

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

“Home to School Transport Improvement Board”

Question:

Will you commit to the Home to School Transport Improvement Board meetings being held in public, with published paperwork and recorded\streamed meetings?

Answer:

It is was never my intention that the Home to School Transport Improvement Board would be a public meeting as it is not a formal decision-making forum for the purposes of Local Government legal requirements; it therefore does not need to comply with the requirements in relation to access to information. The purpose of the board is to provide an inclusive forum that allows key stakeholders (particularly Head Teachers, parents and carers,) the opportunity to constructively influence and shape the implementation of the recommendations of the EY report, the Cabinet report of 15th December 2020 and any other improvements to the Home to School Transport Service. The Terms of Reference will set out how the board will operate.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

“COVID Marshalls”

Question:

What was the process followed for the recruitment of COVID Marshals, including any checks carried out such as DBS?

Answer:

All of the Covid Marshals have been recruited through Hays Recruitment Agency which is a Birmingham City Council procured contract.

The job description was approved through the job evaluation process and as part of this the necessity for a DBS check is considered. The Covid Marshal job description determined that a DBS check was unnecessary because they will not be in control of vulnerable persons. Therefore, the City Council is legally obliged not to ask for such checks.

In addition, all training requirements for the role have been undertaken by Environmental Heath.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DAVID PEARS

“Home to School Transport Improvement Board”

Question:

Will you commit to allowing an opposition Member to sit on the Home to School Transport Improvement Board?

Answer:

Yes – one seat on the Board will be allocated to an opposition Member.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
JON HUNT**

‘CIL Review and Crowdfunding’

Question:

Currently only 12 Wards are benefitting from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Although it is acknowledged the threshold for this Levy in Birmingham is very high, only a fraction of the City is currently benefitting which is disappointing considering current ongoing development and forthcoming development pipeline. Could you please explain why this has been allocated to so few wards in the City?

Answer:

The aim of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is to generate funds which can help to contribute to the infrastructure required to deliver the relevant plan; the Birmingham Development Plan 2031. It is not intended to fund all the associated infrastructure costs.

The CIL setting process is set out in Regulations. This process determines that the CIL is set at level guided by the viability of various development types, in different areas of the local authority area. When deciding the levy rates, an authority must strike an appropriate balance between additional investment to support development and the potential effect on the viability of developments.

For the current charging schedule, a high level viability assessment of various types of development across the city was carried out. In accordance with the Regulations, this evidence, which led to the proposed charges, was published and subject to two public consultation rounds and an examination in public before approval.

The viability assessment determined that only 4 types of development were chargeable:

- Residential development in particular higher value Wards
- Hotels within the city centre
- Student accommodation
- Larger supermarket developments

All development within the proposed Sutton Coldfield urban extension was exempt from CIL.

Due to the city's development patterns and trends, CIL chargeable development only occurs in these twelve wards (consisting mainly of residential development and purpose built student accommodation). The CIL Regulations do not allow the authority to transfer these local CIL funds to other wards within the city.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

‘Paradise Square Redevelopment’

Question:

Could the Leader inform the Council how much capital the Council, specifically, has put into the Paradise Square redevelopment, including the Centenary Square refurbishment, setting out the repayment schedule for this capital?

Answer:

The redevelopment of Paradise Square and the refurbishment of Centenary Square represents excellent value for money for the people of Birmingham.

Paradise Square Redevelopment:

The council has not put any direct capital funds into this project. BCC was awarded an Enterprise Zone grant of £139m for both phases 1 and 2 of the Paradise redevelopment by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP).

Centenary Square - funded as below:

Direct Council Funds:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| £0.03m | - direct revenue funding from directorate |
| £3.1m | - capital contribution approved by cabinet and subsequently funded by prudential borrowing over a standard 20 year asset life |
| £1.2m | - Section 106 – ringfenced receipts held by the council for specific purposes and locations (usually infrastructure) |

External body funds:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| £10.4m | - Enterprise Zone grant awarded by GBSLEP. |
|--------|--|

As accountable body to the GBSLEP, the council undertakes borrowing on their behalf and repayments are made from the uplift in non-domestic rates generated from the 39 sites identified within the Enterprise Zone investment plan. The cost of both Paradise and Centenary Square grants will be repaid by 2046.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
PAUL TILSLEY**

'Disposal of Multi Storey Car Park at Brindley Drive'

Question:

It is understood the car park at Brindley Drive is in the process of being disposed of meaning the city will be losing 610 car parking spaces a significant number of which are used by disabled badge holders. This has caused significant concern to the neighbouring entertainment and cultural centres. This allocation will be in part, accommodated by the new Chamberlain Square car park. Could the leader clarify how many spaces will be available in the new car park for members of the public, setting out how many spaces will be available for the disabled and for electric vehicle charging?

Answer:

The Brindley Drive multi storey car park supplies 610 spaces. Of this amount, 100 spaces are physically secured and dedicated for private use by the owners of Baskerville House, therefore providing 510 spaces for public use. There are 8 disability blue badge holder spaces and of note a further 6 blue badge dedicated spaces that will remain on the highway outside the car park.

Planning consent for the new Chamberlain Square Car Park contains 550 car spaces. Phase One construction is complete and scheduled to be officially opened week commencing 11th January. There are 292 spaces delivered to modern high specification standard with full illumination and security CCTV of which 30 spaces are dedicated for disabled use. There are proposals to include 20 electric vehicle charging spaces within the phase 2 extension.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

'City Assets'

Question:

Of the assets currently owned by Birmingham City Council either inside or outside the city boundary, could you detail which assets are earmarked for sale or development and confirm which wards these fall into?

Answer:

Please see attached schedule detailing those Council owned assets which have been declared surplus or identified for disposal. Officers are undertaking an ongoing Asset Review, which will identify further potential surplus assets to complement this existing programme of sale.

Those assets once identified following Ward Member consultation, will be reported in accordance with the appropriate governance arrangements.



Potential Disposals
Query A7 Info at 06.1

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“Covid Business Grants – Rate of Payment”

Question:

For each phase of the Government’s support grants for businesses, what was the total number of grants issued per week from the date the money was first made available by Government?

Answer:

The Council has put in place arrangements for the administration of the following five schemes:

- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) (for Tier 2 from 14 October to 4 November and Tier 3 from 2 December onwards);
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (for national lockdown 5 November to 1 December and Tier 3 from 2 December);
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) (for 1 to 4 November);
- Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) (from 14 October);
- Christmas support payments for ‘wet led pubs’.

Applications for the new grants to support businesses, due to the restrictions imposed from Tier 2 and during the national lockdown, opened on 25 November. This is an online process and businesses in Birmingham **are only having to make one application for all grant schemes (including any future schemes)**. This approach is different to most councils which are dealing with applications on a scheme by scheme basis – but we think that one application will maximise the available funding considerably and reduce the burden for businesses. This will continue to be the process as the Council awaits further Government guidance on the schemes for Tier 4, National Lockdown and the new grants announced this week. **Our process also ensures that businesses are automatically triaged for a discretionary application if they do not fit the mandatory criteria.**

The approach in Birmingham has been significantly influenced by our ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Districts.

The task is huge – over 13,000 claims for (currently) against five schemes to consider (around 60,000 considerations). Payments started to be made for the initial claims (from 25 November) within two weeks (7 December). The influx of so many applications in a short space of time means it is not possible to assess all payments

at once – there are just too many and each requires an individual assessment to establish:

- the sector of the business;
- the rateable value of each business;
- for the discretionary scheme what the affect has been;
- whether or not the business is/was open or closed; and
- the applicable dates for each scheme for each business.

Further assurance checks are made via the Government's 'Spotlight' system and Companies House once the above criteria have been considered and met.

The current average speed from application receipt to payment is around 25 calendar days. This one payment covers all the grant schemes the businesses are eligible for. We paid 100% of the 'wet led' pubs which applied for the specific grant before Christmas – within days of the announcement. The total staff working on grants in the Council is now nearly 100 (the normal resource for Business Rates is around 25 FTE). Overtime is in place and being maximised in addition to the number of staff who opted to work over the Christmas period to help to keep the momentum going. The team are working hard to clear the applications as quickly as possible. Emails are being sent on a regular basis to all businesses still waiting for payment to try to prevent unnecessary contact.

Detailed below are the grant stats up until 8 January 2021 against each of the current schemes. Please note that one business may receive multiple payments but only need to fill in one form. The Council started accepting applications on 25 November 2020.

Mandatory and Council Grants

Period of Report: From 25 November to 8 January 2021	
Total No. of Applications Received	13,100
Total No. of Applications Paid/approved for payment	5,224
Total Value of Applications Paid/approved for payment	£7.910 million

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Total	5,224	£7,910,431

Additional Restrictions Grants

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Received	925	
Awaiting further information	60	
More information received	22	
Confirmed (Approved)	830	£1,304,108.40
Duplicate	15	
Rejected	162	
Total	2014	

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

“Covid Business Grants – Interest Earned”

Question:

In total, how much interest has the Council accrued from business Covid Grant money paid to it by the Government from all of the available schemes, whilst it has been in Council accounts waiting to be paid out to businesses?

Answer:

The Council manages its cash inflows and outflows in aggregate on a daily basis. It is not possible to separately attribute interest to a single item.

What can be said is that the government has supported all councils cashflow by paying grant sums early. The council has equally paid out business grants as quickly as it could.

In the current environment the safest place to hold cash in the short term is with the government's Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF). Up until recently, the DMADF account was charging negative interest rates, that is to say it was charging councils for holding their cash. Currently the DMADF deposit rate is 0% for overnight deposits and only 0.01% for deposits for over a week.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“Covid Social Isolation Payments”

Question:

How many requests for social isolation payment requests has the Council received in total and how many of these have been paid out up to 31 December?

Answer:

The Benefit Service met the Government’s deadline of accepting applications for the Social Isolation Payments (SIPs) of £500 on 12th October 2020. This follows the announcement of the scheme on 25th September 2020.

The volume of claims received (around 500 per week) have continued to be higher than the estimate provided by the Department for Health and Social Care’s (DHSC) of around 200 per week. The team have had to deal with multiple issues verifying the data through DHSC’s ‘CTAS’ eligibility checker. As a consequence, the process has taken longer than anticipated. Concerns have been raised directly with DHSC and examples of the types of issues facing the Council have been provided. This is not unique to Birmingham, with other councils experiencing similar difficulties. The situation is being closely monitored with escalations in place.

As of 31st December 2020, the Social Isolation Payment figures were:

Claims received 6,171 which is far greater than the predicted volumes and the associated administration funding received.

Out of the 6,171:

- 310 were duplicate applications;
- 3,439 had been awarded;
- 142 had been refused due to citizens not meeting the mandatory criteria;
- 1,221 applications were awaiting further information from the Citizen and/or waiting for the CTAS eligibility validation system to be updated;
- 1,059 applications had been received over the Christmas period and are being processed;

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“Covid Social Isolation Payments time taken”

Question:

What is the average time taken to pay out a social isolation payment from the initial date of request?

Answer:

There are various factors outside of BCC control that contribute to the length of time it takes to make a payment. In the majority of applications, the evidence for verification is not provided and numerous checks need to be made, from responding to the citizen to request various documents to contacting the employer. These verification steps are mandated upon BCC from DHSC and take a considerable amount of time.

Initially the biggest time delay was caused by inaccurate information displayed on the CTAS test and trace system that again BCC are mandated to use to verify a citizen's isolation status. These issues result in continuous rechecking and rework for BCC. Added to this the high volume of claims received, over twice the number estimated by DHSC, has meant additional staff resources being utilised to meet the demand. The Council's request to DHSC to accept alternative forms of evidence (such as screen shots) was turned down.

Once all the necessary documentation is received and the CTAS system shows eligibility the payment is then processed and authorised. However, the average for time taken to make payment from date of initial request, given all of these factors, is 13.5 days.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN

“Covid Business Grants Outstanding”

Question:

As of the date answering this question, how many outstanding applications for each type of covid grant for businesses and individuals are there, broken down by scheme?

Answer:

The Council has put in place arrangements for the administration of the following five schemes:

- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) (for Tier 2 from 14 October to 4 November and Tier 3 from 2 December onwards);
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- Christmas support payments for ‘wet led pubs’.

Applications for the new grants to support businesses, due to the restrictions imposed from Tier 2 and during the national lockdown, opened on 25 November. This is an online process and businesses in Birmingham **are only having to make one application for all grant schemes (including any future schemes)**. This approach is different to most councils which are dealing with applications on a scheme by scheme basis – but we think that one application will maximise the available funding considerably and reduce the burden for businesses. This will continue to be the process as the Council awaits further Government guidance on the schemes for Tier 4, National Lockdown and the new grants announced this week. **Our process also ensures that businesses are automatically triaged for a discretionary application if they do not fit the mandatory criteria.**

The approach in Birmingham has been significantly influenced by our ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Districts.

The task is huge – over 13,000 claims for (currently) against five schemes to consider (around 60,000 considerations). Payments started to be made for the initial claims (from 25 November) within two weeks (7 December). The influx of so many applications in a short space of time means it is not possible to assess all payments

at once – there are just too many and each requires an individual assessment to establish:

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The current average speed from application receipt to payment is around 25 calendar days. This one payment covers all the grant schemes the businesses are eligible for. We paid 100% of the 'wet led' pubs which applied for the specific grant before Christmas – within days of the announcement. The total staff working on grants in the Council is now nearly 100 (the normal resource for Business Rates is around 25 FTE). Overtime is in place and being maximised in addition to the number of staff who opted to work over the Christmas period to help to keep the momentum going. The team are working hard to clear the applications as quickly as possible. Emails are being sent on a regular basis to all businesses still waiting for payment to try to prevent unnecessary contact.

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Duplicate	15	
Rejected	162	
Total	2014	

The total applications received is now in excess of 13,000, which in turn requires each application to be looked at and assessed against five schemes. It is therefore not possible to provide details of the outstanding applications by scheme – as this will only be determined as each case is assessed.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTEE HODIVALA

“Covid Business Grants time to process”

Question:

What is the average time take from the date of receipt of application to pay out to the date payment was made, for the award of each type of government funded covid business grant

Answer:

The Council has put in place arrangements for the administration of the following five schemes:

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Government guidance

The Council has to ensure that the grants are paid in line with the guidance. The Government has put in place measures to check payments are made accurately ‘post payment’. Any grants paid in error are likely to have to be repaid. Hence, our

process could not fully commence until the full guidance had been received which was:

- LRSG Open (Tier 2 – effective from 14 October) – guidance finalised 23 November;
- LRSG Closed (Lockdown was 4 November) – guidance finalised 23 November;
- Tier 3 updated guidance (Tier 3 – effective from 2 December) – 18th December;
- Christmas Support payments for wet-led pubs – 10th December.

Progress and resourcing

The task is huge – over 13,000 claims for (currently) against five schemes to consider (around 60,000 considerations). Payments started to be made for the initial claims (from 25 November) within two weeks (7 December). The influx of so many applications in a short space of time means it is not possible to assess all payments at once – there are just too many and each requires an individual assessment to establish:

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Due to the complexity of administering so many schemes over a very short period of time, it is not possible to breakdown the receipt and payment of each grant type without considerable resource being invested. The team is fully stretched with staff transferred from tax collection to grant payments and overtime being fully maximised.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Covid Business Grants Process”

Question:

What differences were made to the process for applications for COVID business grants for the latest round in November compared to the process earlier in the summer?

Answer:

First scheme

In March 2020 the business grant scheme was based around the fact that all businesses were closed. The payment was a fixed one-off lump sum (either £10,000 or £25,000) depending on the rateable value. The Council therefore put in place a process for one application for the following schemes:

- Small Business Grant Funding, a one-off grant for businesses receiving Small Business Rates Relief in 2020 to 2021; and
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme, a one-off grant for businesses in the retail, leisure or hospitality industry which are occupied in 2020 to 2021.

The simplicity of this scheme meant we were able to automate a significant part of the process. A separate application was required for the Councils discretionary scheme.

Latest scheme

The Council has put in place arrangements for the administration of the following five schemes:

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCLLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

“DBS assurance for home to school transport”

Question:

From what date have you as Cabinet Member been able (or will be able) to categorically say that every single individual working in contact with children on the home to school transport service has had a fully cleared and approved DBS check in place?

Answer:

I can categorically state that I have been assured that there are no individuals in contact with children from the home to school transport service that have not had a fully cleared and approved DBS check.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCLLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Home to school transport”

Question:

How many unannounced inspections of home to school transport suppliers have been undertaken since February to check on quality and safety?

Answer:

From February 2020 to present there have been 591 unannounced quality and safety inspections carried out. From September 2020 when the compliance team was established these checks have included Covid 19 checks which include cleaning touch points, internal cleanliness of vehicles, ventilation, correct PPE and social distancing.

In addition, there have been 272 unannounced vehicle maintenance inspection carried out at supplier's premises.

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CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCLLOR CLANCY**

“SEND Consultant”

Question:

In both November (C16) and December (B16) you neglected to answer the question on consultancy spend within SEND. Whilst it was promised the first week of January, please provide it here so it is in public. As a reminder, the request was to tell us who received this money and what benefit the council obtained from it. Please could you therefore answer the question again with the missing information included, namely:

- Interim/consultant details (named where permissible)**
- Reports produced**
- Performance improvement that has been made as a result of these costs**

Answer:

Work has been completed on the resource list to provide:

- a list of the activities or reports interim resource and consultants were involved in
- a summary of the improvements that have been made as a result.

We have highlighted those that are consultants and provided comparable grades for the interim officer resource that are backfilling vacancies or providing additional officer capacity.

We have also provided a cumulative count of the number of agency resources that have been in post during the period.

Appendix to C3

Area & Number of resources between Sept 2019 and Nov 2020	Consultant or Comparable role grade for interim resource (backfilling vacancies or providing additional officer capacity)	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).	Number in post at end of Dec 2020
SEND Strategic Transformation Sensory Consultant 1 resource	CONSULTANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of sensory resource bases * Review of FAMS * Supporting implementation of recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of more inclusive provision for children with physical difficulties <p>Improved use of resources through use of sensory resource bases</p>	1
Home To School Transport Interim Transport Manager Operations, Commissioning & Contracts 1 resource	Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed system requirements for the Home to school transport database • Procurement Business case for the purchase of the new system (365 Response chosen) • Implementation Plan for 365 • Communications Plan for the implementation of 365 • Mobile Phones for Guides requirements document • CXM Bus Pass Administration requirements • Also developed the daily route report which underpins the Daily SitRep reporting to Chief Executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken the request for a new transport system from concept, through requirements definition and procurement to commencement of operational roll out and live testing. <p>Defined additional costs to cover data requirements for BCC in the absence of a legacy database and revised the business case to justify new requirements. Revised business case includes the cost of project management.</p>	1
Home To School Transport	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weekly & monthly performance reports * Safeguarding process for complaints * data analysis from supplier returns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust compliance team who apply safeguarding checks at schools and supplier premises to ensure vehicles and staff are compliant. 	1

Interim Safeguarding & Compliance SEND Transport Manager 1 resource		(monthly)	<p>Vehicle inspections carried out to ensure vehicles transporting clients are fully roadworthy and feedback given to supplier they additional checks to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Supplier performance has improved as a result of the checks and visits made to schools and suppliers, once concerns are identified and improvement plans are agreed.</p> <p>Depot Audits at supplier premises to ensure policies are being applied throughout the operation against their contract.</p> <p>Regular supplier meetings to ensure performance issues are identified and actioned.</p> <p>Safeguarding tracker to capture safeguarding complaints ensure escalated to LADO and managed appropriately in a timely way.</p> <p>Supplier monthly reporting processes are accurate and identify DBS application's so they are processed as quickly as possible to ensure supplier has sufficient staff to delivery service.</p> <p>Improved communication and feed back to suppliers is carried out in a timely was to ensure failings identified are rectified.</p>	
Home To School Transport Interim Ops Manager (Transport)	Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone systems – Cirrus • Email system – Cirrus Omni • Bus Pass report • Invoice reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current telephone system failings resulting in Cirrus implementation. Daily / weekly reports regarding the Cirrus phone system. Calls answered / abandoned. 	1

1 resource		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff 1-to-1 • Complaints • Restructure operations service • Performance Improvement - guides 	<p>Time taken to answer calls / calls being abandoned in compliance with the BCC KPI's of 90% answered – 10% abandoned. Ensuring the team meet these KPI's</p> <p>Bus Passes- Identifying hidden issues within the service; identifying the weakness in the service and ensuring new staff are training in the processing of these bus passes. Identifying improvements with the system to avoid the volume of future applications given the 80% rejection rate.</p> <p>Invoice reports – ensuring the overdue invoices are processed in a timely manner considering value and age of invoices and finding solutions to improve service</p> <p>Redesign of the variation form to provide transparency with the variation form process submitted by contractors asking for price increase/ decrease</p>	
Home To School Transport Interim Senior Compliance Officer 1 resource	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier performance figures on a daily and weekly basis • Carry out record and report on Supplier Audit. • Daily engagement with suppliers to address any issues identified within compliance checks. • Recognize training needs for drivers and suppliers relating to compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust and engaging compliance team in place. <p>Robust procedures implemented to improve supplier /driver compliance</p> <p>Implemented a revised parking plan at 2 schools to date (Calthorpe & Dame Ellen Pinsent)</p> <p>Allocate work to the compliance team to ensure work is completed and prioritised.</p> <p>Advise suppliers on compliance matters i.e. procedures and technique to improve performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication with 	1

			<p>suppliers, schools and internal teams to ensure concerns are addressed and recorded in a timely way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support other service areas to address any safeguarding /compliance issues and resolve in a timely way. 	
Home To School Transport Interim Compliance Officer 1 resource	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Safeguarding and PATS training program to be delivered to 480 guides in the new year. • Driver and Guide handbook to be issues to all guides and then drivers. • Daily compliance reports • Supplier check reports • Investigation findings for safeguarding complaints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Compliance Manager and Senior Compliance Officer 	1
Home To School Transport Interim Compliance Performance Officer 1 resource	Grade 3	Generate information from the Compliance team and Assessment officer to develop and produce accurate information that can provide an overview of the service performance and suppliers, identify trends and areas of improvement. Provide additional support to the Compliance team to carry out site visits and depot audits as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors and Heads of service are now understanding the performance of suppliers and identify social, mechanical or performance trends at source and in the coming weeks/ months note an increase in service delivery 	1
Link Service Interim Link Officers 4 resources	Grade 3 / 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Responding to contact from parents and schools via email and telephone * Support families through the needs assessment process * Signposting families to relevant support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing support to families (24 new referrals in Jan 20 > 205 in Dec 20) New satisfaction survey launched in Dec 20 recorded a positive rating of 4.78 / 5 	5
Senar - Case Work	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Statutory processes for assessment and review of EHCPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the backlog of assessments from 500 to 200 	22

Interim PO / SEND Case workers 32 resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Research and respond to complaints * Associated case work, including consultations 	Complaints allocation process 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support	(Including 1x Special School Provision Lead & 3x Operational Leads)
Senar - Case Work Interim Tribunal Officers 3 resources	Grade 5	Managing the throughput of mediations, appeals and tribunals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of compliance with statutory timelines. • Robust mediation process to ensure resolution 	1
Senar Recovery - Annual Review Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers 23 resources	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support • Reduction in the backlog of assessments from 500 to 200 	6
SENAR Recovery - Annual Review Interim SEN Coordinator - EHCP Reviews 1 resource	Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Managing allocation of paperwork to officers * Maintaining record of activity * Liaising with schools to obtain further information as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support 	1
Transformation & Project Support Interim Transformation Lead/Programme mgr 1 resource	Grade 6 / 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review recovery project * Draft EHCP multi agency QA framework * Draft managing send provision model * PCF briefing * Internal engagement and briefings * Multi agency operational stakeholder engagement * Draft Pathways * Resource tracker & resource plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a contact database for families • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue • Multi agency operational stakeholder engagement • Progress against the written statement of action 	1

Transformation & Project Support Interim Performance Lead 3 resources	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * HST dashboard * HST immediate fixes plan * HST weekly sit rep report * HST contract performance reporting schedule * SEND dashboard * SEND Weekly sit rep report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility of data • Improved data reliability 	1
Transformation & Project Support Interim Project Manager 1 resource	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Developing & managing local provision project plan and associated governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP project launched 	1
Transformation & Project Support Interim Project Support Officer 2 resources	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * School Planning meeting documentation * Local offer website upload * Weekly report and liaison with special schools * Consolidation report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Improved communication with special school transport leads • Input to Home to school transport improvement programme 	2
• Resources no longer in post as of end December 2020				
SEND Strategic Transformation Strategic SEND Consultant 1 resource	CONSULTANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Funding comparison for special schools to inform the special school funding review * Preparatory work for the DLP project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP project launched • Special school funding review in progress 	0
Home To School Transport Interim Transport Operations Manager 1 resource	Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Mobility Assessment Risk Assessment Process. • Review of Current Assessment Process and recommendations • Provide guidance on improving safer accurate assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Risk Assessments are being carried out. Engage with relevant service areas to obtain all relevant information to produce accurate information and assessments. 	0
Home To School Transport	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case to support the reduction of Agency Guides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the service Saving Strategy and improved gatekeeping and application 	0

Guide transformation lead 1 resource		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Draft Business Case in relation to SEND Transport Application process 	of policy conditions relating to transport eligibility	
Home To School Transport Interim SEND Transport manager 1 resource	Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * DfE bid for COVID funding * Deed variation for supply of guides * Deed variation for alteration of DBS process * Communication & Implementation plan * Org chart for restructure * Summer operations plan * Draft revised risk assessment process * Contribution to immediate fixes plan, weekly and daily sit rep, monthly covid plan, service dashboard and revised implementation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has had improved leadership and structure in order to achieve a number of significant improvement key tasks. This development has worked in partnership with the recommendations outlined in the Service Investigation Report. The service is now able to ensure early identification of operational concern and introduce strategies in order to improve performance and administration across the service as a whole 	0
Home To School Transport Interim Safeguarding & QA Lead 1 resource	Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * initial safeguarding audit of suppliers * DPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contracts confirmed with suppliers baseline safeguarding reports 	0
SEND Strategic Transformation Interim Post 16 SEND Lead 1 resource	Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of post 16 service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to improve preparation for adulthood 	0
SEND Strategic Transformation Interim SEND Transformation lead 4 resources	Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of SENAR administration services * Draft review recovery project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support 	0

SEND Strategic Transformation Interim Educational Psychologist 1 resource	Grade 6	* Tracker of children awaiting a special school place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidated view of children awaiting special school place so placements could be managed 	0
SEND Strategic Transformation Interim Early Years SEND Lead 1 resource	Grade 7	* Review of early years service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations to improve early years service 	0
Transformation & Project Support Interim Data Officer 2 resources	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * EHCP requests tracker and associated reports * EHCP review recovery project database and associated reports * Tracker for new EHCP reviews * Tracker for complaints * Tracker for mediations and appeals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved workflow management Automated monitoring reports for managers 	0
Transformation & Project Support Interim Communication Officer 2 resources	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communication strategy * Communication plan * Communication material including newsletters for schools and parents, and briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved communication and engagement with PCF 	0
Transformation & Project Support Interim Finance Project Support Officer 1 resource	Grade 4	* Review formula funding for specialist provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established mechanisms for financial reporting for specialist provision New criteria and allocation of top up funding for mainstream 	0
Transformation & Project Support Interim Project Lead - Local Offer Website	Grade 4	* Local offer website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New local offer website launched in Jan 2021 	0

1 resource			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online booking system in final stages of development to be launched in the spring 	
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CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING
FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

'Send Home to School Transport'

Question:

Could you please explain when you expect all staff in contact with children through the Home to School Transport service will have completed DRB checks?

Answer:

I understand that you are referring to DBS checks not DRB as mentioned above.

I have been assured all staff who have contact with children within the Home to School Transport service have a completed DBS check.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

'Send Home to School Transport'

Question:

In the Independent Service Review of SEND Home to School Transport (November 2020), there is a requirement for an immediate fix by the start of the January term 2021, involving a number of comprehensive items such as a new IT system, more effective management of guides and a short-term fix on capability and capacity. Could you explain how you are planning to meet this timetable and when you expect new IT systems will be in place?

Answer:

Plans are already in place and are in progress to deliver the changes, which are reported to the Home to School Transport Programme Board and to me. These build on the Home to School programme that was established in 2020. They are being delivered by the operational team, supported by additional programme resources.

The service is making good progress. We have put in place IT improvements such as a Cirrus system to help manage and monitor phone calls, and we have started to use 365, a new transport management system, to capture data and to work with some of our transport providers.

In terms of the performance outcomes this and the other improvements we have made, have supported, at week ending 18th December 2020:

- 99.86% of routes that were needed were delivered over the course of the week;
- 99.94% of pupils who needed to be transported to school were transported over the week, delivering an average of 3404 pupils per day;
- 99.1% of calls were answered on average over the week, and 0.9% of calls were aborted on average over the week, which exceed the corporate KPIs, and;
- 0 complaints were overdue.

We will build on this as there is much more to do, including provision of safeguarding and PATs (Passenger Assistant Training scheme) which is a national recognised qualification for guides, commencing on 18th January. This will include continuing to improve the data we have in 365 and rolling this out to other providers, schools and parents in time for the new academic year and using this to drive efficiencies.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCLLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“SEND Consultant”

Question:

In responding in December to question B16 (which was itself a follow up to C16 from November), you complained about the amount of time it would take to provide this simple information. Given the importance of ensuring value for money and of ensuring promised improvements are actually delivered, if that information is not being actively tracked and monitored by you, can you please explain why?

Answer:

The answer given in C3 provides the outstanding information, this has taken significant time to collate and has detracted officer attention from service delivery.

The significant majority of resources working within the SEND and Inclusion service are backfilling vacant establishment posts or providing additional officer capacity to the service to support recovery activity and transition to a new model, therefore individual performance management is consistent with that provided to substantive post holders. All agency workers report into a named manager who manages their workload outputs and ensures they deliver on the expectations of their role. Unsatisfactory performance is managed and where required contracts are terminated.

Where consultants are used there is agreement about the products they will deliver and agreed delivery expectations that are monitored, with the impact of their work being monitored as part of the service transformation.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

‘Lockdown Deficit’

Question:

Now we are going into a third national lockdown, what will be the process be for dealing with any additional deficit incurred as a result and how much would this attribute to each Ward?

Answer:

The Council has been monitoring and reporting on the financial impacts of Covid-19 on a weekly basis since the first national lockdown. The financial impact is being managed as a corporate issue.

The month 7 finance report considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 December showed the Council forecasting a net underspend of £5.4m. This was a £4.5m overspend on Covid offset by non-Covid underspends of £9.9m.

In addition, the 4th tranche of un-ringfenced Covid grant announced in October, which is £44.2m, has not been spent. Cabinet approved at its November meeting when considering the quarter 2 financial report, that this will be held separately in a reserve.

In summary, we are not in deficit, we currently have a small surplus and have £44.2m in reserve to help cope with the uncertainty of the coming months.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

‘COVID-19’

Question:

Bearing in mind the disturbing increase in COVID cases, could the Cabinet Member explain to the Chamber (a) any provision pledged by the City Council to support the NHS in mass testing and also mass vaccination and (b) when the Nightingale Hospital, based at the NEC, will be used to support the rise in local cases that is pushing local hospitals to breaking point?

Answer:

The council is working with multi-agency partners across the city and region, to continue to offer full support to all programmes in the response to COVID-19. The response to COVID-19 requires the council and all partners to work flexibly together, both in support of the NHS and our own responsibilities to save lives and reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19.

Testing

Testing continues to be a cornerstone of the national response, covering different elements (Asymptomatic and Symptomatic testing), some of which the Council leads on (eg Lateral Flow Device Testing), some it supports (eg Mass Testing Units – MTUs) and some it is just aware of (Regional Testing Site).

The Council fully supports, all elements of the testing programme and has supported this work from the start of the pandemic. This includes a wide range of activities from providing sites and traffic management to DHSC, through to delivering Lateral Flow Testing.

Vaccination

The vaccination programme is led by the NHS, in particular University Hospitals Birmingham and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Early in the vaccination planning, it was clear that BCC had a range of skills and assets that would support the NHS vaccination programme rollout.

BCC recognised that the quickest way out of COVID was to vaccinate the population, therefore BCC has been working closely with the NHS to provide as much support as possible to the NHS, in line with their requests.

To date, this has been around:

- Officer time and planning expertise,
- Social Care awareness/access/support

- Highways and traffic support
- Access to council assets eg Car Parks and Buildings
- Support with mass vaccination centres
- Staff vaccination
- Communications
- Administration support

This is a fast and evolving areas and we are very much working in support of the NHS.

NHS Nightingale

The nightingale hospital at the NEC site is an NHS (CCG) facility and activity located in the Solihull MBC authority area.

BCC has ensured we can support NHS bodies when requested with activities such as discharge into Adult Social Care. We have previously offered non clinical skills - however the use of nightingale, its resourcing remains with the NHS and we have limited involvement in any element of the nightingale hospitals including if/when they maybe used.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY

“Christmas Day Cemetery Opening”

Question:

On what date, and by what method, were the security company responsible for New Hall Cemetery informed that they would be required to open the Cemetery on Christmas Day as advertised by the Council?

Answer:

The Company was given a written instruction via email on 18 December, an extract of which is below:-

“Opening and contact details for Bereavement Services – Cemeteries & Crematoria

Site	Thursday 24 December 2020	Friday 25 December 2020	Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 December 2020	Monday 28 December 2020	Tuesday 29 – Thursday 31 December 2020	Friday 1 January 2021
Sutton New Hall Cemetery	Open to visitors 12:30 – 18:00 Security working as normal	Open to visitors 10:00 – 16:00 Security required to open and close as per weekends	Open to visitors 12:30 – 16:00 Security working as normal but close at 16:00 – work to 16:30	Open to visitors 12:30 – 16:00 Security working as normal but close at 16:00 – work to 16:30	As current website www.birmingham.gov.uk/cemeteries Security working as normal	Open to visitors 12:30 – 16:00 Security working as normal but close at 16:00 – work to 16:30

“

The arrangements were rechecked by City Council staff with the contractor on 23 December to ensure the necessary arrangements were in place.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

“Christmas Day Cemetery Opening failure”

Question:

Were any cemeteries other than New Hall affected by the failure of the security company to open on Christmas Day as advertised by the council?

Answer:

No other cemeteries were affected.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Christmas Day Cemetery Opening cost”

Question:

What was the cost to the council of the security company opening up cemeteries on Christmas Day as advertised, and how much of this was refunded after the failure to do so?

Answer:

The contract with the security company is arranged through Acivico. To date there has been no recharge made by Acivico for this work, so this question cannot be answered at this time.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

“Selective Licensing”

Question:

Please provide a copy of all advice provided by the government department in preparing the new policy approved for consultation at the December Cabinet meeting?

Answer:

We have relied on the Selective Licensing ‘Guide for Local Authorities’ which is attached. There have also been telephone conversations with Ministry Officials to ensure we have followed the procedures appropriately as set out in the guide.



Appencix 1 -
MHCLG - Guidance_

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

“Cemetery Opening”

Question:

What was the reason the security company did not open the gates to New Hall Cemetery on Christmas Day at the time advertised?

Answer:

The Security Company has indicated it was an oversight on their behalf i.e. human error.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

'Homelessness'

Question:

Recent figures released by the Office for National Statistics has shown the number of deaths of homeless people in England and Wales has seen an increase of 7.2 per cent in 2019, representing the highest number of estimated deaths since statistics began. The City's efforts to get people sleeping rough off the streets and stop people from becoming homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic have shown it is possible to make a significant difference to the numbers of people forced to sleep on the streets. Could the Cabinet Member provide details of how work will continue helping the homeless now we are moving from Tier 4 to National Lockdown, including a breakdown of costs and how this is likely to continue into the new financial year?

Answer:

It is with sadness that we note the figures representing the deaths of homeless people. It must be noted that these statistics record homelessness to include hostels, night-shelters, and temporary accommodation, as well as people rough sleeping. We are not aware of anyone dying on the streets of Birmingham as a rough sleeper, in 2019.

There has been notable success this year in reducing the number of people found sleeping rough on the streets. The groundwork for the approach taken is through existing, ongoing funding, in particular Adult Social Care commissioning of Street Outreach, emergency accommodation, long-term supported accommodation and complex needs services; as well as prevention Hubs for young people, domestic abuse, offenders and over 25's. These contracts were newly in place December 2019 and are for a minimum of 3 years.

In addition, Birmingham is in its third year receiving MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative funding £788,000. Programmes funded for rough sleepers include coordination of services, social work, substance misuse treatment, navigators, and Housing Options Officers, as well as additional emergency accommodation. Government has announced an additional £105m for RSI 4. Birmingham would hope to see at least as much funding available next year as this and has been encouraged to consider what has worked this year, and therefore should attract additional RSI for 2021-22. Further the WMCA has received RSI funding this year and is financing further outreach capacity, dedicated women's support, and help to

people with 'no recourse to public funds'. This income again is hoped to continue into 2021-22.

Funding made nationally available in response to Covid-19, and received by Birmingham City Council, has had a significant impact; some of this funding ends March 2021, some is for a longer period.

The Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) has provided £595,000 revenue, primarily meeting the costs of emergency accommodation. The need for this provision is expected to have ceased by March 2021 as it largely is focused on accommodating people in response to protection from Covid-19. NSAP capital funded £37,680 capital for the refurbishment of an existing care home. This will re-open in March 2021 as the Adult Transition Centre, for 11 most vulnerable rough sleepers, It is further supported by £508,000 revenue from NSAP 2020-24. The WMCA secured further NSAP which will enable the purchase of 10, 1-bedroom flats in Birmingham for rough sleepers. Birmingham is receiving £93,000 to support those individuals 2020-24.

Birmingham received £90,000 of Cold Weather Funding. This enables Severe Weather Emergency Protocol provision for rough sleepers and should enable provision through this winter. Such funding is likely to be repeated in winter 2021.

Birmingham received £430,000 from MHCLG for the Protect Programme November 2020 – March 2021. This programme provides for additional accommodation and a targeted, personalised approach to remaining, core, entrenched rough sleepers. Successes from this programme will look to be incorporated into RSI 4.

It has been announced that Birmingham will receive an additional £792,075 for substance misuse treatment for rough sleepers and homeless people, from PHE and for 2020-22. This will significantly increase the capacity for treatment and support to people who are most at risk of death due to the combination of risks their lives present.

Birmingham has also bid for Out of Hospital Care (Shared Outcomes) funding; £40,000 2020-21 and £600,000 2021-22. The outcome of this bid is awaited. If secured the pathways out of hospital for homeless people will be further strengthened. An opportunity to bid for a similar fund relating to prison release is also anticipated shortly. A bid is also being prepared for the Shared Outcomes Fund for young people's (16-25 Transition Centre) service development.

There is now a strong accommodation and support offer to people sleeping rough. This offer has remained in place from the first lockdown and will continue through the current lockdown, while also enhanced by the range of additional offers described above.

There is not anticipated to be additional cost to Birmingham City Council (unless funded by other routes), going into 2021-22.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

‘Council House Modernisation Programme’

Question:

How many kitchen and bathroom modernizations have taken place/are planned to take place in council housing during the current financial year, the previous 5 financial years and how many more are planned for the coming financial year? Could this information be split by Ward?

Answer:

The previous 5 financial years are as follows:

	Bathroom	Kitchen
ACOCKS-GRN	121	128
ALLENSCRSS	86	60
ALUM-ROCK	4	3
ASTON-WARD	7	7
BALSALLHTW	3	3
BARTLEYGRN	25	24
BILLESLEY	53	48
BIRCHFLD	2	3
BORDESLEY	5	5
BORD-HIGH	3	4
BOURN-COTT	6	7
BOURNSELLY	9	5
BRANDKINGS	40	44
BROMFHODGE	2	2

DRUIDSMONY	5	7
EDGBASTON	2	1
EDGBNORTH	7	10
ERDINGTON	15	20
FRANK-GPRK	5	7
GARRETTS	37	45
GLEBE-TILE	103	120
GRAVELLY	42	48
HALLGREENN	35	36
HANDSWORTH	5	8
HARBRNE	31	31
HEARTLANDS	6	7
HIGHTERSH	39	36
HOLYHEAD	3	3
KINGSNORTN	13	14
KINGSNORTS	1	1
KINGSTANDG	315	392
LADY-WOOD	5	4
LONG-WESTH	9	9
LOZELLSWRD	8	9
MOSELEYWRD	7	9
NECHELLS	2	1
NEWTOWN	10	14
NORTHFLD	1	1
OSCOTT	79	88
OUTOFCITY	2	2
PERRY-BARR	3	3
PERRY-COMM	50	57

PYPE-HAYES	75	88
QUINTON	18	20
RUBERY-RED	14	16
SHARD-END	7	10
SHELDN-WRD	3	5
SMALLHEATH	4	5
SOHO-JEWEL	10	16
SPARK-BHE	1	1
SPARKHILL	3	3
STH-YARDLY	8	11
STIRCHLEY	25	22
STOCKLANDG	71	82
SUTT-FOURO	1	2
SUTT-MERE	6	8
SUTT-REDDI	23	24
SUTT-ROUGH	5	5
SUTT-TRIN	20	23
SUTT-VESEY	9	11
SUTT-WARM	8	9
SUTT-WYLDE	1	1
TYSELEYHAY	68	69
WARD-END	11	15
WEOLEYSELL	82	79
YARDLEY-E	4	9
YARDW-STET	27	31
Total	1710	1891

For the year 2020/21 our intention was to provide 360 kitchen / bathrooms

For the year 2021/22 our intention is to provide 1200 kitchen / bathrooms

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

‘Starter Homes’

Question:

The failure to deliver discounted starter homes has left some 85,000 young people nationally waiting for an affordable place to live, according to the Commons Public Accounts Committee. There is a desperate need to reverse the decline in council housing over the past few decades with Council’s generally supporting the aspiration of people wanting to buy their own home and helping those that want to buy to be able to. However, it is important a full mix of homes and tenures are available especially in our local area. Could the Cabinet Member detail what steps are being taken to address this shortfall, giving details of the current and planned pipeline of council development for HRA and affordable market sale properties to include numbers of properties to be developed by tenure and anticipated build dates, also indicating which wards this additional development will affect?

Answer:

The City Council recognises its role to ensure that we are building and planning to respond to the housing needs of all members of our community, including our constituents who want to buy their own homes.

The Council’s developer arm, BMHT which has already seen over 3,400 new homes built since 2009 continues to make an important contribution to housing delivery in the city and has a programme that seeks to plan and deliver homes for rent and homes for sale. The sales programmes are targeted at our residents who want to own their own homes who may be key workers, for example and on lower incomes.

The table attached gives details of the homes for sale and rent that BMHT is currently planning for this financial year and the next 10 years.

It is to be noted that we are looking at ways of accelerating and increasing the delivery of affordable homes including sales and other equity share products. This will include the following:

- Key worker schemes
- Build to Rent products
- Shared ownership and other equity products working with registered providers to deliver

We will also explore ways in which our InReach our wholly owned subsidiary can contribute to the delivery of sale products in response to various funding initiatives available via WMCA, LEB and Homes England.

Neighbourhoods, Inclusive Growth and Planning have commissioned a strategic housing market analysis to secure update information on the needs of our community which will directly feed into the growth and delivery targets for all affordable housing tenures. The attached programme is therefore expected to grow subject to the availability of funds and capacity across all sectors including private and Registered Providers.



Copy of BMHT Future
Programme overview

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

'Homelessness'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member advise the Council how many homeless people are in accommodation outside the city, providing the Council with the number of people that are in temporary accommodation in the City in (a) hostels and (b) hotels?

Answer:

The City Council is currently accommodating (as at 6.1.2021), 3542 households in temporary accommodation. The breakdown is as follows:

- 554 Households are in Bed and Breakfast (91 of which are outside of the City)
- 190 Households are in Hostels
- 2798 Households are in other forms of temporary accommodation (233 of which are outside of the City)

The Housing Options Service is working extremely hard to prevent homelessness, where possible, and to look at alternative move on options for those who are accommodated in temporary accommodation.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

‘Council House Modernisation Programme’

Question:

Splitting by ward, could you detail how many kitchen and bathroom modernizations have successfully taken place in council houses during the last 10 years and also confirm the costs associated with these modernization programmes?

Answer:

Listed below is the number of kitchen and bathroom modernizations that have successfully taken place in council houses during the last 10 years under the capital steam (from January 2011 to year to date), and does not include any properties where the kitchen or bathroom has been upgraded whilst the property has been void.

	Bathroom	Kitchen
ACOCKS-GRN	196	208
ALLENSCRSS	125	104
ALUM-ROCK	14	13
ASTON-WARD	15	15
BALSALLHTW	5	6
BARTLEYGRN	38	41
BILLESLEY	84	86
BIRCHFLD	4	5
BORDESLEY	9	10
BORD-HIGH	8	10
BOURN-COTT	12	12

BOURNSELLY	29	25
BRANDKINGS	49	55
BROMFHODGE	22	23
DRUIDSMONY	11	17
EDGBASTON	5	7
EDGBNORTH	12	50
ERDINGTON	32	37
FRANK-GPRK	14	16
GARRETTS	43	51
GLEBE-TILE	140	157
GRAVELLY	65	73
HALLGREENN	81	88
HALLGREENS	4	3
HANDS-WOOD	8	9
HANDSWORTH	6	10
HARBRNE	45	47
HEARTLANDS	46	44
HIGHTERSH	56	52
HOLYHEAD	18	19
KINGSNORTN	21	23
KINGSNORTS	4	6
KINGSTANDG	408	485
LADY-WOOD	5	5
LONG-WESTH	34	39
LOZELLSWRD	11	13
MOSELEYWRD	12	15
NECHELLS	5	4
NEWTOWN	12	17

NORTHFLD	2	3
OSCOTT	119	127
OUTOFCITY	2	3
PERRY-BARR	5	5
PERRY-COMM	92	100
PYPE-HAYES	111	123
QUINTON	30	32
RUBERY-RED	28	30
SHARD-END	49	51
SHELDN-WRD	6	8
SMALLHEATH	11	12
SOHO-JEWEL	22	30
SPARK-BHE	14	13
SPARKHILL	14	14
STH-YARDLY	12	18
STIRCHLEY	48	47
STOCKLANDG	107	117
SUTT-FOURO	2	3
SUTT-MERE	17	18
SUTT-REDDI	28	29
SUTT-ROUGH	7	7
SUTT-TRIN	28	31
SUTT-VESEY	12	15
SUTT-WARM	11	12
SUTT-WYLDE	1	1
TYSELEYHAY	97	98
WARD-END	29	33
WEOLEYSELL	105	103

YARDLEY-E	6	11
YARDW-STET	42	46
Total	2765	3040

Costs associated with the kitchen and bathroom modernizations:

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m	Spend £m
Kitchens and Bathrooms	4.1	4.0	6.3	9.9	8.9	8.6	7.8	9.2	9.6	6.8

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

'Sprinkler Systems'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member detail how much money has been spent on retro fitting full sprinkler systems to council tower blocks and maisonettes, by ward, confirming which systems have been used and if these have a yearly maintenance cost?

Answer:

Please see the costs for retro fitting full sprinkler systems each year below:

In financial year 2018/19 the spend came to £2.80m

In financial year 2019/20 we spent £11.871m

To date in financial year 2020/21 we have spent £8.60m

The system that has been installed is fully compliant to BS9251

There is no additional maintenance cost of the sprinkler system to the council, as this is a fixed asset and is covered under Price Per Property in accordance with the contracts.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

‘COVID-19’

Question:

It has been reported scammers are using the COVID vaccine roll out to target constituents with fraudulent messages, could the Cabinet Member explain the actions that are being taken in the City to clamp down on such behaviours?

Answer:

The Trading Standards Service has been undertaking investigations into scam texts, websites and emails that are being used to target constituents during the coronavirus pandemic. As many of these scams originate abroad, the Service is liaising with other Trading Standards enforcing authorities nationally and using the press and social media to warn residents about the scams. There has been a success removing a scam website and investigations are ongoing with colleagues from Audit about scam grant applications. Where a UK based scammer the Service will act. There have been no recorded allegations specifically about vaccine scams but the Service is aware of texts circulating.

As an example of the intelligence the Service has about current scams, the latest scam is an alleged NHS text asking for credit card or debit card details. The Service has circulated the message to notify colleagues across the region and issued warnings to residents to delete the message should they receive it.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

“Parks Survey 2020”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the Birmingham Parks Survey 2020?

Answer:

Participation in the 2020 survey closed on 8 November 2020 and the results will be made available on the Council’s website once they have been verified:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20089/parks/1099/parks_performance

The survey was published on BeHeard and is not available as hard copy.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

'Fleet and Waste Recycling Recruitment'

Question:

Diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity and other protected characteristics is a key issue for council employment policy. Why are there no fleet and waste recycling jobs advertising on the council's website?

Answer:

The Street Scene service is not currently recruiting to these roles but once all internal recruitment processes have been completed the vacancies will be posted on relevant websites.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

'Refuse Collections'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member state how many times waste crews are having to return to an area to collect litter during the financial year to date and indicate the cost of this to the Council split by depot?

Answer:

Street Cleansing is carried out to a scheduled programme. This programme has been developed from the Ward Plans based on need and current budget. We do try and keep to the schedule to enable an efficient cleansing programme. Additional cleansing is sometimes carried out based on reports, complaints and proactive observations by crews and managers.

There are a number of fly tipping hot spots across the City that are regularly cleansed, and wherever possible these sites are monitored by Waste Enforcement Officers.

The costs of these operations are contained within the overall Street Cleansing Expenditure and are not identified separately.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**‘Fly Tipping’****Question:**

Could the Cabinet Member provide a report on the number of complaints, by ward, concerning fly tipping, including the number of incidents logged by month for the year to date and breakdown of associated costs of removal?

Answer:

The below table gives information for 2020. The ‘unknown ward’ is where the incident has been recorded on non-corporate properties and we don’t have a ward associated with the property.

The costs of clearing up fly tipping are not recorded specifically as these duties are carried out as part of the Street Cleansing function.

Row Labels	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Unknown ward	129	122	69	106	124	147	177	142	203	144	89	104	1556
Acocks Green	47	50	38	33	59	88	97	94	60	94	83	67	810
Aston	95	73	59	53	63	88	118	182	182	108	63	78	1162
Bartley Green	47	42	28	40	52	60	65	62	56	40	52	32	576
Billesley	39	30	22	39	66	60	66	45	61	48	51	43	570
Bordesley Green	144	141	108	157	190	262	229	221	293	220	259	168	2392
Bournville	22	27	13	16	27	22	35	50	20	27	23	29	311
Brandwood	28	19	23	32	36	51	58	42	45	49	52	24	459
Edgbaston	21	24	13	33	28	29	32	41	33	32	32	25	343
Erdington	59	52	42	43	49	55	69	76	51	64	57	49	666
Hall Green	39	33	21	26	56	43	49	45	72	42	50	31	507
Handsworth Wood	88	83	66	122	77	121	120	177	186	136	110	106	1392
Harborne	25	21	24	62	38	44	74	52	82	66	97	56	641
Hodge Hill	37	59	42	43	60	94	93	95	124	141	90	77	955
Kings Norton	35	25	16	32	37	76	48	61	47	44	23	26	470
Kingstanding	27	30	26	42	35	42	66	71	81	79	76	74	649
Ladywood	34	25	25	35	36	76	69	60	43	54	57	34	548
Longbridge	21	29	14	20	40	46	43	45	37	36	48	35	414
Lozells and East Handsworth	130	125	93	111	128	174	204	226	177	183	159	159	1869

Moseley and Kings Heath	41	32	24	31	51	64	82	73	83	81	76	49	687
Nechells	146	134	102	134	139	205	271	198	292	190	167	156	2134
Northfield	21	23	11	31	22	26	27	24	27	31	39	25	307
Oscott	21	15	11	19	28	37	37	20	31	26	21	18	284
Perry Barr	31	37	32	32	28	53	54	56	60	44	39	25	491
Quinton	37	34	21	32	47	47	45	70	64	49	74	49	569
Selly Oak	45	44	28	25	39	49	92	55	57	91	53	32	610
Shard End	32	31	29	49	51	65	77	55	71	45	36	49	590
Sheldon	23	27	14	24	29	40	25	34	39	26	44	35	360
Soho	146	123	100	118	136	230	233	268	250	173	123	154	2054
South Yardley	57	51	48	88	62	118	173	117	142	132	118	131	1237
Sparkbrook	205	199	117	147	177	290	280	241	303	182	188	170	2499
Springfield	81	63	63	78	65	123	105	118	154	103	108	90	1151
Stechford and Yardley North	33	31	41	49	53	77	70	74	74	56	62	46	666
Stockland Green	41	25	27	47	38	54	113	60	51	56	79	54	645
Sutton Four Oaks	5	3	6	8	5	13	8	7	6	6	9	3	79
Sutton New Hall	18	20	5	22	17	26	20	13	21	15	24	13	214
Sutton Trinity	18	6	10	20	19	19	23	18	16	18	17	12	196
Sutton Vesey	4	9	9	5	10	10	16	11	17	9	6	9	115
Tyburn	30	26	29	27	34	44	41	40	50	29	31	29	410
Washwood Heath	127	126	118	114	91	152	250	165	204	181	117	137	1782
Weoley	48	22	19	28	38	49	45	70	41	39	39	45	483
Grand Total	2277	2091	1606	2173	2380	3369	3799	3574	3906	3189	2941	2548	33853

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

‘Maintenance Programme’

Question:

Now that monies have been approved for this financial year to enable the additional clearing of leaves, could the Cabinet Member explain how this budget has been allocated, setting out how many extra rounds of cleaning has been accounted for and delivered in the City, by ward, and indicating how priority has been given to the clearance of blocked drains and gully’s?

Answer:

The budget was allocated for short term hire as follows:

Employees	£294,232.00
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Vehicles and Equipment	£105,768.00
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The has enabled an additional 3 vehicles and supplementary staff at Lifford Lane, Perry Barr and Redfern Road and 3 additional Glutton vehicles and supplementary staff at Montague Street.

The additional crews were not deployed on a ward basis at depot level. The crews were directed to manage known flooding areas. This included clearing drain gullies, as well as areas with high tree densities. Other roads were scheduled for cleansing on a rota to ensure all roads were cleared. They also responded to request for cleansing from Members, council colleagues and the general public.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

'Refuse Collections'

Could the cabinet member provide details of the number of reports of missed collections, by month and ward?

Answer:

Information for 2020 is detailed below. This includes both residual and recycling. It excludes containers at flats for residual waste and also garden waste. Residents cannot report the same missed collection more than once, hence the data does not contain any duplicates.

During the course of January to December 2020, approximately 27,799,200 of collections were scheduled to be made. A total of 45,241 were reported as missed collections, which represents 0.16%.

	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	45241	5703	2763	5528	2831	2707	3601	3964	3595	3787	3605	3312	3845
Acocks Green	1215	154	42	113	56	70	141	131	114	95	102	79	118
Allens Cross	453	53	34	21	14	30	37	49	50	29	45	36	55
Alum Rock	886	68	38	87	70	50	132	106	62	52	82	62	77
Aston	761	69	91	65	52	31	46	55	109	78	58	32	75
Balsall Heath	379	35	9	28	12	23	51	61	30	43	35	27	25
West													
Bartley Green	1138	118	94	93	80	64	88	73	79	108	112	97	132
Billesley	872	122	62	60	49	54	84	91	74	62	84	70	60
Birchfield	310	50	18	40	30	25	14	20	20	22	30	20	21
Bordesley & Highgate	528	56	30	23	16	27	16	62	66	82	67	49	34
Bordesley Green	655	65	32	30	31	39	21	58	104	82	42	53	98
Bournbrook & Selly Park	838	118	76	39	29	35	43	71	59	60	133	96	79
Bournville & Cotteridge	896	100	58	71	64	70	77	106	54	88	75	61	72
Brandwood & Kings Heath	920	167	45	52	43	63	73	96	68	57	75	83	98
Bromford & Hodge Hill	658	32	41	45	33	41	83	67	70	57	43	57	89
Castle Vale	444	97	23	109	18	17	15	28	27	20	32	26	32
Druids Heath & Monyhull	493	58	45	24	46	42	33	45	31	42	55	35	37
Edgbaston	660	37	49	77	31	46	82	43	61	60	68	49	57
Erdington	1183	320	57	235	71	64	56	72	42	58	73	63	72
Frankley Great Park	808	91	52	55	72	59	80	68	59	83	68	43	78

Garretts Green	412	28	24	28	35	26	43	53	40	48	23	27	37
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	1390	157	64	101	97	82	176	142	154	105	103	97	112
Gravelly Hill	383	41	15	127	14	24	38	28	18	19	24	16	19
Hall Green North	812	111	50	73	64	34	67	76	80	62	73	58	64
Hall Green South	579	99	19	60	50	36	32	25	40	51	94	35	38
Handsworth	327	37	25	36	20	14	29	32	28	17	32	27	30
Handsworth Wood	468	70	22	29	20	24	27	35	39	62	42	64	34
Harborne	1352	154	105	143	101	82	110	102	114	97	116	129	99
Heartlands	378	23	17	91	23	14	31	24	30	44	24	28	29
Highters Heath	432	78	48	21	19	27	30	43	35	35	32	23	41
Holyhead	294	41	14	17	11	18	22	30	34	23	26	30	28
Kings Norton North	532	94	37	32	44	39	48	52	34	50	40	30	32
Kings Norton South	743	99	38	48	40	77	80	64	62	35	80	74	46
Kingstanding	918	86	33	204	62	44	72	98	51	94	55	57	62
Ladywood	461	33	55	22	18	11	33	58	71	61	33	35	31
Longbridge & West Heath	959	182	90	75	55	66	56	83	56	75	74	58	89
Lozells	269	36	23	42	11	11	16	17	18	23	27	11	34
Moseley	731	105	46	99	35	48	61	103	44	49	50	39	52
Nechells	348	47	29	25	38	29	31	20	55	19	14	11	30
Newtown	248	27	19	28	15	20	14	27	18	19	29	17	15
North Edgbaston	1361	110	115	128	51	57	102	130	182	135	99	163	89
Northfield	552	82	46	27	31	32	32	56	28	49	89	45	35
Oscott	936	54	49	348	45	44	63	35	41	94	42	49	72
Perry Barr	695	82	40	103	68	43	41	70	39	55	65	49	40
Perry Common	499	55	13	142	14	25	37	40	24	36	36	28	49
Pype Hayes	604	151	46	86	20	33	24	41	22	38	48	50	45
Quinton	874	54	50	89	51	47	100	76	59	64	60	81	143
Rubery & Rednal	337	26	15	24	26	31	36	43	15	17	50	26	28
Shard End	545	38	41	96	41	30	58	67	43	35	28	22	46
Sheldon	885	134	37	114	74	53	88	53	52	80	49	49	102
Small Heath	493	60	18	31	29	29	62	73	30	37	33	44	47
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	846	91	68	76	43	39	40	73	143	82	68	62	61
South Yardley	461	95	18	46	37	16	27	47	21	31	28	46	49
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	647	60	31	49	49	66	76	35	44	70	63	59	45
Sparkhill	576	52	38	103	37	44	37	72	35	52	21	45	40
Stirchley	404	72	14	12	31	25	31	45	40	23	43	24	44
Stockland Green	871	155	47	202	44	73	71	60	33	59	48	35	44
Sutton Four Oaks	641	104	21	128	73	34	48	32	36	69	34	29	33
Sutton Mere Green	432	72	30	123	51	18	19	17	13	37	18	20	14
Sutton Reddicap	502	70	26	37	30	49	21	50	55	41	33	49	41
Sutton Roughley	372	34	31	37	32	20	24	36	28	64	18	26	22
Sutton Trinity	542	42	23	182	29	29	30	20	46	30	30	59	22
Sutton Vesey	749	50	34	325	35	24	32	36	34	42	37	33	67
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	677	187	26	126	39	41	39	44	36	55	35	16	33

Sutton Wylde Green	435	102	28	70	18	12	19	13	36	66	16	20	35
Tyseley & Hay Mills	574	84	32	31	49	36	55	85	31	43	19	47	62
Ward End	408	32	19	63	44	31	31	27	27	19	27	43	45
Weoley & Selly Oak	1259	99	83	92	84	83	123	114	102	114	121	97	147
Yardley East	510	49	17	37	34	30	22	36	75	28	44	60	78
Yardley West & Stechford	421	49	38	33	33	37	25	24	25	56	33	32	36

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

'Recycling'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member update the Council on progress in improving recycling rates, setting out changes by quarter, and indicating the impact of the recycling promotion specialists attached to crews and the number of interventions undertaken?

Answer:

As you can imagine the impact of Covid 19 has had a significant impact on the face to face interactions staff have been able to make this year.

The WRCO role has continued to record contamination and tag bins and provide information on what residents can and cannot recycle.

From 30/03/2020 recycling collections brought in 23,424 tonnes of co-mingled recycling. This is a significant increase to the same period in 2019 where the tonnage was 18,918.

Whilst this is an improvement there is still a way to go to improve the whole City's recycling figure as the residual waste has also increased.

We are planning further information and recycling programmes to roll out over the next 12 months.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

“CAZ advertising”

Question:

How much has been spent, and how much committed to be spent, on advertising for the Clean Air Zone, broken down by type of advert (radio, press, social media, billboards etc)

Answer:

The Council bid for and has received £1.23m of funding to support engagement and marketing activity around the launch of the Clean Air Zone. This funding was provided to the Council from the government's Clean Air Fund (£0.40m) and the Clean Air Zone Implementation Fund (£0.83m). Since 2019 the delivery programme has spent £0.438m. This spend has been split across the following categories:

Category	Spend £m
Advertising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print • Digital (inc social media) • Out of home (billboards etc) 	£0.003m £0.065m £0.080m
Direct Mail	£0.041m
Research	£0.022m
Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events • Content 	£0.141m £0.085m

The remainder of this budget is forecast to be spent as part of preparations for the launch of the Clean Air Zone and in the period shortly after launch. This spend is forecast as follows. These figures do not include a small amount of contingency which is held in reserve.

Category	Spend £m
Advertising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio • Print • Digital (inc social media) • Out of home (billboards etc) 	£0.100m £0.070m £0.200m £0.100m
Direct Mail	£0.090m

Research	£0.050m
Engagement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships (inc events) 	£0.100m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content 	£0.060m

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

‘Speed Cameras’

Question:

Following his written answer to Cllr Harmer at last council, could the cabinet member set out what, if any, steps he is taking, by date, to get a programme of average speed camera installation going in the city, explaining whether he is committed to this happening or not and, if he is, to what timetable?

Answer:

Yes, I remain committed to the further roll-out of average speed enforcement (ASE) in the city. The City Council has a statutory obligation on road safety to fulfil but ultimately the responsibility for speed enforcement rests with the Police and it is they who operate the system but with local authorities generally funding both the initial capital outlay and ongoing revenue costs.

Moving forward we need a position where the operating regime with the Police is financially sustainable and all parties able to recover the significant operating costs associated with running the system – the current arrangement does not do this. This may need to include hypothecation of revenues from fines which currently go direct to Treasury and/or the reinstatement of the Road Safety Grant which was previously abolished by the Coalition Government.

The Police are also clear that they wish to move towards a single agreement with local authorities when the current individual agreements will expire. Officers are working with the police and the Combined Authority to progress this, in the first instance, to secure the ongoing operation of existing sites when current arrangements end later this year.

Notwithstanding the need to identify funding for installation of the equipment, the timetable for further roll-out of ASE is dependent on resolution of these issues and not something that the City Council can directly control.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

'Speed Cameras'

Question:

Early on last year, the cabinet member gave my ward colleague Jon Hunt a written commitment to investigate the installation of average speed cameras as part of the installation of Sprint bus lanes on the A34 in my Ward. Last month in answers to residents and other Councillors, he indicated that the Council has no plans to fund the installation of speed camera. He also indicated he was talking to the combined authority – sponsors of the Sprint project – about this.

Could the Cabinet Member indicate who is responsible for making a decision about installing average speed cameras, linked to Sprint development, setting out how any such decision will be made in a transparent way?

Answer:

The Police are responsible for enforcement of speed limits. Local authorities also have a statutory duty regarding promotion of road safety and delivery of a road programme aligned to analysis of collision data. The Combined Authority has a coordinating role on road safety with a particular focus on the Key Route Network where they have concurrent powers. We all have a role to play in this and will continue to work together.

Whilst we remain committed to further roll-out of average speed enforcement (ASE), the current financial model is not sustainable as we are not able to recoup the significant cost of maintaining the system. So rather than not having any plans to fund further ASE, it is more a case of not being in a position to do so at this time. Since the abolition of the Road Safety Grant under the Coalition Government, we have limited resources to fulfil our road safety obligations.

Officers have been working with the Sprint team to review road safety audits for the scheme and identify if further action is required or opportunities to make improvements are presented. A review of collision data for the last three years highlights that sections of the A34 Walsall Road would have met the historic criteria for further consideration for camera based speed enforcement and so it will be included in the prioritisation process as and when we are in a position to move forward.

Assuming that BCC is the scheme promoter for further ASE roll-out which is the most likely scenario, then an executive decision would be required either by Cabinet or under officer delegations in consultation with the Cabinet Member depending on value.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO COUNCILLOR KATH HARTLEY, LEAD MEMBER OF
WMCA TRANSPORT DELIVERY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

‘Concessionary Passes’

Question:

With so many senior citizens not using their concessionary passes on buses, trams and trains in the area, the WMCA must be saving lots of money in payments to bus companies.

What will these savings be used for?

Answer:

The WMCA is required by the Department for Transport and Central Government to maintain concessionary travel payments to operators at a level assuming Covid-19 had not happened. Therefore, TfWM has continued to pay operators at the same rate to support their operations during this difficult time to ensure that they can provide services for key workers and other essential public transport users, and to aid the financial recovery of the region.

Operators also continue to be supported by central government through payment of the Bus Services Operators Grant (BSOG) at pre-Covid levels and the additional Covid-19 Bus Services Support Grant (CBSSG).

