



CITY COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2021

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AND LEAD MEMBERS

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CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“2021/22 Council Budget ”

Question:

At the last Council Meeting on 2 February, I asked the Leader a question relating to the 2021/22 Budget proposals and if he believed a meeting with 15 business rate payers was a consultation’. The Leader responded with these words ‘ .. In terms of wider engagement across the City, we will be, as I said at the last meeting, rolling out such arrangements that will involve several different platforms; social media, an external bulletin and use of the Council’s website, Cabinet Members carrying out video’s as well as other forms of engagement with people right across the City in order that they can pass comment on the budget proposals’. Could the Leader give a full explanation as to what consultation has actually taken place with the citizens of Birmingham leading up to this Budget Council?

Answer:

As agreed in the Cabinet paper of 10 November 2020 – section 6: In previous years, budget proposals will have been formulated in the Autumn and the Council has engaged in a large-scale public consultation. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the new Delivery Plan approach has forced a change to this approach and a broader consultation will take place on the Delivery Plan and resourcing priorities when appropriate.

There is a requirement in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to consult business ratepayer representatives and on 27 January, the Leader and other Cabinet Members held a Teams meeting with Business Rate Payers. At this meeting a presentation was given that set out our long-term strategy to support Birmingham’s economic recovery, outline the financial challenges facing the City Council and discuss opportunities for economic growth to support the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. This was followed by a Q&A session. The presentation and a recording of the event is available on BCC web site and has been shared widely.

A dedicated webpage outlining the budget was created, while wider engagement across social media channels has explained where the Council gets its money and where it is spent, with emphasis on how council tax contributes to the overall budget.

This was done via the Council’s own social channels which have a reach of: Facebook 27.5k followers, Twitter 158.9k, Instagram 9.3k and LinkedIn 29.8k.

A blog by the Leader and links to the Cabinet member videos were shared in a bulletin to 116k subscribers. Birmingham Updates assisted in helping the Council have conversations with residents and get the best reach to all communities. This activity is ongoing, and a full evaluation will be available when completed. A snapshot of activity to date is as follows: Cabinet member videos were shared on our social channels and Birmingham Updates, receiving 55k views and the campaign as a whole received 442k impressions, with an engagement rate of 2.3%.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

“Climate Change Action Plan ”

Question:

Could the Leader indicate how much time he has spent in helping develop and plan implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan over the last six months?

Answer:

Implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan has been discussed extensively in numerous forums over the last 6 months. These include regular one to ones with the Interim Director for Inclusive Growth, regular one to ones with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, meetings with the Executive and officers at informal Cabinet meetings and numerous informal conversations with officers and members on this matter.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Businesses during lockdown ”

Question:

Could the Leader state what assessment has been done of the risks to the City Centre caused by the collapse and withdrawal of businesses during lockdown, setting out what recovery plans are in place to support the Centre once lockdown rules ease?

Answer:

The Council has commissioned detailed research to understand the economic impact of Covid on the business community and key occupiers within the city centre, this includes a focus on office market trends around supply, take-up, values and occupier demand. Outputs from this piece of work will inform the delivery of the Council's Economic Recovery Strategy as well as vision for the future development and growth of the city centre, the Future City Plan. The Economic Recovery Strategy which will be reported to Cabinet next month for adoption proposes to accelerate delivery of the Urban Centre Framework to support the recovery and reinvigoration of our high streets. We will also work to improve the environment within centres through The Birmingham Transport Plan by encouraging greater pedestrianisation where appropriate.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Extension of Lockdown Powers”

Question:

It has been reported the Government has extended lockdown laws to give councils the power to close pubs, restaurants, shops and public spaces until July 17 this year through changes to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020, that were made as part of a review of the third lockdown by Central Government. Could the Leader explain the additional support that will be offered to struggling businesses in the City to help them recover, should the Lockdown be extended by any further considerable time?

Answer:

If the lockdown is extended or new government restrictions are introduced, the City Council will be seeking additional support from the government to extend its provision through the Local Restriction Grant Scheme/Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme to support businesses, which continue to be impacted.

To date Birmingham City Council has provided the following support:

- £185.3m in extended retail and nursery relief
- £217.8m to 18,153 businesses as part of the first phase of grants
- £49.4m in 24,349 grant payments to 10,499 businesses

We are also lobbying Government for an extension of business rate relief and VAT reduction to avoid a cliff edge for businesses.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Contracts Awarded”

Question:

List all Companies who have been awarded contracts in relation to Birmingham Commonwealth Games including cost of contract?

Answer:

The below is a list of companies awarded contracts in relation to the Commonwealth Games by Birmingham City Council specifically, during the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21, including cost of contract. Spend with contractors is regularly published in the public domain on the Birmingham City Council Website.

Other contracts related to the Commonwealth Games have been awarded by other Game's partners such as the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee and queries regarding these contracts should be directed to them.

2019/20

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)
360 GIVING	1,500.00
ACIVICO LTD	532,182.21
ARCADIS LLP	109,155.00
ATKINS LTD	1,400.00
BANNER GROUP LTD	196.69
CAPITA BIRMINGHAM LTD	625.35
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	2,012.96
COMMISSION AIR LTD	389.00
CORPORATE DOCUMENT SERVICES LTD	8,384.74
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	532,000.00
ESCAPE LIVE LTD	768.00
GELDARDS LLP	722.00
HARROW GREEN LTD	1,016.50
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	15,170.34
HEMMING GROUP LTD	1,000.00
IRG ADVISORS LLP	96,857.67
LOCAL PARTNERHIPS LLP	30,236.33
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	393,269.20
MIDLAND SURVEY LTD	3,270.00

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)
MOVECORP LTD	50.00
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	1,657.47
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	2,912,408.98
PANTHER TRAVEL	450.00
PICTURE TEAM	160.00
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	25,000.00
PRINTBOTS	2,080.00
REBECCA BATTMAN LTD	9,650.00
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LTD	785.00
SPORT ENGLAND	9,543.00
SUMO SERVICES LTD	3,850.00
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	273.90
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	18,000.00
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	288,558.80
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	47,374.22

2020/21

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)
ACIVICO (DCFM) LTD	221,272.47
ACIVICO LTD	63,124.00
ATKINS LTD	1,520.00
BANNER GROUP LTD	170.76
BLACKSTOCK PARTNERSHIP LTD	13,750.00
BURGES SALMON LLP	164,828.00
CBRE LTD	35,250.00
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	41.50
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	705,504.70
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	214,473.60
INNER CIRCLE CONSULTING LTD	58,468.00
IRG ADVISORS LLP	236,875.64
LASER SURVEYS LTD	945.00
LEVEL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LTD	3,253.80
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	370,672.33
MCLAREN CONSTRUCT (MIDLANDS & NORTH	149,731.50
McLAUGHLIN & HARVEY CONS LTD	11,305,692.00
MCLEAN PROJECTS AND EVENTS LTD	23,760.89
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	427.03
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	1,865,832.82
PENNA PLC	187,200.00
PICTURE TEAM	145.00
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	189,312.67
PROMETHEANIX LIMITED	162,900.00
SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL	695,553.00
SOFTCAT LTD	81.98
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	45.65
THE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY LTD	2,691.00
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	366.15
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	983,783.59
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	311.67

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Local Companies”

Question:

How many Companies with a registered head office in Birmingham have been awarded contracts connected to the Commonwealth Games?

Answer:

Below is a list of companies awarded contracts in relation to the Commonwealth Games by Birmingham City Council specifically, during the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21. These companies are broken down to show whether:

- Their registered office is in Birmingham
- If not, is their Head Office in Birmingham
- If not, are they a supplier from the GBSLEP
- If not, do they have a Birmingham office
- If not, do they have an office within the GBSLEP

Other contracts related to the Commonwealth Games have been awarded by other Game’s partners such as the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee and queries regarding these contracts should be directed to them.

2019/2020

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
360 GIVING	1,500.00	No	No	No	No	No
ACIVICO LTD	532,182.21	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ARCADIS LLP	109,155.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
ATKINS LTD	1,400.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
BANNER GROUP LTD	196.69	No	No	No	No	No
CAPITA BIRMINGHAM LTD	625.35	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	2,012.96	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
COMMISSION AIR LTD	389.00	No	No	No	No	No
CORPORATE DOCUMENT SERVICES LTD	8,384.74	No	No	No	No	No
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	532,000.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ESCAPE LIVE LTD	768.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GELDARDS LLP	722.00	No	No	No	No	No

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
HARROW GREEN LTD	1,016.50	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	15,170.34	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
HEMMING GROUP LTD	1,000.00	No	No	No	No	No
IRG ADVISORS LLP	96,857.67	No	No	No	No	No
LOCAL PARTNERHIPS LLP	30,236.33	No	No	No	No	No
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	393,269.20	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
MIDLAND SURVEY LTD	3,270.00	No	No	No	No	No
MOVECORP LTD	50.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	1,657.47	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	2,912,408.98	No	No	No	No	Yes
PANTHER TRAVEL	450.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PICTURE TEAM	160.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	25,000.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
PRINTBOTS	2,080.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
REBECCA BATTMAN LTD	9,650.00	No	No	No	No	No
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LTD	785.00	No	No	No	No	No
SPORT ENGLAND	9,543.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
SUMO SERVICES LTD	3,850.00	No	No	No	No	No
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	273.90	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	18,000.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	288,558.80	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	47,374.22	No	No	No	Yes	n/a

2020/21

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
ACIVICO (DCFM) LTD	221,272.47	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ACIVICO LTD	63,124.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ATKINS LTD	1,520.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
BANNER GROUP LTD	170.76	No	No	No	No	No
BLACKSTOCK PARTNERSHIP LTD	13,750.00	No	No	No	No	No
BURGES SALMON LLP	164,828.00	No	No	No	No	No
CBRE LTD	35,250.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	41.50	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	705,504.70	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	214,473.60	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
INNER CIRCLE CONSULTING LTD	58,468.00	No	No	No	No	No
IRG ADVISORS LLP	236,875.64	No	No	No	No	No
LASER SURVEYS LTD	945.00	No	No	No	No	No
LEVEL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LTD	3,253.80	No	No	No	No	No
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	370,672.33	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
MCLAREN CONSTRUCT (MIDLANDS & NORTH	149,731.50	No	No	No	No	Yes
McLAUGHLIN & HARVEY CONS LTD	11,305,692.00	No	No	No	No	No
MCLEAN PROJECTS AND EVENTS LTD	23,760.89	No	No	No	No	No

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	427.03	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	1,865,832.82	No	No	No	No	Yes
PENNA PLC	187,200.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
PICTURE TEAM	145.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	189,312.67	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
PROMETHEANIX LIMITED	162,900.00	No	No	No	No	No
SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL	695,553.00	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
SOFTCAT LTD	81.98	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	45.65	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
THE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY LTD	2,691.00	No	No	No	No	No
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	366.15	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	983,783.59	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	311.67	No	No	No	Yes	n/a

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Employees”

Question:

How many jobs have been awarded to employees with a B postcode in connection with Commonwealth Games?

Answer:

7 jobs have been awarded to employees with a B in their post code out of the 14 that have been directly recruited to work within the Commonwealth Games Programme Team for Birmingham City Council.

Birmingham City Council have learnt lessons from Glasgow City Council and their experience of hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games. We have purposefully emulated their delivery model of recruiting a core centralised Programme Team under the management of the Programme Director. The vast majority of delivery is conducted across the rest of the Council, and as such there are currently hundreds of staff who are working on elements of the games as part of their substantive roles and were not needed to be directly recruited to.

Looking more broadly, 83 employment opportunities have been created at the Alexander Stadium redevelopment so far, with 49% of those roles going to people who live within 10 miles of the site, and 59 of those being new entrant roles. 29 apprentices have also been operational on the Stadium project.

So far, the Organising Committee has around 250 employees and this number is expected to grow to over 1000 by games time with the ambition that the majority of these go to local people. Further, over 12000 volunteering opportunities will be created during games time.

It is estimated that over 4000 jobs will be created in total by the Commonwealth Games either through direct employment with Games Partners, or via primary contractors and the supply chain. Just recently it was announced that 300 retail jobs will be created to sell games merchandise and the games broadcast partner will create 150 jobs and offer training to 200 young people.

These announcements will continue and become more frequent as we approach games time and more contracts are signed in preparation for the event.

The economic benefit to the region was always a primary driver to host the games and be that the 3 to 1 return on the council's investment, job creation, or the £20+ million Business and Trade Programme, we are already seeing the benefits to the City of Birmingham.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

“New Builds”

Question:

How many houses potentially for first time buyers is housing having built on land they own, where the roads are being constructed of a standard where they cannot be adopted?

Answer:

There is only one scheme currently that has been constructed for sale by BMHT without adoption and this comprises six houses at a scheme on Ebrook Road. BMHT is committed to developing schemes with adopted roads wherever possible and it is rare that the adoptable standard cannot be met, this may be for a variety of design requirement reasons, not however due to the quality of the construction of the road.

The road at Ebrook Road is private due to the access road and design constraints of the plot which do not meet the Highway Departments criteria for adoption. We explored this at length with highways colleagues before works on site started. Though the road does not meet adoption standards because of the requirement for footpaths both sides and a larger turning head, it is constructed to an adoptable quality standard which means that it should require no maintenance for several years.

It was made clear to prospective buyers and their respective solicitors that the road is private and it is common to adopt similar arrangements in the private sector. Hunters are the estate agents appointed to sell the homes for BMHT and they ensured that buyers were provided with all pertinent information from the outset.

We are aware that many of the purchasers are relying on the stamp duty amnesty and do not anticipate that the end date will not be met.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

“New Builds

Question:

Following on from the question asked by Councillor Pears, What financial support is the Housing department going to provide to future first time buyers, who are likely to be on limited incomes, to help pay for the maintenance of the unadopted road?

Answer:

There is no financial assistance planned or available to assist owners with any future maintenance of the highway outside of the initial defect period. The houses are being sold at a full market value which reflect the maintenance liability. The scheme is not specifically aimed at first time buyers, though some will fall into this category and are being assisted through 'Help to Buy' which has been extended until May 2021.

The road at Ebrook Road is private due to the access road and design constraints of the plot which do not meet the Highway Departments criteria for adoption. We explored this at length with highways colleagues before works on site started. The new homes have been marketed with full knowledge of this, however, please rest assured that it is constructed to an adoptable quality standard which means that it should require no maintenance for several years.

Lastly, it is worth noting it is illegal to subsidise owner occupation with funding from the Housing Revenue Account and therefore this cannot be considered.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD

“Social Care Referrals ”

Question:

It has been recently reported there has been a significant fall nationally in referrals to children's services of 10 per cent between the end of April and November, according to research by the Office for the Children's Commissioner in England. Even before the pandemic, an estimated 2.2 million children were living in households affected by domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol dependency and severe parental health issues. Could the Cabinet Member give reassurances families caught in this cycle are being fully supported during this time detailing the actions taken by the City to address these issues?

Answer:

We have not seen a significant fall in contacts and referrals to Birmingham Children's Trust during the pandemic, although we have seen a change in referral patterns. Domestic abuse has consistently been the most prevalent reason for contacts to the Trust during the pandemic. However, in the last week we have seen a reduction in the rate of domestic abuse and a shift back to the usual patterns of contact and referral.

We have tracked the rates and causes of contact and referral to the Trust during the pandemic. We have reported this information to the DfE on a weekly basis. Please see the most recent data on the front door of Children's services provided with this answer.

We anticipated that families would experience isolation, financial hardship and increased levels of stress during the pandemic. The Trust, along with our partners took immediate action to mitigate as we fully expected to receive more contact and referrals to the Trust as a result of more children experiencing harm.

We quickly established a multi-agency group to ensure that all partners were clear on the potential impact of the pandemic on the children and families of the city. The Partnership Operational Group known as the 'POG' continues to meet on a fortnightly basis.

Through this group and with the oversight of the Birmingham Children's Partnership, we have delivered a number of strategies:

- A city-wide response to the prevention, identification and support to domestic abuse.

- A multi-agency support offer to homeless families and families living in temporary accommodation.
- A shared response to supporting vulnerable children safely back into education settings.
- A Covid early help response at a locality level – this has been particularly impactful with over 8000 families accessing early help support, reducing harm and demand on more costly services.
- A shared policy on visiting children and families with an emphasis on pre-birth and children under five years old.
- Established a new online mental health service for 400,000 young people aged 11-25. We set up 'Kooth' in two weeks, the largest roll-out they have done in the shortest time.
- Established a new emergency food and fuel scheme as families in lockdown three are running out of fuel vouchers over winter and suffering food poverty.
- Distributed a grants scheme to community groups to create 162 new services to help families through lockdown and the impact of Covid. Overall, we distributed 33,000 activity packs, 8,400 Information Assurance Group (IAG) or counselling sessions, and 1,300 physical, health and wellbeing activities.

The Early Help offer has made the most impact on supporting the health and wellbeing of families during the pandemic. The offer has responded to worries about mental health, safeguarding issues, domestic abuse and poverty that affected so many families. This work has meant that the Trust has not been overwhelmed with safeguarding referrals – we have been able to respond appropriately to families who have presented with complex and significant need, requiring the intervention of a social worker and a multi-agency plan.

The Trust has been very proactive in encouraging partner agencies to refer to us if there are safeguarding concerns. We have taken some practical steps to encourage referrals:

- Working with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and the Birmingham Children Partnership (BCP) on a city-wide communication strategy on the safety and wellbeing of children during lockdown.
- Detailed guidance to Trust staff on professional curiosity and visiting children during the pandemic.
- Regular audit of front door practice and decision making – looking at application of threshold and referral outcomes.
- The establishment of daily multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings to ensure no delay on safeguarding decisions where

domestic abuse is a feature.

- Accelerating the 'team around the school' model as it becomes increasingly important that we work hand-in-hand with schools to pick up on safeguarding concerns and ensure no families are forgotten.

During the pandemic it has become increasingly important to ensure that children and young people who are 'out of the sight' are a priority. A number of key areas of practice have been further strengthened to support those children in an attempt to reduce risk and harm. They include:

- Investing in additional posts within the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (Empower U). This has resulted in swifter responses to screening children who are missing from home and care, high 'take up' rates of return interviews by assigned key workers and fewer incidents of repeat missing incidents. Follow up work takes place with parents, schools and other professionals.
- The establishment of the Joint Response Group – where lead professionals meet on a weekly basis to identify groups and themes where children are not attending education. Measures are put in place to work with children and their families, resulting in more children attending their settings.
- Robust multi-agency risk assessments for children open to the Trust in respect of face-to-face visiting. We have accompanied this with clear partnership guidance on the importance of seeing children.
- A reduction of thresholds at the front door of children's services for pre-birth and 0 – 5 children to ensure tight oversight of this vulnerable group.
- A dedicated multi-agency group focusing on children who are excluded from school or who have no place – troubleshooting and problem solving together.
- Focused discussions with paediatrics, health visiting and midwifery on identification of risk.
- The investment in Community Connectors and named Trust workers for every early years and schools setting in the city to ensure an additional layer of support during Covid. This is proving to be very successful.
- Investment in the location of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) staff in the City of Birmingham School (Pupil Referral Unit) to support early identification and support.
- An enhanced offer to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), 16 and 17-year-old homeless and care leavers as we are aware of the risk of isolation for these groups of young people.
- Direct approaches to families of disabled children who are in receipt of short breaks to ensure they are supported.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

“Written Question B1”

Question:

Thank you for providing some more information in response Written question B1 at the last Full council meeting. Please could you now add in the outstanding columns onto the Table already produced as of 2 February 2021. Please note we re-iterate again that if the information is not provided this Question will be sent in as an FOI into the Council.

To assist you with this question here is some useful information:

Interim/Consultants Name or the Company Name: This should be readily available as the details will be on the payment that you are making

The Day Rate: this is the amount that was agreed to pay the Interim/Consultant; please write in the figure or don't know or the Interim/Consultant sends an invoice and it is a random amount according to what the Interim/Consultant wishes to charge.

Number of Days worked: there should be no reason why it takes you to a significant time to collate the Number of Days worked as this can be done by:

- What is the Day Rate you have agreed to pay the Interim/Consultant?
- How much have you already paid them?

Even you must be able to establish the easy calculation that you simply divide the amount paid by the day rate and it equals the Number of Days Worked.

Ethnic Origin: This City Council has expressed a commitment to reflecting the diversity of Birmingham. To assist and progress this have you simply decided against applying this to the large volume of interims and consultants you are employing?

Resident in Birmingham: You have said that you do not collect this information, however, the interim/consultant or company will have provided their address details. Please answer the question as to whether or not those address details are in Birmingham – yes or no.

Date Vacancy advertised & Date decision made to outsource this work: You have said that the majority of the interim resource are additional capacity that

has been brought in to support the service and that these are not vacancies at the stage of you identifying the need for this work. The question remains as to the date you looked to identify internal expertise/talent and the steps you took that confirmed there was no one internally available to do this work, that then leads us to the date you decided to source an interim/consultant. One example to help you with the type of information we are seeking is: A Team Manager level SEND Tribunal Lead vacancy was recently advertised for £400 a day. What evidence is there that this requires FTE of £104,000 paid for a position that has no JNC responsibility and that this post cannot be filled by a secondment arrangement from within the Council or recruiting to a full time post externally? Please outline a similar narrative for each one of the Interim/Consultants to this effect.

Answer:

Table with updated interim resource costs to end of January attached including: role; area; commissioned by; start date; end date (where assignment is no longer active); whether the assignment is still active?; cumulative spend from Sept 18 – Jan 21 (inclusive); a high-level list of activities and summary of improvements

We are unable to disclose information relating to names, number of days worked and day rates. First and foremost, there are commercial sensitives and data protection implications of sharing information relating to individuals. This has been confirmed by corporate procurement and HR. Even if we were able to share the information there would be a risk that the Authority will struggle to recruit and retain interim or consultative resources as a result.

Following advice from Corporate Procurement, who manage the interim and consultancy framework, I can confirm that ethnic origin is not collected and therefore cannot be disclosed.

Similarly, residence is not generally a prerequisite for employment at Birmingham City Council and is therefore not collected. There is no obligation to physically move to Birmingham except where people are required to be on site as part of service delivery. Where this is a requirement for an interim contract, the interim would have to be able to comply through residence or commutable proximity.

To date we have not recorded the dates that vacancies have been discussed with agencies, nor when decisions were taken to outsource. Therefore, this information is in multiple places, including emails and documents, that are difficult to access, and could not be provided within the timescales. Furthermore, we conservatively estimate that it would take an equivalent of 40+ FTE hours to provide for historical appointments due to the breadth and depth of information to be collated. We will, however, ensure this is routinely recorded and can be reported moving forwards.

B2

Interim resource spend as at 2nd Feb 2021

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Guide transformation lead	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	27/01/2020	31/08/2020	No	£48,848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case to support the reduction of Agency Guides • 1st Draft Business Case in relation to SEND Transport Application process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the service Saving Strategy and improved gatekeeping and application of policy conditions relating to transport eligibility
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	11/02/2021	No	£35,160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and 	<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
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	22/05/2020	No	£8,775		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020		Yes	£37,260	actioning newly received review paperwork	of assessments from 500 to 200
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020		Yes	£40,780		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£10,660		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/07/2020	No	£13,910		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£11,700		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£7,410		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,480		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£61,170		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,350		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	19/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,220		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£18,280		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£14,040		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,740		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31.10.2020	No	£17,420		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£11,700		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,220		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£14,040		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020		Yes	£23,165		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	12/03/2020		Yes	£24,870		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	16/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£16,563		
Interim Communication Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/03/2020	30/11/2020	No	£19,075	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communication strategy * Communication plan * Communication material including newsletters for schools and parents, and briefings 	* Improved communication and engagement with PCF
Interim Communication officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/12/2019	12/02/2020	No	£1,313		
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	26/10/2020		Yes	£24,302	<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 	As per Compliance Manager and Senior Compliance Officer
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/12/2020		Yes	£11,628		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	28/10/2020	20/11/2020	No	£5,400	all guides and then drivers. • Daily compliance reports	
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	06/10/2020		Yes	£27,563	• Supplier check reports • Investigation findings for safeguarding complaints	
Interim Compliance Performance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	23/09/2020		Yes	£30,825	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

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Data Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	18/03/2020	18/09/2020	No	£45,560	* EHCP requests tracker and associated reports * EHCP review recovery project database and associated reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved workflow management *Automated monitoring reports for managers
Interim Data Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	18/03/2020	18/12/2020	No	£63,700	* Tracker for new EHCP reviews * Tracker for complaints * Tracker for mediations and appeals	
Interim Early Years SEND Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/09/2020	01/09/2021	No	£22,500	* Review of early years service	* Recommendations to improve early years service
Interim Educational Psychologist	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	06/07/2020	18/09/2020	No	£29,910	* 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
Interim Finance Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/11/2019	30/09/2020	No	£21,900	* Review formula funding for specialist provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established mechanisms for financial reporting for specialist provision New criteria and allocation

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
								of top up funding for mainstream
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/09/2020		Yes	£7,755	* 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
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	13/03/2020	17/02/2021	No	£18,280		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion			Yes	£3,680		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/03/2020	27/11/2020	No	£15,180		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020		Yes	£22,670		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	24/07/2020		Yes	£8,510		
Interim Ops Manager (Transport)	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	24/08/2020		Yes	£50,284	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone systems – Cirrus • Email system – Cirrus Omni • Bus Pass report • Invoice reports • Staff 1-to-1 • Complaints • Restructure operations service • Performance Improvement - guides 	<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. 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 • 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

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
								<p>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>
Interim Performance Lead	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/02/2020	13/03/2020	No	£13,600	<p>* HST dashboard</p> <p>* HST immediate fixes plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility of data • Improved data reliability

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Performance Lead	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/06/2020		Yes	£56,186	* HST weekly sit rep report * HST contract performance reporting schedule * SEND dashboard * SEND Weekly sit rep report	
Interim Performance Lead	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020	12/06/2020	No	£36,500		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion		30/10/2020	No	£28,250	* Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork * Managing placements	<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
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	26/05/2020	31/08/2020	No	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020	30/10/2020	No	£48,030		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/05/2020	31/08/2020	No	£21,000		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/09/2020		Yes	£21,280		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£21,300		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£26,250		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020		Yes	£26,175		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£39,850		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/09/2020	12/11/2020	No	£24,300		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/08/2020		Yes	£18,600		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£26,100		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020	18/12/2020	No	£20,475		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£42,900		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£6,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£20,700		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/04/2020	13/11/2020	No	£55,650		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020		Yes	£33,975		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	29/04/2020		Yes	£13,873		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	13/07/2020		Yes	£34,800		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020		Yes	£44,633		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA		Yes	£10,800		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£3,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£3,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020		Yes	£5,400		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£9,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA		Yes	£19,500		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA		Yes	£18,600		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA	05/02/2021	No	£18,600		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£5,700		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,500		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021	03/02/2021	No	£3,450		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	31/08/2020	18/12/2020	No	£40,360		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£35,515		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	13/07/2020	22/08/2020	No	£9,920		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£24,054		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	NK	NK	No	£25,674		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	NK	NK	No	£47,291		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	13/07/2020	20/10/2020	No	£63,817		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£66,969		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£79,270		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£72,127		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	01/04/2020		Yes	£49,600		
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020		Yes	£16,298	* Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork * Managing placements	<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
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020	11/03/2021	No	£15,500		
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,860		
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020	24/12/2020	No	£5,000		
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020	11/01/2021	No	£7,226		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Post 16 SEND Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NK	18/12/2020	No	£62,340	* Review of post 16 service	Recommendations to improve preparation for adulthood
Interim Project Lead - Local Offer Website	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/08/2020	31/10/2020	No	£21,038	* Local offer website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Online booking system in final stages of development to be launched in the spring
Interim Project Manager	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	13/07/2020		Yes	£45,250	* Developing & managing local provision project plan and associated governance	* DLP project launched
Interim Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020		Yes	£64,600	* School Planning meeting documentation * Local offer website upload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Improved communication with special school transport leads
Interim Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/04/2020		Yes	£15,224	* Weekly report and liaison with special schools * Consolidation report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input to Home to school transport improvement programme

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Safeguarding & Compliance SEND Transport Manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	21/07/2020		Yes	£40,566	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weekly & monthly performance reports * Safeguarding process for complaints * data analysis from supplier returns (monthly) 	<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. • Vehicle inspections carried out to ensure vehicles transporting clients are fully roadworthy and feedback given to supplier they additional checks to ensure compliance. • 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. • Depot Audits at supplier premises to ensure policies are being applied throughout the operation against their contract.

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular supplier meetings to ensure performance issues are identified and actioned. • Safeguarding tracker to capture safeguarding complaints ensure escalated to LADO and managed appropriately in a timely way. • 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. • Improved communication and feed back to suppliers is carried out in a timely was to ensure failings identified are rectified.

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Safeguarding & QA Lead	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	18/11/2019	06/03/2020	No	£25,200	* initial safeguarding audit of suppliers * DPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts confirmed with suppliers • Baseline safeguarding reports
Interim SEN Coordinator - EHCP Reviews	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	05/03/2020		Yes	£21,000	* 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
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	Nov-19	Dec-19	No	£25,810	* 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
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	10/03/2020	25/09/2020	No	£30,575		
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	22/11/2019	14/01/2020	No	£4,463		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	Feb-20	Feb-20	No	£9,585		
Interim SEND Transport manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/07/2020	17/01/2021	No	£42,900	<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 	<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

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
							revised implementation plan	

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Senior Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/09/2020		Yes	£27,988	<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. Robust procedures implemented to improve supplier /driver compliance • Implemented a revised parking plan at 2 schools to date (Calthorpe & Dame Ellen Pinsent) • Allocate work to the compliance team to ensure work is completed and prioritised. • Advise suppliers on compliance matters i.e. procedures and technique to improve performance. • Improved communication with suppliers, schools and internal teams to ensure concerns are addressed and recorded in a timely way • Support other service areas to address any safeguarding /compliance

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
								issues and resolve in a timely way.
Interim Programme mgr	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	21/01/2020		Yes	£126,840	<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 	<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

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Multi agency operational stakeholder engagement * Draft Pathways * Resource tracker & resource plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against the written statement of action
Interim Transport Manager Operations, Commissioning & Contracts	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/06/2020	30/11/2020	No	£70,240	<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 	<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. • 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

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CXM Bus Pass Administration requirements • Also developed the daily route report which underpins the Daily SitRep reporting to Chief Executive 	includes the cost of project management.
Interim SEND Transport Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/11/2020		Yes	£20,880	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of system for transport risk assessments • Proposals for new transport irks assessment system • Best practice with other LA to inform implementation in Birmingham 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In process of implementing revised system for transport risk assessments • Liaison with SENAR to develop joined up processes for eligibility

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Interim Transport Operations Manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/11/2020	29/01/2021	No	£32,869	<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.
Interim Transport Operations Manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020	21/04/2021	No	£63,940		
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/06/2020	31/08/2020	No	£6,450	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
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/06/2020	30/09/2020	No	£19,200		
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/10/2020		Yes	£26,350		
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	01/06/2020	14/08/2020	No	£40,500		

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	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).
Sensory Consultant	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/09/2019		Yes	£35,359	<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 • Improved use of resources through use of sensory resource bases
Strategic SEND Consultant	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	Sep-19	Dec-20	No	£15,836	<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

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

“Letter – EHCPs”

Question:

Please could you provide a complete answer to Question B2 of the last Full Council meeting? You neglected to include the letter you sent out to parents of children with EHCPs during the first lockdown of last year.

Answer:

An individual letter to families was not sent out during the first lockdown.
[Information for parents was posted on the council's Local Offer website](#) which is the approach that local authorities across the region took.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

“SEND Code of Practice”

Question:

In line with Question B3 of the last Full Council meeting how have you ensured:

- **compliance with the law, and the requirements contained in the SEND Code of Practice?**
- **training on the legal requirements and the SEND Code of Practice, particularly by those officers involved in the decision-making process?**
- **decision-making processes documented and clear?**
- **clearer structure of accountability and responsibility implemented within the SEND service?**

Answer:

SEND Statutory Framework training, organised by SENDIASS and delivered by a SENDIST Judge, took place on 3 February 2021. All SEND services, including officers involved in decision-making, were represented at this training. Further training sessions are also being arranged to supplement this.

There will be ongoing monitoring activity to ensure compliance.

Work is underway to fully document the decision-making process.

A restructure of the service is underway and consultation meetings with staff and trades unions are taking place.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Home Bridging Team”

Question:

Please can you provide a complete answer to Question B4 of the last Full Council meeting? You provided a narrative around the home bridging team and other forms of home tuition but you only provided data on the number of children who are supported by the Home Bridging Team and are out of school awaiting a special school placement. As reminder, the question asked you to provide, broken down by area of need, year group, number of children & young people with EHCPs who are currently:

- Without a school place
- In a mainstream school but awaiting a special school placement
- Having Section F provision met through the Home Bridging Team
- Having Section F provision met by other home- based providers (please define who is providing this and the cost)
- Have annual reviews recommending change of placement that have not yet been actioned

Answer:

Without a school place & having Section F provision met through the Home Bridging Team:

These are the children that are currently out of school and are being supported through alternative provision. The cases are being reviewed by the task and finish group on a weekly basis alongside support from the provision teams and linked professionals. Since the question was asked last month we have placed 12 children into special schools and we are working with those families and the schools on the transition. We have matched a further 26 children with school placements according to need with vacancies in our special schools and we are working with these schools under the consultation process to place the children. They will be supported with a transition plan back to school based education taking into consideration the perimeters set by Covid19 protocols. We are continuing to support families and meeting on a weekly basis to place the remaining children. This is a static dataset that we are working with as a focused group. All of these children remain supported by the Home Bridging team until they are fully transitioned into a school placement.

While there will always be some 'churn' in the system, whereby a small number of children will, at any given time, find themselves between schools, our intention is to reduce the number through a combination of improved local support and by continuing to work with our special schools to develop the places our children and young people need.

By Age Group

Year Gr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of Children	11	2	6	2	2	10	12	6	3	14	5	0

By Need

Need	ASD	MLD	PD	SEMH	SLD
No. of Children	57	2	1	12	1

By Area

Area	North	South	East	West
No. of Children	9	35	25	4

Having Section F provision met by other home- based providers (please define who is providing this and the cost:

There are a small number of children who are accessing Academy 21 which is an online provider delivering learning from Key Stage Two onwards. This is commissioned on a pay as you go basis with the focus being to secure full-time provision back in a school setting. This schooling enables children to take part in a lesson with other students in a supervised way with mentoring/pastoral support still being delivered though the Home Bridging team contact with the child and family.

The cost of tutoring and Home Bridging is reviewed on a regular basis as children are placed in provision transition support is then put in place to support the new school placement.

The current main provider is Connex. They charge £27 per hour for each child and on average children are currently receiving 15 hours per week on a one to one ratio. The number of children we are currently supporting through Connex is 52. These children are not all awaiting a school placement and are on a bespoke education programme.

In a mainstream school but awaiting a special school placement

For some of these children reviews are still ongoing with families though the statutory annual review process. In some cases further evidence is being sought to ensure that the decision making process to place in a special school is robust. Linked professionals are working with families and schools in the meantime to build the support needed through the developing local provision offer which will enhance the support available to the that young person with a view to keeping them in

mainstream provision. If this is not suitable then we are seeking Special school placements.

Over lockdown mainstream schools have been able to work with children with EHC plans in smaller, focused groups which in some cases is closing gaps in their attainment and making the future of that placement more sustainable long term. Through the ESN funding model schools have been able to access additional staffing and resources which is also impacting positively on the mainstream school's capacity to meet individual children's needs.

By Age Group

Year Gr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of Children	18	3	11	3	2	9	1	3	1	4	1	0

By Need

Need	ASD	MLD	PD	SEMH	SLD	C&L
No. of Children	40	3	1	1	1	10

By Area

Area	North	South	East	West
No. of Children	12	20	24	0

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“Statutory Requirements”

Question:

Do you deem 85 children with EHCPs taught as an alternative to a school placement by Home Based learning as lawful practice that fulfils statutory Section F and Section I requirements?

Answer:

We are working to ensure that all children and young people with EHCPs have a full-time placement in a school appropriate to their needs, as near as possible to where they live.

The figure of 85 children referred to in this question was provided in response to question B4 for the 2 February 2021 meeting and was accurate as at that date. This number has reduced since the previous response was provided. Details of the children and young people currently without a school place or who are attending mainstream school and awaiting a special school place have been provided in response to question B5 for the 23 February 2021 meeting.

Those who are without a school place are being supported by the Home Bridging team on an interim basis while suitable placements are being sought. This support is not, therefore, considered to be an alternative to a school placement and it is not usually possible to meet all of the requirements of Section F - which sets out the special education provision required by the child or young person – through home bridging provision. Section I of the EHCP requires that the name and type of the school or other institution to be attended is specified or, where the name of a school or other institution is not specified, the type of placement to be attended. In these cases, the type of placement has been specified in Section I of EHCPs rather than home education.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

“Decision Making Groups”

Question:

You have 7 Decision Making Groups (DMGs) in operation. Please provide the dates that these DMGs have been meeting, who were the DMG members in attendance, number of cases considered, number of cases outstanding to still consider. Please define the law/statutory framework that each DMG covers and adheres to?

Answer:

The DMGs currently in operation have been designed to fulfil the requirements of legislation and the SEND Code of Practice in respect of assessment, provision and placement. This statutory framework is adhered to by each DMG. The DMGs are utilising a multi-agency approach and attendees include relevant Specialist Leads in Education, Health and Social Care to ensure effective and informed decision-making. This multi-agency approach has been in place since July 2020.

The DMGs are utilising a multi-agency approach and attendees include relevant Specialist Leads in Education, Health and Social Care to ensure effective and informed decision-making. This multi-agency approach has been in place since July 2020.

Meetings of the DMGS are scheduled weekly as follows:

Monday

- Early Years
- Preparation for Adulthood

These meetings focus on the ongoing individual support required for children and young people. Decisions are not made in respect of statutory assessments in these groups. The groups are led by the lead specialist for each area, with support from Business Support and the attendance of relevant professionals within SEND services. The cases are considered each week and there is, therefore, no backlog.

- Special Schools

These meetings are led by the Provision Lead for Special Schools, with attendance by professionals in SEND services. Head Teacher representatives are also invited

to the Special Schools DMGs. This DMG is currently prioritising the children identified as being out of school.

Tuesday

- Sensory – Average of 12 cases per week
- Cognition and Learning and SEMH – Assessments, with a follow up Placement & Provision Meeting on the Thursday of the same week – Average of 10 – 18 cases per week
- ASC – Assessments, with a follow up Placement & Provision Meeting later the same day – 87 cases in respects of decisions to assess and 54 cases in respect of decisions to issue EHCPs since January 2021. Within the placements meeting the team review an average of 19 new cases per week.

These meetings focus on decisions around assessments and issuing of EHCPs for new cases and changes to provision for children and young people with existing EHCPs. All these meetings are multi-agency, with lead specialist representatives from Education, Health and Social Care. All cases submitted are presented at the next available DMG, with no cases submitted left unheard.

Friday

- Exceptional Funding – 78 cases reviewed since January 21. All cases submitted are presented at the next available DMG, with no cases submitted left unheard.

This meeting is led by the Assistant Director and reviews cases where there are exceptional funding requirements (threshold £25k per annum). The meeting includes relevant provision leads and SEND finance officers to review and approve cases where appropriate.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS

“Developing Local Provision”

Question:

Please provide the data set relating to the Developing Local Provision (DLP) impact on:

- **number of children this programme will support**
- **the needs that will be met**
- **the outcomes that will be achieved**
- **Full cost that is being spent on the administration of the DLP, inclusive of identification of payments made to named individuals and organisations that are working on delivering the DLP.**

Answer:

The Developing Local Provision (DLP) project is a city-wide school led project, focused on the development of SEND local provision across partnerships of schools to improve outcomes and enable greater inclusion of children and young people with SEND, educated in their local community schools.

As a result, there is not a single DLP dataset but instead each consortium of primary schools and network of secondary schools have used their local contextual and performance data to identify key performance indicators (KPIs) and to set baselines from which impact of the project will be measured. These datasets are bespoke to those partnerships of schools in their locality and they identify their specific and local needs. These will therefore, rightly, be different across the different consortia and networks depending on what the identified priorities for improvement are for that specific community of schools.

In the same way the range of needs to be met will differ according to the specific needs that are identified across the partnership of schools in that locality. These cover a range of needs and numbers of pupils e.g. performance and attendance of SEND pupils, improving reading ages of secondary pupils, reducing numbers of children and young people who are currently not on roll of any schools etc. As part of the delegation of funding to consortia and networks of schools, the 'Conditions of Grant' document specifies the need for termly reporting of progress toward KPIs and spend. Project proposals have also been required to outline how the partnership of schools will use the voice of parents and carers to show the impact of the project.

It is important to understand that currently Birmingham has the lowest numbers of pupils with SEND whose needs are met in mainstream schools, than any other

local authority, regionally and nationally. The development of mainstream provision for pupils with SEND is a national priority of DfE and Ofsted. The DLP is a project that is designed to address this as a priority across Birmingham.

Full cost that is being spent on the administration of the DLP, inclusive of identification of payments made to named individuals and organisations that are working on delivering the DLP.

(For data protection reasons the names of individuals are not included in the table below)

		Total Costs to date	Total Cost -End of financial year
Roles leading and working on project	1x P/T Project lead 1x P/T Primary Schools Lead 1 F/T Project Manager	£60,000 (approx.)	£96,000 (approx.)

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

“SEN2 Return”

Question:

Following on from Written Question B11 at the last Full Council meeting, have you now compiled the data for this year's LA SEN2 return and, if so, can you provide the data you have already collected to make this return and chart a contrast with last year's data?

Answer:

As set out in the response to Full Council last month, this year's submission is being compiled and will be completed and submitted as per DfE set timescales and a copy will be published.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

“High Needs Block”

Question:

You said in Question B15 2 February 2021, that money from the High Needs Block of school funding has been spent on consultants. Please provide details of these consultants and the day rate they received, along with the rationale for diverting this money from children's education in schools?

Answer:

Due to data protection reasons the names of the individual consultants cannot be provided, nor their individual day rates.

The consultants' work is used to improve services for children, by making systems and processes more efficient and providers more accountable, the funding is not being diverted from children's education in schools.

Over two thirds of Councils have a cumulative deficit on their High Needs Block and half of these have a deficit in excess of 2% of DSG. For Birmingham that would equate to a deficit in excess of £40m. This is not the case as ours is just 0.6% and will reduce further. Instead, by investing in preventative services and improving efficiency, the SEND service delivered to budget last year and is forecast to do so this year, putting it in a much better position than the majority of Councils.

I am determined that we will continue to transform our services with rigour and pace to ensure our children with SEND are supported more effectively as close to home as possible in a far more inclusive way which is in line with the national direction of travel that the government is also setting.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER

“Hunters Hill School”

Question:

Hunters Hill School has had little or no provision since last year. Please detail:

- **how those students specifically are being supported with their Mental Health Needs.**
- **the assessments that have been undertaken to identify the Mental Health impact that the lack of education and provision is having on those children**
- **the specialist provisions that have been involved for assessment and therapeutic intervention?**
- **the support their parents and families have received?**

Answer:

A reduction in face to face education provision generally has unfortunately been one of the inevitable results of the pandemic. This has been exacerbated in the case of Hunters Hill College by ongoing site issues.

School staff are not in a position to carry out specific mental health assessments, however relevant professionals in school meet each week to triage and risk assess the vulnerabilities of all pupils on roll. School employs a RAG rated register for each pupil according to their individual needs. RAG ratings are reviewed weekly. A 'red' rating for a student at Hunters Hill College is applied where there are significant concerns regarding a student's wellbeing. All risk assessments are discussed regularly with the local authority's triage team in common with other special schools.

All families are assigned a specific worker from the Hunters Hill staff team who contacts them on a weekly basis. This contact is used to as a welfare check and to assess pupil and family needs. A written protocol is in place and all information is securely recorded. There is a clear escalation route in place if contact cannot be made.

Any pupils who are identified as requiring additional support are signposted or referred to specific services based on individual needs. The school's resident counselling psychologist also offers targeted interventions to specific pupils and families as appropriate. There are a number of signposts to mental health and wellbeing services on the school website, which all pupils, parents and carers have been made aware of.

Annual Reviews of EHCPs and PEP meetings have continued throughout lockdown and school closure. The school has dedicated Educational Psychology support and mental health and wellbeing fall within this service's remit.

Twelve children of critical key workers/vulnerable pupils are currently receiving provision at Brays School - Tile Cross site - and this arrangement will continue after the half term break.

All pupils, parent/carers have been sent a text link to the step-by-step guide to access the school's remote offer. All pupils have a laptop and internet access. Any pupils requiring paper packs have been sent them and these are replenished on a regular basis.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

“Disability Discrimination Cases”

Question:

**How many Disability Discrimination cases have there been against
Birmingham schools since 2019 and what legal costs have been incurred?**

Answer:

There have been 2 disability discrimination cases against Birmingham maintained schools since 2019. No legal costs have been incurred by those schools. As Legal Services provides the legal representation and support, no additional legal costs have been incurred by the Council.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“DBS Checked”

Question:

You stated in in answer to Written Question B14 at the last Full Council Meeting that you can confirm that as of 12 January you have been assured that no drivers with a positive DBS are driving for the contractor. Please can you clarify the following points:

- **Are all positive DBS rejected for positions in Home to School Transport or can you give the details of the vetting and decision-making process to explore the nature of the positive DBS.**
- **Prior to 12 January did you not have the assurance that no drivers with a positive DBS are driving for the contractor and did you only seek that assurance based on the questioning we are raising through Council?**

Answer:

There is a suitability process for guides and passenger assistants in relation to home to school transport.

All staff need a 'contract ID badge' to work on the Council's contracts. To secure an ID badge, they must first undertake an enhanced DBS check. The applicant must share the DBS certificate and if there is any positive content, they are not automatically able to secure a contract ID badge.

In the cases where there is positive content, this is reviewed by the Council to identify the nature of the content, dates of any offences, repeated patterns of offences and so on. A panel then reviews this information to ascertain if the applicant is likely to pose a risk to vulnerable pupils and takes a decision on whether an ID badge can be offered.

This review process reflects similar processes in many local authorities across the country to ensure the most vulnerable pupils are safeguarded.

Prior to 12 January, we did have assurances that drivers with positive DBS outcomes were suitably risk assessed through the Council's approved procedures and this was not based on the questioning raised through Council.

Procedures for risk assessing these drivers have been updated over the period since the DBS system was introduced and the Council has sought to continuously improve the safeguarding of vulnerable service users through strengthening this process further over the past year.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE

“Data”

Question:

For the period January 2020 - present please provide the following data, all broken down by type (Refusal to Assess, Refusal to Issue, Section B,F,I):

- The number of appeals against the Council registered by SENDIST
- The number of appeals conceded by the local authority prior to hearings
- The number that went to hearing where the appeal was dismissed (i.e. the local authority's decision was deemed to be correct)
- The number of resulting tribunal orders which have not yet been complied with by the Council

Answer:

- The number of appeals against the Council registered by SENDIST

Month	Refusal to Assess	Refusal to Issue EHCP	Section I	Cease to maintain Plan	Contents of Plan	Contents of Plan & Section I	Grand Total
Jan-20	4	6	7	0	1	3	21
Feb-20	3	3	6	0	1	5	18
Mar-20	5	2	11	0	0	1	19
Apr-20	4	1	9	0	0	4	18
May-20	2	0	14	0	1	3	20
Jun-20	5	5	14	0	2	3	29
Jul-20	3	0	30	0	2	5	40
Aug-20	2	2	14	0	2	6	26
Sep-20	2	1	16	1	1	1	22
Oct-20	2	1	8	0	1	4	16

Month	Refusal to Assess	Refusal to Issue EHCP	Section I	Cease to maintain Plan	Contents of Plan	Contents of Plan & Section I	Grand Total
Nov-20	4	3	5	0	0	6	18
Dec-20	9	4	3	0	0	0	16
Jan-21	5	1	3	0	1	1	11
Grand Total	50	29	140	1	12	42	274

- The number of appeals conceded by the local authority prior to hearings
- The number that went to hearing where the appeal was dismissed (i.e. the local authority's decision was deemed to be correct)

Type of SENDIST Appeal	Cease to maintain Plan	Contents of Plan	Contents of Plan & Section I	Refusal to Assess	Refusal to Issue EHCP	Section I	Grand Total
Consent Order	0	1	18	0	1	46	66
Not Opposed	0	1	4	34	20	41	100
Withdrawn	1	1	2	1	0	13	18
Upheld	0	1	0	1	1	3	6
Upheld in part	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Appeal Denied	0	1	0	0	0	4	5
Grand Total	1	5	25	36	22	107	196

- The number of resulting tribunal orders which have not yet been complied with by the Council

There are four recent Orders from SENDIST which are currently in the process of being complied with in accordance with required timescales.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“Sensory Impaired Schools”

Question:

Proposals are currently being put forward by the Council that amount to an attack on the provision and placements at our sensory impairment schools (Braidwood, Longwill, Priestley Smith), this includes HI/Deaf & VI/Blind. These highly valued and highly regarded schools are jewels in the crown of the Special Schools and facilities in the city. There is no evidence of stakeholder involvement (Special Schools, parents and pupils, HI/Deaf community, VI/Blind community) in these proposals, nor of any political oversight.

Why is it now the Council's policy to undermine the viability of these schools, when was it approved and by whom?

Answer:

It is not the Council's policy to undermine the viability of the City's special schools that provide for children and young people with sensory impairments. It is not clear which specific proposals are being referred to that could be considered to amount to an attack on provision and placements at schools mentioned or any schools.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

“Additional Grant ”

Question:

It is understood the government has committed to provide £23m in funding to dozens of councils in England to help fight misinformation around coronavirus vaccines and to encourage uptake of the jab among more high-risk communities. Could the Cabinet Member confirm if the City has been allocated any additional grant through this scheme giving full details of the amount of grant awarded as well as an indication of how this money will be spent?

Answer:

In January 2021 Birmingham City Council Public Health team secured through a competitive process £440,000 of the Community Champions Fund from the Ministry of Housing and Local Communities (MHCLG) to support communication and engagement with residents impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The fund is to support communication and engagement with those communities identified to be at most at risk from COVID-19, including those from an ethnic minority background and disabled people, to help them follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves, and those around them.

This fund will enhance existing community engagement programme through additional targeted and tailored activity focusing on:

- Increasing the range of accessible information for hard to reach and vulnerable groups to include people with learning difficulties, poor literacy and vulnerable families.
- Extending engagement to those with limited digital access through the development of telephone trees for information dissemination through community partner organisations.
- Building on the existing COVID Community Champions programme to develop a bespoke Community Champion's programme for children and young people that will foster peer to peer and family sharing of information, advice and guidance on COVID 19.
- Developing arts-based messaging, particularly through different cultural mediums to engage with different ethnic communities.
- Developing a COVID-19 Business Community Champions approach to focus on engagement with the business community on a sectoral basis focused on hospitality, retail, manufacturing and entertainment to work with us to recruit more business owners into the community champion programme.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

“PPE for Carers ”

Question:

It has recently been announced that free PPE will be made available to carers who do not live with the people they care for and that 2/3 Local Authorities have signed up to assist with supply. Could the Cabinet Member confirm if Birmingham has lent its support to this important initiative?

Answer:

I can confirm that Birmingham City Council have been providing informal carers (who do not live with the person they care for) with PPE since June 2020 and widened the offer to live-in informal carers in November 2020 and will continue to do so in line with the Government PPE offer which currently ends on the 30th June 2021.

PPE can be requested either online through the Council website on the following link <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/xfp/form/738> or by calling the PPE Team on 0121 796 2577 (Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm excluding bank holidays).

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD

“Vaccinations for high risk community groups”

Question:

Whereas we welcome the new vaccination centres that have been arranged in places of community worship with the full co-operation of community faith leaders, we are still reading and hearing concerning reports of vaccinations not reaching some high-risk minority ethnic groups and of the City’s overall vaccination rate being worryingly low. Could the Cabinet Member give full details of what outreach is taking place to these communities?

Answer:

The NHS is leading on vaccination rollout and community engagement and this is led through the local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).

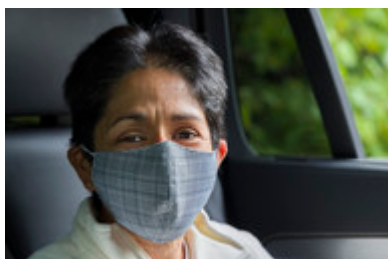
The Council is supporting the CCG by collaborating on a series of community webinars and live Q&A sessions chaired by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health with the Director of Public Health.

The Public Health Division have led a series of similar sessions for Covid Community Champions and for elected members and targeted groups such as social care staff.

The Council has also supported the CCG in dissemination of vaccination information and awareness, including promoting translated materials on the Council website and media channels.

I have continually shared information with all elected members to share with their constituents on increasing vaccination take up including messages targets at our minority ethnic groups.

Last week BAME councillors from across the Chamber recorded a short video that is being circulated to encourage vaccine take up.



BAME councillors come together to encourage vaccine uptake. Councillors from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds across Birmingham have joined together to publish a video promoting the covid-19 vaccine uptake within BAME communities. [Watch and share the video now.](#)

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

“Vaccinations”

Question:

How many testing and vaccination centres have had to close due to ice and snow so far since September 2020 to now, including how many days was each closure?

Answer:

A total of four Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing sites have had to close since September 2020 due to ice and snow. Over the weekend of the 23 and 24 January 2021, the Utilita Arena closed 2.5 hours early on one day, and each of our three mobile testing units was closed for 1.5 days.

The Council is not responsible for vaccination delivery or vaccination centres. This is managed by the NHS.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“HMO”

Question:

Since the expansion of HMO Licensing, to cover all HMOs that have five or more people in occupation, what is the increase in the staff in the Private Rented Sector Team who inspect licensed HMOs and how does this increase relate to the increase in the number of licensed HMOs (in actual numbers and percentage terms)?

Answer:

The mandatory licensing criteria changed on 1 October 2018, removing the three storey criteria. Prior to 1 October 2018, the HMO licensing team consisted of four officers who administer the licences. At the same time in the wider PRS service there were 5 Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) who as part of their role would undertake inspections of HMOs as well as other types of private sector accommodation.

In the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018, 158 applications were received. For the period 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019, 529 applications were received. This represents a 235% increase in applications. In the same period there were 214 licences issued in the period 1 April to 30 September 2018 and 222 licences issued in the period 1 October 2018. This was a 4% increase of HMO licences issued. The last financial year 300 applications were received and 304 licences issued. This is a 37% increase in licences issued.

Since the expansion in HMOs Licensing criteria, there has not been an increase in the staffing complement of the HMO Licensing Team or EHOs. However, there will be a recruitment drive to increase the service with an additional eight staff.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

“Digital Autopsy Service”

Question:

Will the Digital Autopsy service be retained after the trial?

Answer:

The formal trial for the digital autopsy ran from July 2019 to June 2020. The work arising from the pandemic and the demands it places on bereavement services staff means that a formal review has not been possible to date.

However, officers have put in place an agreement to continue with the service this year up to the end of June 2021, prior to any formal review. There is a demand for the service with 749 digital autopsies undertaken up to the end of January 2021. As you will be aware the introduction of this service was a manifesto commitment and I feel it is an important part of the service provided. I am certainly committed to the continuation of digital autopsy service, hoping any formal review will identify the lessons from the pilot to make the service more effective.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“HMO ”

Question:

How many HMO License Applications are currently waiting to be processed?

**Could the Cabinet Member please provide a breakdown, by year/month of
when these outstanding applications were submitted to the Council.**

Answer:

Year/Month	No
2019	
January	21
February	28
March	47
April	63
May	46
June	59
July	51
August	49
September	48
October	54
November	49
December	52

2020	No
January	24
February	38
March	52
April	58
May	46
June	63
July	58
August	42
September	58
October	41
November	38
December	58

2021	
January	42

Above are the outstanding licences waiting to be issued. The figure also includes applications received within the last 56 days, which is the target date for issuing a fully completed application.

There is a planned programme to eliminate the outstanding applications. The original plan was to complete the issuing of all outstanding licences received older than 56 days by 31 March. The target has had to be revised to May 2021 due to a number of issues which include reduced resources due to Covid, a number of incomplete applications received and approximately 300 paper applications which take longer to process.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Garage Maintenance”

Question:

What is the spend on garage maintenance for this year?

Answer:

Garage maintenance on Housing Revenue Account garages is carried out by the Repairs Contractors as part of the Price Per Property charge. The costs for garage maintenance are not able to be separately identified from the overall Price Per Property charge.

Forecast expenditure on capital investment on Housing Revenue Account garage sites this year is £0.05m.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Budget - Garage Maintenance”

Question:

What is it budgeted for in each of the next four years?

Answer:

Garage maintenance on Housing Revenue Account garages is carried out by the Repairs Contractors as part of the Price Per Property charge. The budget for garage maintenance is not separately identified from the overall Price Per Property budget.

The capital investment budgets for Housing Revenue Account garage sites over the next four years are in the table below.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£000	£000	£000	£000
HRA Garage Investment 2021/22 to 2024/25	744	400	438	64

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Running Service”

Question:

What is the cost of running the garage maintenance service?

Answer:

Garage maintenance on Housing Revenue Account garages is carried out by the Repairs Contractors as part of the Price Per Property charge. The budget for garage maintenance is not separately identified from the overall Price Per Property budget.

A full garage review will be concluded by March 2021 which will assist in informing the future capital investment required.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

“Street Litter Bins ”

Question:

How many on street litter bins have been removed (and how many new ones added) by Ward since May 2018?

Answer:

The service does not maintain a record of the number of bins removed nor the location from where they have been removed.

However, since 2018 596 have been purchased and installed giving rise to an approximate total of 6500 bins across the city.

The service is constantly reassessing priorities and need and if there are locations where the local bin requirement does need reassessment a manager would be available for a site visit.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

“Volunteers ”

Question:

The Council recently received significant national funding to support volunteer litter picking groups, I understand that part of this money was spent on wheelbarrows. Could the Cabinet Member state how many wheelbarrows were purchased, stating how many have been loaned to volunteers?

Answer:

Councils across England received funding to assist community groups in helping to clean up high streets and town centres. Birmingham received over £190k but with only days in which to spend it, otherwise it would have been clawed back. In total, we managed to purchase and receive over 4880 pieces of equipment including litter pickers, hoes, rakes, loppers and graffiti kits and develop a comprehensive training programme to assist community groups. In addition to this equipment, we also purchased and issued Cleaning Barrows. 75 were purchased and 23 have been issued to volunteer groups to date. Once Covid restrictions have been eased, further barrows will be issued. Groups have received equipment appropriate to their needs.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“City Centre Signposting ”

Question:

The City Centre is currently surrounded by confusing signposting and throughout there are many physical obstacles on the roads and pavements while many shops appear to have been vacated and put on the market.

What plan does his department have to ensure the centre is seen as “open to business” once lockdown rules are eased?

Answer:

The city is experiencing an unprecedented level of activity that impacts on its transport network – through investment in transport infrastructure including Metro and HS2 as well as redevelopment and regeneration projects.

Many of these works were planned or started prior to COVID-19 and several must be completed before the immovable deadline of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. With the significant reduction in visitors to the city centre over the last 11 months, we have been able accelerate delivery of some projects without a significant increase in disruption to members of the public.

Despite reduced numbers of people travelling to and around the city, our usual rigorous traffic management process has continued, with all signage and diversion routes submitted to our Traffic Management team for co-ordination and approval.

As soon as venues in the city centre start to open up again, our approach to works and other approvals will reflect the need to support renewed economic activity.

We are also progressing work on a streetworks permit system to further improve co-ordination of works and allow for more effective enforcement of conditions placed upon developers and contractors.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

“Draft Transport Plan”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member explain again why it has taken so long to bring the draft Birmingham Transport Plan and the responses to consultation for approval, explaining why a draft plan was used to underpin an “emergency plan”, which was also not subject to consultation?

Answer:

Consultation on the draft Birmingham Transport Plan ran from 28 January to 9 April 2020, with the original intention of adopting a final plan during 2020.

However, with the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, resource was diverted into the creation and delivery of an Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan (a low carbon, clean air recovery after COVID-19), published in May 2020. This set out plans for a wide range of emergency measures to support walking, cycling and public transport throughout the city, in light of the impact of COVID-19.

The Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan carried principles from the draft Birmingham Transport Plan, with both documents building on the adopted Birmingham Connected White Paper (2014), our 20-year transport strategy.

The Emergency Plan needed to be created and delivered at pace as part of the Council’s response to COVID-19. It was approved by the Acting Director, Inclusive Growth on 11 May 2020, in accordance with the Emergency Powers in Part E3 of the Constitution and was published on 14 May 2020, with endorsement via a Cabinet Member report on 10 June 2020. Some engagement with stakeholders took place as the Emergency Plan was being drafted, but there simply was not time to consult widely, nor was it considered appropriate as part of the emergency response.

Work has now resumed on the main Birmingham Transport Plan and the intention is to publish the consultation report and adopt the revised plan in the summer of 2021.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

“Carbon Cost”

Question:

What is the cost of the demolition work to the Perry Barr Flyover?

Answer:

The title of the question is inconsistent with its content.

It is not possible to extract the demolition costs from the whole scheme costs, as this information is commercially sensitive. The specific demolition cost would also be irrelevant as the demolition forms part of the whole scheme and could not have been carried out in isolation from the main works. The scheme costs are publicly available in the full business case documentation.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL

“Assessment – Perry Barr Flyover”

Question:

Please provide a copy of any assessments of the birds living under the Perry Barr Flyover carried out before demolition work began?

Answer:

The flyover at Perry Barr was demolished outside the bird nesting season. No birds were nesting in, on or around the flyover at the time of the demolition and no nests were disturbed as a result.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

“Assessment Impact”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the impact assessment on animals from the Perry Barr Flyover demolition works?

Answer:

A Screening Opinion was received that determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment was not required.

The flyover was not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations and there are no such sites within a 2km radius.

There are 11 non-statutory designated sites within a 1km radius of the A34 Highway Scheme, but due the location, scale and nature of the scheme it is not likely to impact on the ecological status of any of these non-statutory designated sites.

CITY COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEAD MEMBER FOR THE FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

“Sheldon Fire Station”

Question:

There have been serious concerns voiced in the community following the removal of the Brigade Response Vehicle from Sheldon Station which serves Yardley which was put in place originally because the second fire engine was withdrawn. Could you confirm when the Brigade Response Vehicle will be returned to Sheldon Station?

Answer:

The Brigade Response Vehicle located at Sheldon Community Fire Station has not been removed from our Service Delivery Model of frontline operational resources. The resource is removed temporarily utilising an evidenced and risk-based methodology called the Flexible Use of Resources. This approach was agreed and introduced by the Fire Authority in 2019 as a control measure to achieve financial efficiencies. The approach is spread evenly across the 11 Core Brigade Response Vehicles that are spread over the West Midlands conurbation. Statistics evidence that in the calendar year 2020 Fleet Availability equalled 92.7% which is a healthy return given the current pandemic.

The Flexible Use of Resources is evaluated and reviewed in collaboration with our Integrated Risk Manager to ensure no area of the West Midlands, including Yardley, are exposed to significant risk whilst implementing this approach.