Sheffield City Council.

As part of that campaign, the communication aspects for the services are promoted by the Universities as they have the best reach to students. The Universities use a range of mechanisms to promote the services available to students during this period (there are a range of other university based activities like collections points for non-perishable food to donate to food banks etc). This includes emails to students, electronic messaging on their portal systems, and on campus advertising of the campaign.

The information is also sent to the landlords the Universities deal with who also help promote the services through emails to their tenants as well as discussing it directly with tenants during house calls that many landlords and letting agents undertake prior to the tenancies coming to an end.

The Universities also try and promote the services into local community groups to ensure that permanent residents are aware of the services and can help promote the services in their areas should they feel it appropriate.

We are, through the litter and waste subgroup of the 'Good Neighbours Forum', reviewing the communications processes to ensure we reach the maximum numbers of people and do so at the right times with the relevant information to make the scheme as effective as possible.

Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Something has gone badly wrong with regards to students moving out of their accommodation and the rubbish and fly tipping left behind. Could you tell us:

Q.1 Whose decision was it to stop providing the "red sack" scheme to student properties?

A.1 The red sacks (more recently clear sacks) were provided up until the 2020 campaign, when covid meant that most of the outlets were closed and amended working practices meant circulating the sacks was simply not possible. This was continued in 2021 again due to covid restrictions still in place disrupting the network of outlets (universities, students unions, letting agents and landlords).

The working group for the 'Donate Don't Waste Campaign' which includes both Universities, both student unions and the Council's Waste Management Team discussed whether to maintain this practice this year and felt that students providing their own sacks was a reasonable system to continue in this first year of a normal return after covid.

The planned proposal for the services was provided to the Cabinet Member for Waste in February/March time through a briefing paper.

Q.2 How much money did it save the Council?

A.2 The sacks cost varies slightly each year depending on production costs at the time and numbers circulated but the cost of the sacks each year would likely be around £2,000.

Q.3 How much money is projected to be spent on clearing fly tipping from student moves? (last year figures will do for comparison for now).

A.3 To answer this there is first a matter of clarity needed. Bagged waste properly presented is not fairly considered fly tipping as we have invited this waste to be put out and have a service for collecting it. This year, the cost for that additional collection service from Veolia is likely to be around £16,000 for three weeks of a collection service, which operates daily including through the weekends to collect this bagged waste.

Other waste where it is incorrectly placed out is part of the StreetsAhead contract with Amey and does not incur any additional costs to the Council, and falls within the normal working practices for clearing fly tipping where it occurs on the highway.

Q.4 What are the plans to engage better with landlords and to make them accountable for the mess that their tenants leave behind?

A.4 The Donate Don't Waste Programme engages heavily with landlords through both universities undertaking to brief landlords and letting agents of the services in place to promote to their students.

Through the good neighbours project, the litter and waste sub-group is seeking to bring landlord representation into that group to help develop that dialogue and develop greater engagement from that sector.

It is important though to clarify that legislation does not support making landlords responsible for tenants disposing of waste badly. Legislation makes it clear that those putting the waste out are the ones that can be held accountable and could face enforcement action. These matters have previously been investigated in detail, but legislation simply does not

support pursuing the landlords for the actions of the tenants in these such matters.

Only where the waste remains on the private property, can the landlord be made accountable for the waste in question and such matters are followed up as they are anywhere in the city by the Environmental Protection Service.

The further complication for enforcement action where waste is dumped onto the pavement or left in gardens, is that action needs to be taken against a specific individual and can't simply be applied against all tenants and identifying those responsible, especially if they have all now vacated a property, can become a very complicated process.

Q.5 Will the Council fine landlords whose properties move result in fly tipping on pavements and potential public health risk?

A.5 As per the previous answer, legislation does not allow for the landlords being held accountable for the actions of their tenants in these sorts of situations. We are though exploring how we can use aspects of the Approved Student Housing (SNUG) scheme operated by the Council for both Universities, to see if elements of that could be tightened up to make landlords more accountable for these sorts of issues.

Questions of Councillor Maroof Raouf to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.1 When will all Councillors receive a full and documented list of all contraventions that are enforced by Sheffield City Council?

A.1 Councillor Otten to provide a verbal response.

Q.2 Does the City Council take the approach to educate first on all offences and penalise afterwards? If not, then which offences does it penalise immediately?

A.2 When new parking restrictions are introduced (for example a new permit zone, or the recently implemented footway parking restrictions in the city centre), the Civil Enforcement Officers would issue warning notices to vehicles for the first two weeks to give motorists an opportunity to understand restrictions are in place which will be enforced in future.

When CCTV enforcement commences on a bus lane, warning notices are issued – current policy allows for a two-month warning notice period (longer is allowed than parking as the CCTV footage needs to be reviewed, then DVLA contacted, so notices can be issued by post to the keeper.

Q.3 Do Civil Enforcement Officers give those parked on double yellow lines a set amount of time before issuing an Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), if so why does this happen?

A.3 There is no statutory time that must be allowed before a Penalty Charge Notice is issued to vehicles on yellow lines, but it is good practice to allow an observation period on yellow lines (where there is not also a loading ban in place – indicated by yellow kerb markings). This enables the officer to gauge if loading activity is taking place (as there is an exemption for this activity)

Q.4 Does the City Council have any remit to issue FPNs for those parked on yellow zig zag lines during restricted hours?

A.4 Yes, if there is also a sign adjacent indicating the “no stopping” restrictions and a Traffic Regulation Order in place.

Q.5 Does Sheffield have a “wait and ticket” policy before issuing an FPN? If so, what is the exact amount of time they are expected to wait? If not, then can it be confirmed that as soon as a contravention has been witnessed that an FPN is started?

A.5 This depends on the contravention type. If there are loading exemptions that apply to the restriction, an observation period would normally be given. In this circumstance a five-minute observation period will normally be applied; however for large commercial vehicles (i.e. Ford Transit size or larger) this may be increased to ten minutes.

However, if the CEO believes the vehicle has been parked for a reason other than one permitted (e.g. the driver has stopped to use a cashpoint machine, pop into a newsagent, go into a fast food outlet) an instant Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) can still be issued with recorded notes to explain why a shorter observation period was given.

A PCN must not be issued to a vehicle which had been legitimately parked in a bay (on or off street) until at least 10 minutes has elapsed after it was allowed to be parked.

If a vehicle was parked in a pay and display bay at 10.06am with a previously valid ticket in the vehicle which expired at 10.00am, a PCN could not be issued until after 10.11am. If the CEO first saw the same vehicle at 10:11am a PCN could be issued instantly. However, if there was no pay and display ticket clearly displayed (or evidence of paid for time), a normal observation period would apply.

The grace period applies whether the period of parking is paid for, or free limited waiting.

Grace periods only apply to designated parking places where a person is permitted to park. A road with a restriction (e.g. single yellow line) or prohibition (e.g. double yellow line) is not a 'designated' parking place either during - or outside of - the period of the restriction or prohibition.

There are national regulations grace period rules that apply. This is different to an observation period; it is time that must be allowed before a PCN can be issued.

Questions of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to the Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.1 I understand that the Council owns an Automatic Number Plate Recognition vehicle, that could be used for enforcement of traffic offences, but that it has been out of operation for some time. When was the last time that this vehicle was in service?

A.1 The camera car has been out of action approximately for over a year. This has been due to the upgrade undertaken by the supplier which is not compatible with our servers. The Council Service Desk has been looking into this and have identified that it is a bigger piece of work than anticipated and cannot be absorbed within the current resource. A temporary project manager needs to be appointed externally to look at this work. This issue does not only impact on the camera car but in future any new ANPR cameras required for bus lanes/gates will need this upgrade in place. To speed up the recruitment process BCIS (Business Continuous Improvement Service) will be using the recruitment agency; this process started last week.

Q.2 When will it be operational again?

A.2 We are hoping this upgrade work will be completed within the next four months.

Question of Councillor Ben Curran to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Richard Williams)

- Q. The Rivelin Valley Water Play park was closed this weekend (9-10 July). A Council spokesperson explained that this was due to staffing issues as follows:-

Rivelin Water Play operates using a sand filtration system requiring chlorine treatments and regular testing and monitoring throughout its opening. This requires all staff operating the facility to have appropriate training and competency. Rivelin opens for a limited summer period only. This creates additional staffing pressures employing seasonal staff for a limited period with appropriate skills or the confidence to undertake this role. Recruitment opened in January with a general skills shortage for lower graded roles throughout the industry.

- (a) what measures are being put in place to deal with the staffing issue?
 - (b) when will this be resolved?
 - (c) can you give the public an assurance that this won't disrupt opening hours over the summer period?
- A.
- (a) Work started prior to the pandemic looking at options to work with City Centre management who maintain similar systems throughout the year not just seasonal opening to increase resilience as a long-term solution. This was delayed due to the pandemic alongside that team also running with reduced staffing capacity reducing flexibility to support Parks. Short term additional training for all our weekend staff, additional Gardeners and a number of senior managers has been arranged for this week with further discussions with City centre management going forward.
 - (b) We expect the facility to be operational throughout the remained of the planned summer opening period
 - (c) As above. Every effort is being made to train additional staff for additional resilience and keep the facility open while work continues on long term plans with the City Centre water features team.

Question of Councillor Talib Hussain to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Richard Williams)

- Q. Norwood Hall and Bishopsholme Community Centre was scheduled to be opened many months ago, and Wensley Community Centre was

due to be handed over to the Tenants' and Residents' Association (TARA) last month, but they are still waiting. This is understandably causing frustration in the local community. Could you please give an update on both these centres?

- A. Both community buildings are now available for use. There have been some delays in agreeing the lettings agreements with the TARAs in question as these have been revised post-COVID. We have worked with Wensley TARA to resolve this, and they are now using the community centre for their agreed sessions with effect from 14th July 2022. We are still working through this process with Norwood and Bishopholme TARA, but the centre is available for use as soon as this is completed.

Question of Councillor Minesh Parekh to the Co-Chairs of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee (Councillor Dawn Dale and Councillor Mick Rooney)

Q. A recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request, reported by Now Then Magazine, revealed a 96% increase in homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in South Yorkshire over the past four years. What steps is the Council taking to ensure LGBTQ+ young people feel safe and secure, both in and outside of school environments; and to counter this rise?

A. The Council has been active in projects and partnerships over many years to ensure that LGBTQ+ young people feel safe and secure in Sheffield, both in and outside of school environments. Our School Improvement Partner, Learn Sheffield, SAYiT, the LGBT+ Youth Service and officers from People's Portfolio in particular have worked on projects to support schools to effectively respond to homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crimes/incidents, for example via the Student Wellbeing Resource for Schools. SAYiT provides training to schools, and other services working with LGBT+ young people as well providing support to individual young people through their various youth groups. Other related actions include developing new guidance on supporting young people who are transgender. In addition, the Sheffield Race Equality Commission report was launched on 14th July 2022, the Council will be taking forward its recommendations across through actions that include intersectionality between different protected characteristics and actions and therefore, the hate crime/incident actions arising from the Commission will also support LGBT+ young people in Sheffield.

The Council currently commissions additional youth work support for LGBTQ young people aged 10-25. This provides young LGBTQ+ people with specialist youth work that can help learning, personal social and emotional growth and support and can also provide stable support and ongoing peer groups and friendships.

Questions of Councillor Gail Smith to the Co-Chairs of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee (Councillor Dawn Dale and Councillor Mick Rooney)

I have casework, and I work with young people with learning disabilities. There has been no respite in Sheffield for well over a year. This is a vital service, which helps parents, I spoke to a social worker who told me, in most cases its at least two years, and there is little chance it will change. There is a massive shortage of social workers. This is a real crisis for some families.

Q.1 Is it true that, some parents of young people who have challenging behaviour such as sever Autism, have not had respite for over two years?

A.1 During the first lockdown, respite services were closed. However, the Children with Disabilities Team responded by:

1. setting up and offering Thornbridge Outdoor Activity Centre during holiday periods.
2. flexibility around the use of direct payments.
3. employment of support workers.

Some respite services did resume, and children and young people started back. However, due to a situation with accommodation in Hesley (Doncaster) this was limited. 12 months ago, a number of homes as part of Hesley group were closed down in Doncaster, we had four children in that Home and we therefore had to move them into our short break provision. Since then, we have moved two of the four on and two still remain at Mulberry Lodge. This does however mean, given the significant needs of the children placed at Mulberry, we have had to close the facility and not able to offer respite to anyone else. One of the young people placed is turning 18 soon and work continues to find them suitable provision.

Another home in Doncaster was rated inadequate and had to move two into Rushey and therefore had to close access for respite to other families. The only full functioning overnight short breaks we have at present is at Chancet Wood. We are moving those children on and in the meantime we have another range of provision including the use of Thornbridge and increased direct payment community short breaks clubs.

The situation means that we are unable to offer overnight stays until appropriate placements are identified for the young people. We are actively working with our Placements Team and have also involved our new Commissioning Head of Service to give support in our placement searches and options to secure permanent placements for the children we are caring for on a full time basis. We are also actively exploring how we can increase our own in-house permanent provision for children and young people with profound learning disabilities and autism.

Families were, and continue to be contacted and offered alternative support if needed such as direct payments for increased or establishing PA time, and additional Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) clubs support, however not many have taken our offer up. We do have a few families that are in real crisis now and have intimated that they will need their young people accommodated if the situation continues. We continue to review all options regarding respite to attempt to provide the right support for families.

We have set up Thornbridge again to cover during the summer, but we are aware that families are desperate for an overnight provision. We have contacted other Local Authorities and they are in a similar situation, and not in a position to offer us any of their respite overnight provision to support our families.

I appreciate that you may have follow-up questions and may want to know far more detail than can easily be provided in this format. If it is helpful, we will both meet with you and Council officers to discuss further. This invitation extends to any interested members.

Q.2 When can we expect the call centre to be back to answering calls, within a reasonable time?

A.2 From a Children and Families perspective, the Call Centre, within normal working hours, is the Safeguarding Hub front door. This is staffed by two whole time equivalent (WTE) staff 37 hours Business Support Officers managed by a Business Support Manager who are responsible for handling all calls between 08:45 and 17:15 Monday to Thursday and 08:45 to 16:45 on Fridays.

The access to the “Front Door” via telephone has been maintained as per pre COVID and we are continuing to respond effectively to calls received. On average, the Safeguarding Hub received 550 calls per five day working week, which equates to roughly 110 per day. We are answering approximately 93% of all calls received and monitoring any calls that are abandoned. Abandoned calls are those that have rung for more than 60 seconds but end before being answered, we have approximately between six to eight abandoned calls per working day. Call volume does vary according to time of day. We have peaks between 12:00-13:00 and then 14:00-15:00 which can go up to about 20 calls per hour, however the remaining hours tend to range from between 9 -12. Our quietest periods tend to 10:00-11:00 and 16:00-17:00.

We now have a “call cue function” so that any caller to the Safeguarding Hub is aware of their position within the system and they also receive a “comfort message” every 60 seconds reassuring them that we are working hard to answer their call.

The call handlers are now also asking each caller what their position was in the queue when they first rang so that we can monitor the length of queue. This has never been above five. Once the call handlers answer the call and have taken basic information regarding the concern and checked the electronic record, they will forward the call to a qualified screening social worker to respond and provide appropriate and relevant advice. On the occasions where no social workers are available due to being engaged in

other phone calls, the contact details are forwarded to Senior Fieldwork Manager monitoring the team of social workers responsible for answering phones and they will ensure a call back as soon as a social worker is free.

Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to the Co-Chairs of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee (Councillor Dawn Dale and Councillor Mick Rooney)

Q.1 How many Education, Health and Care Plan assessments have been undertaken each year for the last five years in Sheffield and what is the total cost of these assessments?

A.1 The table provided below answers both questions Q.1 and Q.2.

We do not cost out the assessments, only the provision which would be included in the Educational Health Care (EHC) plan is costed.

As a very rough calculation, if a young person's plan was collated using assessment time and reporting across five different disciplines and added to the time taken to write the EHC Plan, the average cost of an EHC Needs Assessment would be around £10,000 per child.

	Academic year				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 to date
Number of assessments undertaken for initial requests	420	434	532	696	803
All initial requests	604	659	627	758	913
Initial requests that did not proceed to assessment	185	217	109	67	46

Q.2 How many requests have been made where no assessment was carried out?

A.2 Answer provided in question Q.1

Q.3 Some schools have more need than others for assessments. What will the Council do to make sure assessments are provided by need and not by a quota?

A.3 The Council SENDSARS (Special Educational Needs Disability Statutory Assessment Review Service) Department responds to the needs of children as highlighted by their parent or their school. We do not have a quota.

Across SEND more broadly, we work with schools, to identify children with additional needs and support them to meet those needs once identified. This can be either through a support plan, or with access to an EHC Needs Assessment and plan.

Robust data is available and put to good use within the Council and in SEND to help us identify where the highest level of needs are across the city, and therefore where resource and support should be targeted.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee (Councillor Terry Fox) (to be answered by Councillor Douglas Johnson (Chair of the Housing Policy Committee))

Q.7 How many Council owned properties are in rent arrears?

A.7 At end of June 2022, the number of council tenants owing more than 0.01p was 20,545.

Q.8 What is the total value of rent arrears in Sheffield currently?

A.8 At end of June 2022, the total amount of arrears owed by current tenants was £10,770,027. Former tenants owed a further £5,447,735. Gross arrears were, therefore, £16,217,762.

Questions of Councillor Ben Curran to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q.1 I recently met with tenants and residents on Mortomley Close, S35. They were told that the Council would fund the repair work to the road at a Co-op Executive meeting in March 2022. They have not heard anything since. When will the Council commence the work?

A.1 As I understand it, this matter has in fact been rumbling on since at least 2015 but the only “public questions” at various meetings have been received from Labour Party campaigners or candidates before election times in this marginal ward.

I understand there is no obligation for the Council to repair this privately-owned unadopted road, it is not seen as being in a particularly poor condition compared to many streets in Sheffield, certainly not to the extent that the cost of works could be recovered from the owners under section 205 of the Highways act 1980.

I also understand that the original proposal to resurface the road was on the premise that it would be used for construction traffic for Thorncliffe Leisure Centre but that, in the event, largely went via Packhorse Lane. The Council doesn't normally resurface unadopted roads because of the implicit liabilities for any trips and falls claims arising from faulty workmanship and/or an implied duty to maintain it in the future.

This is a time of unprecedented financial pressures on the Council. I cannot give a timescale for this work.

Q.2 Has an assessment been made of how much the re surfacing would cost?

A.2 No.

Q.3 The residents of Mortomley Close, High Green, are concerned that this issue may continue into the future. What process is there for requesting that a road should become adopted?

A.3 There is provision in the Highways Act 1980 for occupiers to require the Council to adopt a street on payment of the required sums of money. You may wish to make further enquiries directly to the Highways service.

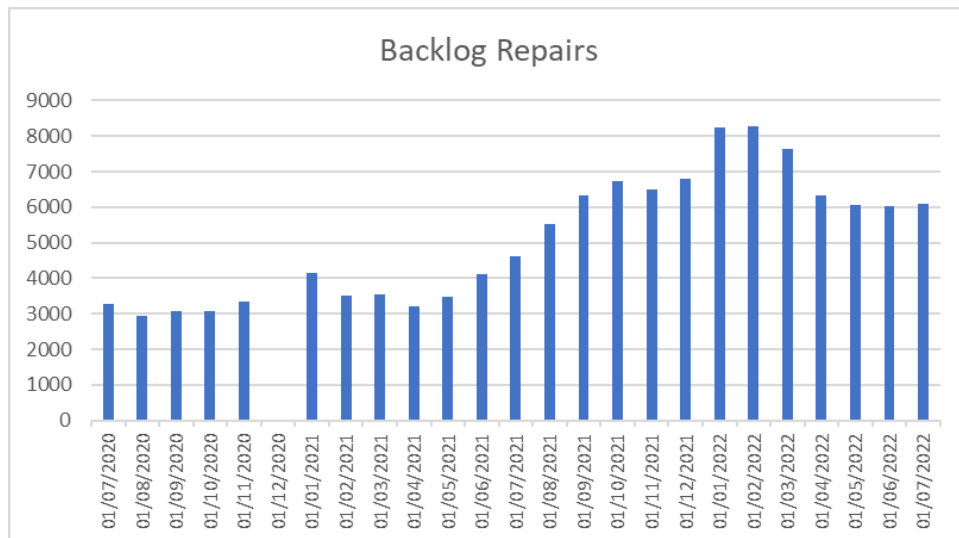
Q.4 Also can the Council please clarify the ownership of the disused tennis court opposite Mortomley Close?

A.4 The land in question is under Parks and Countryside, Sheffield City Council ownership.

Question of Councillor Mike Chaplin to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q. Following the Pandemic, there was a substantial housing repairs backlog. How much has the backlog of housing repairs decreased since July 2020 (with month-by-month analysis) and what efforts are being made to ensure this is being tackled as quickly and effectively as possible?

A. Chart 1 below shows the month trend in backlog repairs since July 2020, with the peak of the backlog occurring in February 2022:



The pandemic had a significant impact on the delivery of repairs to our tenants' properties. For a substantial period of time, the service was only carrying out emergency repairs, and this led to a backlog of non-emergency repairs that the Council is still dealing with. In addition, the number of requests for new repairs is still 25% above pre-pandemic levels with the size and scope of works also increasing. Despite this, the service is working hard to clear the backlog of works and to improve our response times going forwards and improvements are now being seen in performance. Overdue Repairs have reduced significantly over the last five months, from 8,277 in February to 6,085 in July 2022.

Following extensive consultation and negotiation with the Trade Unions and the workforce, new terms and conditions came into effect from 1st July within the Repairs Service. These changes will address a number of legacy issues with the workforce and deliver efficiencies through an extended working day, start and finish on site and flexible working. The service is prioritising the most urgent repairs and working alongside a number of specialist contractors to reduce the backlog.

The issue of the repairs service and tenants' contact with the council will be on the Housing Policy Committee's agenda for its meeting on 15th September, 2022.

Questions of Councillor Sophie Thornton to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q.1 What is the current number of outstanding or incomplete council house repairs?

A.1 There are currently 6,085 overdue repairs. Overdue Repairs have reduced significantly over the last five months, from 8,277 in February to 6,085 in July 2022.

Q.2 What was the average waiting time for a council house repair issue to be resolved over the last two months? and what was the longest wait?

A.2 The average waiting time for a Council house repair was 21.5 days in May and June 2022. This is a slight improvement on the average waiting time between February and April, which was 22 days.

The longest wait was 786 days and was in relation to a new front door. This job was undertaken by an external contractor who reported issues in relation to accessing the property. This was partly due to ongoing issues with agreeing access to the property with the tenant. Numerous appointments were made with the tenant to undertake the work and the repairs “no access” process was invoked. This included home visits to the tenants by Neighbourhood Officers, referrals to Legal Services and legal letters being sent to the tenant by Repairs and Maintenance and Housing regarding no access and breach of tenancy. So it isn't a true reflection of delays caused by the Repairs and Maintenance Service.

Many of the older repairs are complex and similar in nature to this example and require intervention across a number of Council services in order to resolve them.

Q.3 What was the average waiting time on the council house repairs phone line before answering each month in the last two months? and what was the longest wait?

A.3 In May 2022, the average wait time for Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) calls to be answered was 9 minutes and 3 seconds. The longest call wait was two hours, one minute and 40 seconds. The team answered on average 733 calls per day during May.

In June 2022, the average wait time for (R&M) calls to be answered was 11 minutes and 53 seconds. The longest call wait was two hours, one minute and 12 seconds. The team answered on average 771 calls per day during June.

Long call waits most typically happen on Mondays when demand is highest. We are continuing to cross-skill our R&M and Housing Contact Centre teams to help give us greater flexibility in dealing with high demand periods.

Q.4 How many repair issues have been ‘closed’ each month in the last two months as a result of not being able to make contact with a resident?

A.4 In May and June 2022 there were 1,339 and 1,257 orders closed due to no access respectively. The Council will invoke the “no access” procedure where a repair is required to fulfil our regulatory responsibilities, for example gas safety inspection.

Q.5 How many council housing residents are currently in temporary accommodation due to maintenance issues at their primary residence?

A.5 There are two area cases in B&B breakfast accommodation.

Q.6 How many evictions have there been from Council housing in the last two months? And over the last year? And can you give a breakdown of the reasons why these evictions have taken place?

A.6 The number of evictions for rent arrears in May and June was 23. The number for the last 12 months (July 2021 – June 2022) was 54.

Q.7 How many eviction notices have been served against Council housing residents in the last two months? And can you give a breakdown of the reasons why these notices have been served?

A.7 The term “eviction notice” can lead to confusion by being used in different ways and can mask the fact that all tenants have important legal rights.

A Notice Seeking Possession (NSP) is served as a warning to secure tenants before a decision is made whether to apply to court for permission to end the tenancy through a possession order. It is worth noting that an NSP is the first stage of legal recovery action, and the vast majority of these tenants will not end up being evicted from their home.

The number of Notice Seeking Possessions served for rent arrears in May and June was 573. The number for the last 12 months (July 2021 – June 2022) was 2,671. 2.

Q.8 Can you please give the Council an update on ongoing work to properly insulate and damp-proof Council properties?

A.8 (a) Progress under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (2) project is advancing. The scheme represents approx £1.5m of investment (£1.2m grant funded) targeting energy improvement measures to over 500 council homes, and is due to complete by Sept

'2022.

- (b) The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2 competition is due to launch in late August 2022, through which the Council intends to make an ambitious bid and secure contributory funds for circa 372 homes to receive external wall insulation
- (c) The re-roofing programme continues at approx 1,000 properties per year, through which loft insulation is being addressed where appropriate ensuring a minimum of 300mm.
- (d) The Council's 'roadmap to net zero' commission for its housing stock is due to produce its final report and conclusions by November. Crucially this will provide a baseline position, estimate the funding required and inform the future asset planning and capital investment to achieve net zero.
- (e) The Asset Management Team are evaluating options and opportunities to accelerate energy efficiency and improvement measures to homes under the capital delivery programme, and will report to members.
- (f) In some circumstances, damp in properties may be due to poor air circulation. Where this is the case, the Council may be able to install low-cost ventilation systems to resolve the problem. Whilst the Council appreciates that tenants may be concerned about the cost of running such systems, given very high energy costs, they only cost around £10 per year to run and can make a big difference in terms of damp problems in many properties.

Q.9 How many void properties have had repairs started since the last housing committee meeting? how many have had work completed?

A.9 I can confirm that 317 voids have been made fit to let for the period 9/6/2022 and 12/7/2022. The Repairs and Maintenance Service have 520 voids in progress at this time and 95% of these will always have work in progress at any one time.

How many properties have been relet since the last Housing Committee meeting?

Between 9/6/2022 and 12/7/2022 there were 208 general need properties relet. Of these, four were Older Person Independent Living properties.

Q.10 How many people are:

(a) On the waiting list for Council housing?

- (b) What is the longest wait?
- (c) What is the current average wait time?

A.10 (a) The “waiting list” was abolished 20 years ago. Anyone may now register for a housing allocation without necessarily wanting a property now. 20,848 people are registered on Sheffield’s housing register, However, only 8,474 are actively bidding for available properties – i.e. actively looking for a new home. 60% of registered applicants are just accruing waiting time.

(b) 61 years.

(c) This is not something I have data for. For the reasons indicated above, it is not necessarily a meaningful number on its own.

Q.11 How many Council properties have been sold through right to buy in the last three years? And how much money has this brought in?

A.11

Period	Properties Sold	Total Sale Price
2022-23 (to May)	75	£1,940,385
2021-22	413	£20,059,130
2020-21	215	£10,306,280
2019-20	374	£16,708,610
Total	1077	£49,014,405

As you can see, the average property brings in less than £46,000 per house or flat. The maximum subsidy for Right to Buy applications is £87,200/property, so many millions will have been lost to the public purse that could have been used to support building more Council properties.

Q.12 How many new council properties have been built/bought over the last three years? And at what cost?

A.12 1.

	Expenditure			TOTAL	Units
NEW BUILD	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
KNUTTON RISE MMC	21,931	942,132	9,211	973,274	4
WEAKLAND	3,829,279	1,460,677	- 27,091	5,262,865	36
WORDSWORTH	1,295,033	360,277	19,200	1,674,510	8
New Build Subtotal	5,146,242	2,763,086	1,320	7,910,648	48

NEW BUILD ACQUISITION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL	Units
OXCLOSE S106 ACQUISITIONS	281,028	603,342	1,800	886,170	17
New Build Acquisition Subtotal	281,028	603,342	1,800	886,170	17

GENERAL ACQUISITIONS	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL	Units
General Acquisitions	7,090,441	4,064,693	4,489,121	15,644,255	203
General Acquisition Repairs	1,095,041	1,083,855	624,301	2,803,198	
General Acquisitions Subtotal	8,185,482	5,148,548	5,113,422	18,447,453	203

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

Q.1 Private owners of ex-council flats in the north of the city were given written quotes to approve for their contribution to re-roofing their block in 2019. Bearing in mind the slippage due to COVID and the programme not reaching the north until 2024/25, will the Council confirm with those residents affected that their contribution will remain the same?

A.1 As I understand it, the private owners you refer to are leaseholders required to pay service charges to the Council as freeholder. These are not therefore “quotes” as if the Council was a building company but part of the statutory process for quantifying the leaseholder’s contributions towards the overall cost of works.

The Council is currently finalising the 2022/23 price review with the contractor and costs have increased by nearly 16% from the original tender prices received in October 2020. A further price review is also scheduled prior to 2023/24 and therefore it is not possible for the Council to confirm the final costs to leaseholders formally until closer to the time of the programmed works.

This is important so that other tenants do not subsidise the cost of private ownership.

Our strong advice to people considering Right to Buy is to properly consider the costs of maintaining their home. Leaseholders, mainly in flats with shared spaces and services, should particularly be wary of being

responsible for a share of costs for those facilities when they need replacing.

Q.2 With energy costs increasing substantially, will urgent priority be given to those properties with no external insulation, i.e., Airey properties which are single skin concrete panel overlap, most of which are in the High Green area?

A.2 A programme is currently in place to bring all homes to achieve EPC C standard by 2030. The Council only has around 17% of its homes that are not at EPC C.

The Airey property project (EWI 2) is currently underway with proposals to tender the works during October 2022 subject to approval of the increase in the budget. It is anticipated that the works will start on site in March 2023 once the contract has been awarded. Had previous administrations prioritised investment in homes like these which have very poor levels of insulation, it would have been much cheaper to have carried out this work years ago when costs for external insulation work was much lower and would have offered better quality of life to the occupiers.

Question of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q. How many accidents have there been over the last 5 years along Brightside Lane? In particular at its junction with Fell Street?

A. We do not have access to data at the moment of drafting the responses. This can be provided following the meeting.

Questions of Councillor Kurtis Crossland to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 What is the current scheduled date for the completion of the local plan? And how likely is it this will be stuck to?

A.1 We expect the Local Plan to be adopted (finalised) by December 2024. The Publication Draft Sheffield Plan will become public this autumn when it is considered by the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee. However, this is still only a draft – public consultation on the draft plan is expected to start before Xmas but may run into early next year. The timetable is set out in the Local Development Scheme that was approved by the Cooperative Executive in October 2021 – see <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/sheffield-plan/local-development-scheme-2021-2024.pdf>

Q.2 How much of the information displayed on Sheffield's 'live' bus and tram stop displays is actual live tracking data and how much is driven by the timetable?

A.2 The information displayed on the real time displays, either at the stop or on the phone, is being fed through an information loop between a receiver on the bus and geotag on the IT system. If the timer on the real time display shows a time in minutes (i.e. 3 mins) then the information will be running from the bus' location. If the time is shown as a time (12:30), the information will be running from a timetable. That is sometimes the case if the bus is not running, or a receiver is not fitted/working correctly. There are complications with this and the IT can sometimes fail, SYMCA (South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority) continue to work on fixing these problems and making it as accurate as possible.

Q.3 The Rother Valley Parking Scheme hasn't been included in the Transport Committee's Work Programme. Has a date been set for the feedback of the public consultation?

A.3 Although the scheme was approved as part of the Transport Capital Programme report at the Transport, Regeneration and Climate change Committee on 15th June 2022, the scheme is not currently shown on the Committee's Work Programme. However, it will likely need to be as the Committee has the responsibility for making decisions on Traffic Regulation Orders where there are objections, and it is usual to have objections on schemes where parking restrictions are proposed. The results of parking surveys in the area (due to be undertaken this month) will be combined with local member feedback to shape the initial design for the scheme that will then be advertised for public comment. This is currently expected to be in the Autumn, so a decision on the scheme is likely to come to Committee in early 2023.

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q. The tender for the M17 bus is due to end in October, is there sufficient funding for a retendering of this service?

A. Service M17 is wholly tendered. SYMCA have agreed the contract with Hulleys through to October and they intend to retender the service in the coming months. Final decisions on the budget for tendered services to mitigate the effects of the commercial withdrawal of bus services will be made at the SYMCA Board meeting on 25th July 2022.

Questions of Councillor Tim Huggan to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 As part of the Crookes Low Traffic Neighbourhood, we were shown maps with road crossings, do you have an update when will these road crossings and the other associated infrastructure including bicycle storage be in place?

A.1 Within the Crookes and Walkley scheme, the crossings on Crooksmoor Road, School Road and Northfield Road are already operational. I have asked officers to check on the progress of the Newent Lane crossing. In terms of bike storage, we appreciate that many residential properties do not

have suitable (secure and accessible) storage for bikes, and if it does exist, it typically can only accommodate one bike. Therefore, we are working on options to develop an offer of secure cycle parking in residential areas – including engaging specialist providers. We have had a number of requests for residential cycle parking on streets in Crookes and Walkley.

Q.2 When will a report on the feedback from the Active Neighbourhood meetings in Crookes and other areas come to the Committee?

A.2 The drop-in sessions are part of the consultation process within the six-months of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) that has been used to trial the Crookes/Walkley and Nether Edge schemes. As such, it is expected that the majority of the feedback would be presented as part of a Committee report after the end of the trial period to determine whether some, all, or none of the planned restrictions are retained. There will continue to be regular engagements with local members, throughout the trial period.

Q.3 It was indicated a further meeting would take place once the experimental Active Neighbourhood scheme had been running for a few months. Has a provisional date been set for a further consultation meeting with residents to take place on the Active Neighbourhood?

A.3 There is an ongoing commitment to engagement with the community, which could include further drop-in sessions, but dates have not yet been set. These sessions could be used to shape recommendations on the future of the scheme once the data collection has been undertaken to understand the impact. This is likely about the six month into the initial trial period.

Q.4 There has been a considerable decline in the number of swift nesting sites over the last number of years across the country. As part of the Local Plan, could this decline be in part addressed by incorporating a condition that swift boxes (nesting areas) are included in any new developments?

A.4 The emerging Local Plan will include policies that will deliver environmental improvements, including requiring new development to achieve a net gain when it comes to biodiversity. The measures taken to achieve this net gain could include swift/bird nesting boxes.

Questions of Councillor Richard Shaw to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor

Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

The trial point closure on Little London Road, as part of the Sheaf Valley Cycle Route scheme, has been subject to vandalism several times since it was installed, as have a number of other measures relating to active neighbourhood trials in Sheffield.

Q.1 As this has the potential to disrupt the evidence gathered by these trials, do you agree that the trial period for each scheme should be extended as appropriate to account for any time lost due to vandalism?

A.1 The trial period will be at the discretion of the Local Authority. If we feel that the vandalism has impacted on the six months implementation period and has had material impacts on our ability to fully assess the scheme, then the trial period can be extended.

Q.2 Can you confirm that incidents of vandalism will have no bearing on recommendations or decisions on whether to make changes to these schemes or make them permanent?

A.2 No, the acts of vandalism will not have a bearing on the recommendations. We will be undertaking a full review of the schemes during the trial period of the experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and this will be presented to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Committee along with recommendations on how to proceed with the schemes.

Q.3 Which schools in Sheffield have received ModeShift STARS accreditation and to what level?

A.3 We currently have 46 schools accredited with 10 achieving the highest award Platinum, 4 gold, 8 silver, 23 bronze, and 1 green. The schools include are:

Lydgate Infant School	Good TP	Bronze
Meersbrook Bank Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Byron Wood Primary Academy	Good TP	Bronze
Nether Green Infant School	Good TP	Bronze
Mosborough Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Beck Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Halfway Junior School	Good TP	Bronze
Stocksbridge Junior School	Good TP	Bronze
Woodseats Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Reignhead Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Rivelin Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Westways Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Hallam Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Broomhill Infant School	Good TP	Bronze
Pye Bank CofE Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Abbeyfield Primary Academy	Good TP	Bronze
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Pathways E-Act Primary Academy	Good TP	Bronze
St Mary's Church of England Academy (Walkley)	Good TP	Bronze
St Mary's Primary School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy	Good TP	Bronze
Totley Primary School	Good TP	Bronze
Lowedges Junior Academy	Good TP	Bronze
Hatfield Academy	Good TP	Bronze
Hunter's Bar Junior School	Very Good TP	Silver
Bradway Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Stannington Infant School	Very Good TP	Silver
Wharncliffe Side Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Athelstan Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Anns Grove Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Carfield Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Watercliffe Meadow Community Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Hunter's Bar Infant School	Excellent TP	Gold
Peak Edge Trust, Oughtibridge Primary School	Excellent TP	Gold
Greystones Primary School	Excellent TP	Gold
Oasis Academy Fir Vale	Excellent TP	Gold
Nether Edge Primary School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Carterknowle Junior School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Intake Primary School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Ecclesall Primary School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Holt House Infant School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Dobcroft Infant School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Waterthorpe Infant School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Phillimore Community Primary School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Porter Croft Church of England Primary Academy	Outstanding TP	Platinum

Q.4 Which schools in Sheffield are currently seeking ModeShift STARS accreditation?

A.4 We are currently working with eight schools on gaining their accreditation.

This includes:

Stannington Infant School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Peak Edge Trust, Oughtibridge Primary School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Totley Primary School	Very Good TP	Silver
Holt House Infant School	Excellent TP	Gold
Carterknowle Junior School	Outstanding TP	Platinum
Halfway Junior School	Good TP	Bronze
Pathways E-Act Primary Academy	Good TP	Bronze
Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School	Outstanding TP	Platinum

Questions of Councillor Paul Turpin to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 At the last Full Council, members voted not to recognise that “unlimited growth on a finite planet is neither possible nor desirable and advocates a new sustainable and fairer way to manage the economy based on meeting the needs of all people that prioritises access to food, shelter, health and wellbeing while ensuring that we live within our planetary means and don’t destroy the earth-systems which sustain humanity and other species”. How many Councillors have demonstrated they understand the crisis and the grave threat to our future by attending Carbon Literacy Training and becoming carbon literate?

A.1 51 of our current Elected Members have had some of the Carbon Literacy and climate awareness training that we’ve been running. 22 of which completed the full Carbon Literacy course, six of which have received Carbon Literacy certification. Based on feedback from the first cohort of Members that attended the Carbon Literacy training, the training approach has been adapted as it was felt the Carbon Literacy course was too long and too generic. Since then, climate awareness training has been delivered to Members and we’d like to offer more bespoke, subject specific training to

the Committees.

Q.2 What is the breakdown on carbon literate Councillors by party?

A.2 Whilst we can't say which Members now feel they are carbon literate, the breakdown of members that have attended some of the Carbon Literacy and climate awareness training is as follows;

Labour – 20

Green – 11

Liberal Democrat – 19

Conservative – 1

It should be noted that due to the new committee system of governance there is even more time commitments for members than in previous years, and as such it is simply not possible for members to attend as many training events as they would like.

There are many other commitments – such as policy committee time commitments whereby the make-up of each Policy Committee is four Labour, three Liberal Democrats, two Green.

Moreover, Labour members have stepped up to fill crucial co-chairing roles, such as for Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee, following Green Councillors not being not to fill this position, presumably due to time commitments.

Q.3 Has the Leader and Committee Chairs completed carbon literacy training?

A.3 Yes, the Leader and Committee chairs have attended some or all of the Carbon Literacy and climate awareness training.

Q.4 How many Councillors are yet to complete Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training?

A.4 Data not yet sourced. Written answer will be provided.

Q.5 Has the Leader and Committee Chairs completed EDI training?

A.5 Data not yet sourced. Written answer will be provided.

Q.6 What is the breakdown by party?

A.6 Data not yet sourced. Written answer will be provided.

Q.7 How much glyphosate was used across the Council last year? Does this represent a reduction?

A.7 Data not yet sourced. Written answer will be provided.

Q.8 How much glyphosate was used by housing? Does this represent a reduction?

A.8 Housing have used 3.5 litres of Glyphosate based herbicides over the last 12-month period, this therefore represents a reduction.

Q.9 How much glyphosate was used by Parks and Countryside? Does this represent a reduction?

A.9 Positive progress in Glyphosate Reduction.

Please see table although figures for 2020 and 2021 do not reflect the downward trend as due to the onset of Covid in 2020 part of the annual weed treatment programme undertaken mainly in March/April did not take place.

This year we are running YTD at 235 litre reduction in premixed CDA use compared with 2021.

This reduction is attributable to our trial Glyphosate reduction strategy meaning that Parks and Countryside no longer spray glyphosate on any soft surfaces (such as, channels, around obstacles, path edges, shrub beds and hedgerows on land managed by Parks and Countryside) and are running a “weed killer free suburb” where no chemical weed killer products whatsoever are used (in Chelsea Park, Brincliffe) alongside StreetsAhead. Limited manual methods including strimming, weeding, mulching are currently taking place.

Treatment of invasive species still takes place on soft surfacing and stump treatment using approved methods.

	2020	2021	2022
Woodlands	74292ml	60969ml	Forestry and Invasive species figures not available until late Aug / Sept
Parks	Premixed CDA 540Lts . Roundup ect. 315lts	Premixed CDA 635Lts. Round up ect. 225lts	Premixed CDA 400Lts Roundup ect. 225lts

Q.10 How much glyphosate was used by AMEY/Streets Ahead? Does this represent a reduction?

A.10 This year we are running YTD at an 800 litre reduction in use compared with where we were at this point 2021.

Forecasted use over the rest of the season suggests we will achieve a 1,000 litre reduction in use over the year

This reduction is attributable to our trial Glyphosate reduction strategy meaning that highways no longer spray glyphosate on any soft surfaces (such as verges, shrub beds and hedgerows) and are running a “weed killer free suburb” where no chemical weed killer products whatsoever are used (Brincliffe). We are also using a “weed ripper” machine to help reduce our hard surface use of Glyphosate.

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
2123.6 (end of June)	3901	3570.95	3451.5	3458

Questions of Councillor Maroof Raouf to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q.1 What is the individual budgeted amount for the following three ATNs: Nether Edge ATN, Crookes ATN, and Sheaf Valley cycle route?

A.1 The ATNs are part of a wider Active Travel Fund (ATF) programme. The ATF includes an allocation of up to £2.3m for the Sheaf Valley cycle route as well as the £590k for the experimental ATNs in Crookes/Walkley and Nether Edge. In terms of the breakdown of the ATNs, assuming many of the ‘central’ costs (including surveys, communications costs, staff costs, HMD fees and the allocation for secure cycle parking in the area) are split evenly

between the two schemes, the Crookes scheme will be around £370k, Nether Edge will be around £220k. These costs will vary depending on the hire period of the equipment used to deliver the current temporary crossings within the trials.

Q.2 When will every measure for the above identified ATNs be in place and will the Council commit to ensuring that the trial period starts, and only starts, once all measures are in place?

A.2 We are having regular meetings with Amey to understand some of the practical implementation issues that they are having, especially within the Crookes part of the Crookes/Walkley scheme. It is hoped that officers will be in a position to talk through a proposal with local members about how we progress with each element of the schemes. This could include not implementing some elements of the scheme but monitoring instead.

Although the six-month ETRO period is determined by the date of advert, we can choose to accept comments on the scheme beyond that six months date, as long as a decision is made on the future of the scheme within 18 months of the original ETRO date. We can work with local Cllrs to agree any final date where we will consider comments on the scheme.

Q.3 What is the exact wording of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which identifies which vehicles can/cannot use the majority of bus lanes and bus gates throughout the city?

A.3 Officers will be able to provide you with a copy of the TRO schedules that set out those vehicles that are able to use the majority of the bus lanes and bus gates in the city. However, not all of these restrictions are the same so if there are certain bus lanes or gates that are of particular interest please let me know.

Q.4 Have all councillors associated with the above ATNs been given a briefing on the process of how changes/tweaks can be made to the ATNs during the trial period? If not, when will this be?

A.4 There is no specific process on how changes/tweaks can be made during the trial period. However, we will continue to engage regularly with local Councillors during the experimental period to ascertain if there is merit in amending the scheme during the experimental period without undermining its purpose.

Q.5 What is the current number of comments received with regard to the

Nether Edge ATN? How many of these could be classed as positive? How many of these could be classed as negative? How many of these could be classed as neutral?

A.5 We have had 176 emails about the Nether Edge Active Neighbourhood to the Connecting Sheffield address. As they're all freeform email responses, it is more difficult to give accurate numbers of positive/negative comments at this stage, but an estimate of the split is around 60% negative, 40% positive. Furthermore, some are negative about the measures on Archer Lane but positive about the pedestrian crossings.

Q.6 Recently, the Nether Edge Bowling Club was booked for officer led drop-ins for Thursday 30th June and Thursday 14th July, when was the Nether Edge Bowling Club told that the booking for 30th June was not going to go ahead?

A.6 The Bowling Club were informed on the 29th June after the final arrangements had been confirmed with Elected Members.

Q.7 When is the Clean Air Zone currently due to start operating? As the cost of living increases, what extension will be given to taxi drivers so they can upgrade their vehicles to EuroVI compliance?

A.7 We are currently awaiting the approval of the Full Business Case for the Clean Air Zone from Government Ministers. Our current delivery programme was for the CAZ to 'go live' in early 2023, however this was based on receiving confirmation from Government that the scheme was approved at the start of July.

As part of our scheme currently being considered by Government, in addition to the financial assistance we will be able to provide, we have set out a number of proposed exemptions. Subject to approval, we intend to provide an exemption from charges for the period which drivers are awaiting the delivery or upgrade of their vehicle and this would last for the time until they have either received their replacement vehicle or for a maximum of a year from the start of charging.

Q.8 Will there be further consultation around red routes and extension of bus lane hours? If so, when will this be?

A.8 The scheme is being progressed through the next stages of its business case and in order for us to capture the feelings of local people and businesses, a further piece of engagement is needed on the bus lanes and red routes. We are in the process of accepting the funding from SYMCA for

the next steps of the business case and when that has been accepted we will be able to programme the engagement activity. We would be looking to do this later in the year.

We believe the public consultation and handling of this issue last year, enacted when the portfolio was overseen by Green councillors, was not done well and I am glad that we are addressing this mistake.

Q.9 When will work start on the Bannerdale Road/Abbeydale Road pedestrian crossings?

A.9 The improvements to Bannerdale Road and Abbeydale Road are tied into the project as mentioned in the response to the last question. We are currently accepting the grant from SYMCA for the costs of the next stages of development. Part of that development work will be finalising the designs of the physical measures as well as compiling a construction programme. We are looking at a start on site in July 2023, subject to approvals, consultation and design solutions.

Question of Councillor Ruth Mersereau to the Co-Chairs of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee (Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Mazher Iqbal)

Q. There have been many instances of vandalism to the safety features for the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Connecting Sheffield schemes, putting residents at risk. How much is this criminal damage costing the Council? What are the plans to catch and prosecute those responsible? Will the scheme be extended so that the trial starts from when all the blocks are in place?

A. Some of the costs of maintaining the scheme are included in the initial price for the implementation. However, the cost of hiring additional concrete blocks for a year to help enforce the restrictions on one side of the rail bridge is around £1,600.

The schemes have initially been designed to be sympathetic to the environment whilst retaining functionality. In certain circumstances like Little London Road the modal filter was designed with collapsible bollards to maintain easy access in case of emergency access to the railway bridge. However, repeated vandalism means there is no choice but to replace these with more robust measures. The interventions need to be effective to have a meaningful effect for the monitoring of the trial. Where it is deemed appropriate, the trial will need to be reset.

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