



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL,
TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER
2023**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) in the Chair.

Councillors

Akhlaq Ahmed	Ray Goodwin	Basharat Mahmood
Saima Ahmed	Rob Grant	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Colin Green	Rashad Mahmood
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Lee Marsham
Robert Alden Gurdial	Roger Harmer	Karen McCarthy
Singh Atwal	Deborah Harries	Saddak Miah
Raqeeb Aziz	Adam Higgs	Shehla Moledina
Shabina Bano	Des Hughes	Gareth Moore
David Barker	Jon Hunt	Yvonne Mosquito
David Barrie	Mumtaz Hussain	Rick Payne
Baber Baz	Mahmood Hussain	David Pears
Matt Bennett	Shabrana Hussain	Miranda Perks
Jilly Bermingham	Timothy Huxtable	Rob Pocock
Marcus Bemasconi	Mohammed Idrees	Julien Pritchard
Bushra Bi	Zafar Iqbal	Darius Sandhu
Sir Albert Bore	Katherine Iroh	Kath Scott
Nicky Brennan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Kerry Brewer	Morriam Jan	Rinkal Shergill
Marje Bridle	Meirion Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Martin Brooks	Brigid Jones	Ron Storer
Mick Brown	Jane Jones	Saima Suleman
Zaker Choudhry	Amar Khan	Jamie Tennant
Debbie Clancy	Ayoub Khan	Sharon Thompson
Liz Clements	Saqib Khan	Paul Tilsley
Maureen Cornish	Izzy Knowles	Lisa Trickett
John Cotton	Narinder Kaur	Penny Wagg
Phil Davis	Kooner	Alex Yip
Jack Deakin	Kirsten Kurt-Elli	Waseem Zaffar
Adrian Delaney	Mary Locke	
Barbara Dring	Ewan Mackey	
Sam Forsyth		

NOTICE OF RECORDING

167 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's Public-I website and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

(During the meeting the live broadcast stopped working)

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

168 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Lisa Trickett declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda Item 8, Executive Business Report, Environment and Transport update having designed the model for Net Zero Neighbourhoods and then being commissioned to develop a bid in Birmingham.

Councillor Lisa Trickett would leave the Chamber for this agenda item.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

169 **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the City Council meeting held on 13 July 2023 be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Death of Former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Brenda Clarke.

The Lord Mayor indicated his first announcement related to the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Brenda Clarke who passed away on 9 July. Brenda served as a Councillor for Kingstanding Ward from 1987 to 2003; during which time she served on numerous Committees, Sub-Committees and outside bodies.

She became an Honorary Alderman on 20 May 2003.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

170

RESOLVED:-

That this Council placed on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Brenda Clarke and its appreciation of her devoted service to the residents of Birmingham.

The Council extended its deepest sympathy to Brenda's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a number of tributes were made by Members.

2. Section 114 Notice

The Lord Mayor referred to the publication of the report from the Section 151 Officer which had been issued under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988.

Following this, he invited the leader of the Council to make a statement, following which he invited each of the opposition group leaders to speak on the matter.

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 1, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

In accordance with the proposals by the Members presenting the petitions, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

171

RESOLVED:-

That the petitions were received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer(s).

Petitions Update

A Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

(See document No. 2, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

172

RESOLVED:-

That the Petitions Update be noted and those petitions for which a satisfactory response has been received, be discharged.

QUESTION TIME

173 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

Details of the questions asked are available for public inspection via the webcast.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

174 No appointments were made at this meeting.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT (ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT)

Councillor Lisa Trickett left the Chamber for this agenda item having declared a pecuniary interest.

A report of Cabinet was submitted:-

(See document No. 3, agenda item 8)

The Lord Mayor made the Council aware that at a meeting of the Council Business Management Committee, held on 29 August, a decision was taken to suspend standing orders for this item so as to enable the two Cabinet Members to speak for five and half minutes each when moving and seconding. The response time would also be split.

The Lord Mayor moved that standing orders be suspended for this item. This was seconded and agreed.

Councillor Liz Clements moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Majid Mahmood.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Deirdre Alden, Lee Marsham, Colin Green, Julien Pritchard and Timothy Huxtable spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillors Liz Clements and Majid Mahmood to sum up.

It was therefore-

175 **RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council noted the report.

ADJOURNMENT

176 It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be adjourned until 1650 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1620 hours.

At 1650 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

A report from Councillor Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities was submitted:-

(See document No. 4, agenda item 9)

Councillor Nicky Brennan moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Karen McCarthy.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Morriam Jan, Sam Forsyth, Shabrana Hussain, Lisa Trickett and Ayoub Khan spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Nicky Brennan to sum up.

It was therefore-

177 **RESOLVED:-**

- 1.) That City Council approved the Birmingham Children's Trust's 2023 – 2028 Youth Justice Plan.
-

LEAD MEMBER REPORT – WMCA SCRUTINY

A report of Chair of the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Cathy Bayton was submitted:-

(See document No. 5, agenda item 10)

Councillor Jamie Tennant moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Lisa Trickett.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Ewan Mackey, Roger Harmer, Julien Pritchard, Liz Clements and Timothy Huxtable spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Jamie Tennant to sum up.

It was therefore-

178

RESOLVED:-

1.) That City Council noted the report.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

A. Councillors Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 6, agenda item 11)

Councillor Roger Harmer moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Morriam Jan.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Martin Brooks and Sharon Thompson gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 7 agenda item 11, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Martin Brooks moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Sharon Thompson.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 8 agenda item 11 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Robert Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 9 agenda item 11 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Julien Pritchard moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Rob Grant.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Sir Albert Bore, Jon Hunt and Gareth Moore spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Roger Harmer to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Martin Brooks and Sharon Thompson having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:-

“Council notes that construction, regeneration and development in Birmingham is happening at a fast pace across the city and surrounding neighbourhoods, as Birmingham is remodelled for the future.

Council notes that consultation with the people of Birmingham is vital, and that the people of Birmingham must be able to trust that their views have been acknowledged and incorporated where possible.

Pre-consultation is an important phase of planning. People that will be affected by redevelopment and regeneration should be consulted so that a body of evidence can be given to developers and planners before plans are drawn up.

The Council developed a Statement of Community Involvement which was adopted by Cabinet in 2020 and sets out how the Council will work to encourage more people to participate in decision-making in Planning. The statement sets out the Council’s minimum standards for consultation on new policies and planning applications.

The Council resolves to call on the Executive to work with relevant officers to assess the impact of the Statement of Community Involvement, taking into account how the statement delivers effective engagement with all stakeholders of Birmingham in accordance with the Consultation Principles outlined in the SCI.”

B. Councillors Karen McCarthy and David Barker had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No.10 agenda item 11) 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Karen McCarthy moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor David Barker.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Baber Baz and Zaker Choudhry gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 11 agenda item 11, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Baber Baz moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Zaker Choudhry.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Karen McCarthy to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Baber Baz and Zaker Choudhry having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:-

"This Council notes that:

- There is growing evidence that trauma, particularly in childhood, has long-term negative impacts on lives and social, health, and economic outcomes.
- It has a responsibility to provide the best support within its means for residents and that it is important that trauma is recognised and understood by staff, particularly those who fulfil a range of customer-facing roles. Such recognition and understanding of trauma would improve the quality of interactions and standard of service and provide opportunities for potential support to be offered.
- Experience of justice services, alcohol and drugs issues, mental health crisis, children's social care and homelessness also disproportionately affect people who have faced significant trauma in their lives.
- These kinds of experiences have been found to result in increased risk of poor health and social outcomes, as well as difficulties accessing or maintaining access to services. This can mean that those most in need of help will often be the ones who face the greatest barriers to accessing it.

- Local and Regional Authorities across the country, such as the West Midlands Combined Authority, Plymouth City Council, Kent County Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Inverclyde Council, Southampton City Council, Islington Council, and Derby City Council, have adopted Trauma-Informed Practice approaches.

This Council believes in adopting a Psychologically-Informed and Trauma-Informed Practice. This is a strengths-based, non-pathologizing approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.

We call on the Executive to take the following steps to help the Council to become 'trauma informed':

- Use the learning and research on trauma to inform change in practice and thus be better able to reduce the negative effects of trauma on the lives of all with whom we come in contact.
- Look into providing Trauma Informed Practice training to officers and members.
- Assess options to broaden and embed Trauma Informed Practice within Council directorates.
- Continue to work with our partners and key stakeholders as a trauma informed network and implement a consistent approach across all bodies.
- Deliver services by responding to individuals' needs and creating nurturing and supportive environments where people feel valued, and efforts are made to resist inadvertent re-traumatisation.
- Adopting the trauma-informed principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity so that we can help people to overcome the effects of trauma and improve both access to services and long-term outcomes."

The meeting ended at 1915 hours.

CITY COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2023
WRITTEN QUESTIONS
TO CABINET MEMBERS

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“Fire and Rehire”

Question:

Given your comments at Cabinet in July on the process of Fire and Rehire, are you categorically ruling this out as part of the solution to the issue of Equal Pay?

Answer:

Fire and rehire is not within the values of a Labour council. We value our staff and want to work with them to resolve the pay inequalities that exist in our organisation.

We look forward to the incoming Labour Government outlawing the draconian practice of fire and rehire.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

“Interims and Agency”

Question:

By week, since 1 January 2023, how much has been spent on a) interims and b) agency staff, broken down by Directorate?

Answer:

We are invoiced by most suppliers monthly and therefore are not able to break this down to accurately show the weekly spend. We therefore provide the costs, broken down by monthly spend.

Table A Interims (paid on a day rate)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Adults Social Care	£42,933	£46,076	£80,056	£57,222	£38,076.94	£135,631.44	£86,696.66
Commonwealth Games 2022	£3,362	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Council Management	£1,381,206	£1,375,576	£1,606,751	£1,065,361	£1,802,292.33	£2,533,764.12	£1,605,857.94
Children and Families	£1,182,608	£1,173,321	£1,347,864	£933,285	£1,430,085.54	£1,894,706.67	£1,328,190.67
Places, Prosperity and Sustainability	£189,754	£160,172	£184,519	£119,366	£27,868.60	£67,164.59	£182,625.29
City Housing	£15,386	£0	£0	£0	£46,767.45	£123,864.07	£162,571.04
City Operations	£4,703	£285	£0	£0	£0	£3,461.50	£23,373.70
Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships	£37,024	£35,933	£48,249	£33,663	£42,892.51	£63,055.04	£128,817.84

Table B Agency Staff (paid on an hourly rate)

Directorate	Agency Expenditure by month						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Adults Social Care	£1,022,028	£996,505	£1,174,272	£776,151	£1,096,378.64	£1,467,430.51	£1,112,316.76
Commonwealth Games 2022	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Council Management	£397,908	£396,090	£450,939	£383,276	£956,759.80	£1,360,585.72	£933,510.65
Children and Families	£138,938	£130,753	£134,337	£95,611	£150,005.39	£239,713.13	£110,019.08
Places, Prosperity and Sustainability	£117,977	£125,306	£147,909	£102,232	£12,423.23	£32,669.01	£85,478.24
City Housing	£241,240	£222,117	£267,589	£195,242	£389,982.38	£393,283.59	£355,607.28
City Operations	£1,562,297	£1,353,715	£1,658,000	£1,582,314	£1,887,857	£1,764,330.15	£1,821,726.31
Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships	£27,170	£20,813	£67,140	£13,239	£31,568.26	£48,831.22	£27,632.50

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“JNC staff numbers”

Question:

As of the 1 September in each year since 2016, how many JNC staff did the council employ (on either a permanent or interim basis)?

Answer:

We are able to report accurate recordings taking us back to 2021/2022; this information is drawn from our local JNC master tracker. We also store this information on a fiscal basis (Apr – Mar) rather than from September. For clarity, the figures against interims are based on the individual being Inside IR35, covering a JNC position and being appointed within the fiscal year; this is not reflective of individuals that may have been appointed prior to that fiscal year and were on continuous assignment.

We have provided the figures as the request states:

Year	Permanent Appts	Interim Appts
2021/2022	13	9
2022/2023	24	15
2023/2024 (current)	4	0

We do not have an accurate picture for permanent employees for the years 2016 to 2021. We also do not have sufficient information on the interim appointments made in the preceding years as this information was only partially recorded on the previous HR system (SAP)

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

“Council Assets”

Question:

Excluding council housing under right to buy, please provide a list of all council assets sold since 2012, including the value sold for.

Answer:

Excluding houses sold under the Right to Buy legislation, the Council has sold land and property assets generating £429,442,608 in capital receipts between 1st April 2011 and 30th June 2023.

The year on year breakdown is summarised as follows:-

General & Commercial Portfolio Disposals : 2011/12 - Q1 2023/24	
Financial Year	Total Receipts
2011/12	£19,080,477
2012/13	£23,834,765
2013/14	£19,118,442
2014/15	£36,479,156
2015/16	£36,296,603
2016/17	£42,372,187
2017/18	£27,079,878
2018/19	£29,207,838
2019/20	£32,344,091
2020/21	£38,634,244
2021/22	£76,706,820
2022/23	£42,503,157
2023/24 up to Qtr ended 30/06/23.	£5,784,950
Total	£429,442,608

This covers assets sold from the Council’s operational portfolio, the commercial portfolio and all miscellaneous sales of other parcels of land and property from the Housing Revenue account (excluding house sales under Right to Buy).

A full summary of all land and property assets sold during this period and the corresponding capital receipts generated is included in the attached summary documents covering each financial year from 2011/12 through to Quarter 1 in the current financial year.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

“Weightmans”

Question:

Given that DBS compliance continues to be an issue in the city, and given both Cllr R Alden and myself have previously voiced concerns and been dismissed by the Administration, will the Council now release the full unredacted Weightmans report so that the public can see what needs fixing with regard to safeguarding vulnerable people in this city and the Administration can be held to account for progress in implementing the recommendations in the report?

Answer:

Due to the Weightmans report containing personal sensitive data of individuals it is therefore unable to be made publicly available under the GDPR. However, you have been furnished with a copy of the redacted report.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Crisis hires”

Question:

How many people have the council hired, either directly or through consultants to look at the finances, equal pay, and Oracle messes since 1 January 2023? Please break this down by equivalent salary range <£50k, £50-79k, £80-£99k, >£100k

Answer:

Service	FTE	Headcount	< £50K	£50K to £79K	£80- £99k	> £100K
Oracle – all consultants for People Services, Digital & Technology Services, & Finance (excluding PWC Third Party contract)	77.8	79	48	5	1	25
Equal Pay Legal team	0	0				
Job Evaluation	6	6	4	2		
Total	83.8	85	52	7	1	25

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Equal Pay liability ”

Question:

Bearing in mind the judge led enquiry will look into evidence for this, prior to becoming Leader, had you been briefed at any point that the figures for equal pay could possibly have a maximum liability level either higher or lower than the £760m figure given in the press. If so what were these figures and on what dates?

Answer:

I am pleased that Cllr Higgs welcomes my decision to commission a judge-led inquiry into these issues.

Since entering our posts in May, myself and Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson have worked tirelessly to unearth the issues facing Birmingham City Council.

In my previous Cabinet role, a presentation was shared on 3 February 2023, that highlighted a potential estimated range of liability.

On coming into office as Leader, officers were rapidly asked to carry out detailed and fresh analysis.

Once we knew the precise scale of the liability, we made it public as soon as possible as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“MARS scheme ”

Question:

The Unions have stated that the Council started negotiating the MARS scheme, which is a measure to balance the books through resignations, last October. Is this correct and at what point were you, as the cabinet member responsible for HR, first told these negotiations were happening and for what purpose were you told it was happening?

Answer:

The discussions with Trades Unions in relation to MARS have been happening since at least August 2022. The scheme was originally part of a wider programme of work described as Workforce Transitions.

As the People Services Bold Plan has developed, the elements of the wider programme have been subsumed into business as usual activity or other plans, leaving just the mutually agreed resignation scheme.

The first Corporate Consultative Committee (the forum for the Leader and trades unions) in which MARS was discussed was September 2022. MARS was discussed again at the CCC in March 2023.

The purpose of the scheme was clear and related to realising workforce savings and encouraging cultural change in the organisation by supporting colleagues to leave. The scheme has been discussed numerous times at CLT.

A10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Task and Finish”

Question:

You have publicly stated that you sought and received personal assurances that task and finish had ended within the waste collection service. On what date did you seek those assurances and what was the response given and by whom?

Answer:

As the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, I frequently sought and received assurances at EMT and Leader briefings that task and finish had ended within the waste collection service.

Upon becoming Leader, I have worked with senior officers to gain further assurances that these practices have stopped.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Equal Pay briefings”

Question:

Please list all dates since 2017 on which Cabinet Members have been briefed on the potential equal pay liability faced by the Council, including the range of figures provided as to the potential size of this liability at each stage a briefing was provided and the names of the Cabinet Members this information was shared with.

Answer:

Cabinet Members have been briefed regularly on the issue of Equal Pay and the Council’s potential liabilities.

Since entering our posts in May, myself and Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson have worked tirelessly to unearth the issues facing Birmingham City Council.

On coming into office as Leader, officers were rapidly asked to carry out detailed and fresh analysis.

Once we knew the precise scale of the liability, we made it public as soon as possible as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Staff Grievances”

Question:

In each month since April 2018, by Department, how many grievances were raised by staff and what was the average time taken to resolve these?

Answer:

People Services introduced a new case management system since November 22 and does not have information on grievance cases from April 2018. Often grievances are managed locally, and People Services will only record information if employees or managers refer the matter to the central team. Currently People Services have 28 recorded grievances.

From November 2022 (start of new case management system) to 06/09/23 we can confirm:

1. 36 grievances were open and then closed/resolved.
2. The grievances were from the following Directorates:

Directorate	Grievance numbers
Adults	5
Children and Families	2
City Operations	11
Council Management	9
Commonwealth Games	4
Housing	5

Based on reviewing the 36 cases the average time to resolve or address grievances was 2.5 months. 11 cases were resolved in 1 month or less, 25 cases have taken over 2 months.

A13

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Perry Barr development”

Question:

How many properties in the Perry Barr development (athletes village) have now been completed, including fittings, out of how many in total planned?

Answer:

Planning consent for Phase 1 is for 1,414 homes.

The FBC agreed by Cabinet in July 2021 confirmed that 968 would be built as Phase 1a.

Of these 430 are fully fitted out and 270 are in progress due to be completed early 2024. 268 later living scheme are intended to be sold to an investor ahead of full fit out by the Investor.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

“Perry Barr development”

Question:

Please provide details of the kitchens used for the Perry Barr Development (Athletes Village) including:

- a) how many have now been fitted**
- b) how many are in storage**
- c) the total cost of the storage for kitchens for the development**
- d) how long they have been in storage**

Answer:

- a) 430 completed, with 270 underway.**
- b) None are in external storage. We are taking advantage of the dry car parks within the plot.**
- c) No additional cost.**
- d) NA**

A15

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

“Perry Barr development communal facilities”

Question:

For the Perry Barr development (athletes village) how many properties were built with communal facilities that have now been, or are set to be, converted for single family dwellings?

Answer:

No properties were built with communal facilities. All apartments are completely self-contained.

A16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

“Employee Numbers”

Question:

How many staff has the council employed, split between directly and indirectly, on 1 April each year since 2010?

Answer:

Headcount and FTE data is held in our HR system and is provided below for each year since 2010 (data excludes casual, sessional, school staff).

Date	Headcount	FTE
2010	9159	6968.882
2011	10561	8181.58
2012	11331	8979.86
2013	11102	8741.744
2014	15128	12556.49
2015	14657	12194.99
2016	13943	11673.47
2017	12910	10894.04
2018	10376	8849.62
2019	10230	8775.35
2020	10019	8710.03
2021	9968	8670.39
2022	10107	8816.12
2023	9945	8600.14

Agency, Interim and Consultant (contingent) staff is not held in the same format as they are not contracted employees. Contingency staff come through a procurement route and not an employment route, so information was not previously held centrally as local managers would have determined need.

Since January 2023 People Services have worked to develop an improved method of recruiting contingent workforce, and through our relationship with suppliers it has enabled us to begin to collect information in one place. This is still a work in progress as we continue to validate data of those contracted prior to January 2023. We are therefore only able to provide the headcount for our contingent staff as of 1st April 2023 which at that time was 1377. We were aware that this number did not accurately reflect the council position and have since worked to collate further data and validate this information.

A17

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU

“Lee Rowley Letter”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the letter of 6 April 2023 sent by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government requesting an external governance review and the Council’s response to this letter.

Answer:



1738tr L Rowley
MP.pdf



Ian Ward Letter .pdf

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

“Job Evaluation Staff”

Question:

What proportion of staff working on Equal Pay and Job Evaluation (either permanently or on secondment) are

- a) Union Reps for one of the three recognised trade unions involved in the equal pay dispute, and**
- b) members of one of the three recognised trade unions involved in the equal pay dispute?**

Answer:

- a. None
- b. The Council does not keep a record of whether or not its employees are members of a trade union. This is because the practice of listing trade union members, activists and health and safety representatives by an employer for the purposes of making recruitment or management decisions regarding those employees is prohibited by the Employment Relations Act 1999 (Blacklists) Regulations 2010

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

“Job Evaluation Progress”

Question:

Since the partnership agreement with the Unions in December 2020 what progress has been made on the job evaluation scheme, including a) amount spent, and b) total number of job roles evaluated (out of how many) c) original target completion date?

Answer:

- a. Budget tracking is not available at the present time, however, it will be available in the coming weeks.
- b. No roles have been evaluated under the programme as the evaluation phase has not commenced.
- c. The original estimate of the duration of the programme was 24 months from the commencement of the evaluation phase.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

“RAAC”

Question:

How many council buildings have been checked for RAAC and how many have been identified as having RAAC?

Answer:

As part of our ongoing condition survey program for the operational portfolio, excluding residential and school buildings, Acivico has conducted a comprehensive assessment. This assessment involved a desktop survey aimed at identifying any buildings that might have been constructed using RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) components. Buildings flagged as potential candidates in the desktop study underwent subsequent physical examinations. Up to the present moment, none of the buildings within the operational portfolio have been identified as having been constructed with RAAC elements.

To provide some historical context, discussions regarding RAAC were initiated with Safety Services back in 2000. Subsequently, an assessment of the operational portfolio, excluding residential and school buildings, was incorporated into the corporate compliance program. This compliance program spans from April 2000 to March 2024. Buildings within the operational portfolio were reviewed as part of the routine condition survey inspection regime associated with this program.

In cases where our surveyors had suspicions regarding the potential presence of RAAC, based on observations, the age of the building, or its construction style, we took the extra step of ordering additional drone surveys. Even after the drone surveys, if concerns still remained about a building potentially containing RAAC, we conducted intrusive sampling. In total, we sampled six buildings, and the materials tested in these cases were not confirmed to be of RAAC construction.

I can confidently confirm that none of the six surveyed premises were found to have RAAC present.

Please note that this response specifically excludes schools from our assessment.

A21

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ROGER HARMER**

“Planning applications”

Question:

“A key tenet of councillor casework is planning applications. The council currently operates a system whereby councillors are not notified of changes made to any applications within the ward.

Furthermore, they cannot sign up or ask for updates. This is not efficient.

What system or working modifications can be made so that councillors can be kept up to date on key planning applications that are happening within the ward?”

Answer:

If any changes are made to planning applications that are significant in nature they will be reconsulted on in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement. In these cases, interested parties will be re-notified.

Unfortunately, the current planning back-office system does not have the capability to allow interested parties to be updated when minor changes are made to planning applications. We are currently working on a new back-office system that has enhanced engagement features, which includes enhanced notification and alert abilities.

A22

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DEBORAH HARRIES**

“Cabinet reports”

Question:

“In July’s cabinet, the Independent Transport Training programme was passed, with glowing comments from the cabinet. The report included positive citations from 2 parents, but one of those parents got in touch with us afterwards saying that she had been mis-represented.

When residents are quoted in cabinet reports, what checks are made to ensure that they agree with the ways that their views are represented in a report?”

Answer:

If residents are named or quoted in documents for any cabinet reports, this should be checked and agreed beforehand.

The Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Families confirmed at September’s cabinet meeting that all testimonials included in the Independent Travel Training cabinet report had been provided by parents who had been made aware that they would be included in the report.

One parent was referred to as an active member of Birmingham Parent Carer Forum in the report in error. The Cabinet Member and I wrote to the parent in question last month to apologise for this.

The minutes from July’s cabinet meeting will be updated to clarify this point.

A23

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Perry Barr masterplan”

Question:

“Given that private conversations that have evidently taken place over the future of the Perry Barr greyhound site, will the Leader reconsider the creation of an accountable board for the Perry Barr masterplan, with community and elected member representation?”

Answer:

The emerging proposals for the Greyhound Stadium site are being developed by a third party. Any pre-application discussions are commercially confidential and would not in any case be discussed within any governance structure.

There is already a well-established Perry Barr 2040 Steering Group represented by key officers, other external public sector partners including Homes England, West Midlands Combined Authority. The PB2040 governance arrangements include a community forum made up of a multitude of local representatives and community interest groups. At present, this serves the purpose of engaging with the local community and key stakeholders for specific projects within the programme, such as the feasibility studies in relation to the repurposing of the Perry Barr bus Depot.

Alongside the Community Forum, there has been ongoing engagement with ward members via informal communications about the PB2040 programme (such as face to face; site visits etc) and formal briefings (updates at Ward Forums). Additionally, a Perry Barr Youth Panel is being established working jointly with BCC Youth Service.

A24

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Our Future City”

Question:

“Can the Leader please provide data that relates to the consultation process for “Our Future City.”

Can this data be broken down by demographic group/ resident ward and consultation event date and can it make clear the number of people who attended excluding any council staff?”

Answer:

Birmingham City Council consulted on the ‘Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040’ (draft framework), between 25th May to 17th August 2023. The consultation sought views on the vision and proposals within the draft framework. The council undertook a first round of consultation on the ‘Our Future City Plan: Shaping Our City Together’ document between 26th January to 26th March 2021. This previous consultation informed the draft framework which has now been consulted on.

Prior to the formal consultation period, the council undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify the communities, stakeholders and partners who would be most impacted upon by the proposals. This also helped identify any ‘seldom heard group’ across Birmingham allowing for a targeted approach towards engagement. The objectives of the consultation were to:

- Test the proposals within the draft framework;
- Build excitement around proposals;
- Spark debate and engagement with the entire community;
- Build market and business confidence;
- Show the city has opportunities and aspirations;
- Develop relationships with stakeholders and foster ongoing engagement and
- Build trust with the community.

Consultation Events

Officers organised and attended approximately twenty-one consultation drop-in events in numerous locations across the framework boundary. Over the twenty-one events, officers engaged with approximately 806 people. A list of the events is included below

Table of in-person events:

Date	Time	Type of event	Venue	Number of people engaged
Tuesday 30 May	10am to 12.30pm	Drop-in session	Sparkbrook Health and Community Centre	10
Thursday 1 st June	12pm to 4pm	'Meet the expert' event	Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum	56
Wednesday 7 June	10am to 3pm	Drop-in session	The Custard Factory Reception	30
Thursday 8 June	1pm to 5pm	Drop-in session	Handsworth Library	70
Friday 9 June	9.30am to 11.30am	Community morning	Nechells Pod Place of Welcome	23
Friday 9 June	2pm to 5pm	Colmore BID Community Games	Colmore BID Community Games Cathedral Grounds, Colmore Row, B3 22B	20
Saturday 10 June	11am to 3pm	NSPCC Charity day	Centenary Square	75
Saturday 10 June	11am to 4pm	Balsall Heath Mini Festival	The Old Print Works, Moseley	25
Tuesday 13 June	10:00am to 3:00pm	'Meet the expert' event	The Old Print Works, Moseley	30
Thursday 15 June	11am to 3pm	Drop-in session	Stanhope Community Centre	21
Wednesday 21 June	10am to 3pm	Drop-in session	The Custard Factory Reception	25
Wednesday 21 June	3:30pm to 7pm	Drop-in session	Ladywood Health and Community Centre	13
Thursday 22 June	1pm to 3pm	Windrush Celebration	Nechells Pod	15
Saturday 24 June	11am to 3pm	Drop-in session	Morrisons Supermarket, St Andrews Shopping Park	35
Wednesday 28 June	3pm to 6:30pm	Drop-in session	Aldi Store, Newtown Shopping Centre	142
Thursday 29 June	10am to 2pm	Drop-in session	Nechells Wellbeing Centre	14
Tuesday 4 July	11am to 4pm	Drop-in session	Library of Birmingham	51
Thursday 6 th July	4pm to 7pm	'Meet the expert' event	Small heath Wellbeing Centre	6

Saturday 8 July	1pm to 3pm	Edgbaston Market	Edgbaston Artisan Market, Greenfield Crescent	50
Monday 10 July	2pm to 6pm	Drop-in session	Birmingham Springhill Superstore	92
Thursday 13 th July	4pm to 6pm	'Meet the expert' event	Small Heath Wellbeing Centre	3
				806

Online Engagement

Council officers hosted two online events over Microsoft Teams held between 6pm and 7pm on Monday 3rd and 24th July 2023. Both events included a thirty-minute presentation where officers provided a brief overview of the contents of the draft framework as well as information on how participants could have their say. There was also an opportunity for questions and answers. Both events were attended by approximately 17 individuals each. A statutory online Planning Event was held on Wednesday 12th July which was attended by 20 people from 13 different agencies. Statutory consultees are organisations and bodies, defined by statute, who must be consulted on relevant planning applications. For example, the Environment Agency.

Videos

Three videos were produced to support the consultation. The details of each video are set out below:

- A two-minute video was produced to promote the draft framework and generate excitement and discussion. The video was available on the council's webpage and promoted on social media. It has been viewed approximately 2,600 times.
- A thirty-minute video was produced which provided an overview of the vision and proposals within the draft framework and how people can get involved in the consultation. It has been viewed approximately 930 times.
- The council also commissioned Beatfreaks to produce a video of ten young people explaining what their vision for Birmingham. It has been viewed approximately 340 times.

Formal Consultation Representations:

- Approximately 330 formal representations received.
- Approximately 80 emails and letters received and 250 questionnaires completed on BeHeard.

The council's online consultation portal BeHeard was used to host the online questionnaire and social media was used to promote the consultation and raise awareness. The Beheard Questionnaire included questions to inform equalities data. However, these questions were optional, and the data is still being reviewed and will be included in the Consultation Report to inform the Cabinet Report process to publish the Final Our Future City 'Central Birmingham Framework' in early 2024.

A25

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Planning consultation process – Ladywood Regeneration”

Question:

“Can the Leader please provide data that relates to the consultation process for the Ladywood regeneration project.

Can this data be broken down by demographic group/ resident ward and consultation event date and can it make clear the number of staff who were present at each event, separate to the public attendances?”

Answer:

The consultation process for the Ladywood project has not started. It is planned to start in early 2024.

The Council has developed a set of FAQs, which we hope will answer some of the local communities questions at this early stage.

In order to capture wider feedback, we will be working with the local community to develop and agree a Resident and Community Charter – enabling the local community to help shape the plans, set out what they can expect from us and how we will communicate with the community going forwards.

The council are planning a number of engagement meetings over the next few months before formal consultation begins in the new year.

(Details of the engagement sessions will available tomorrow – letter via post to residents and website)

B

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
FOR THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER

“Transport Providers”

Question:

Please list all providers currently used for Home to School Transport, along with the date each one last received a compliance visit.

Answer:

Provider	Date of last compliance visit
AFJ Travel Ltd	24/08/2023
Birmingham City Council Adult Services Transport	07/09/2023
Elite Radio Cars Ltd	19/05/2023
Green Destinations Ltd	01/09/2023
Healthcare and Transport Services Ltd (HATS Group)	25/08/2023
Lawrences Garages (Lozells) Ltd	27/06/2023
National Express Accessible Transport (NEAT)	13/07/2023
Roundabout Cars Birmingham Ltd	02/06/2023
Select Private Hire Ltd	26/05/2023
Shencare Community Transport	04/09/2023
T.O.A. Taxis (Radio System) Ltd	15/05/2023
Taxie Limited (eCars Private Hire)	06/07/2023
Take Me Services (TC Cars) Ltd	31/08/2023
Touchwood Private Hire Ltd	13/07/2023

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

“Home to School Transport Costs”

Question:

What has been the total cost of Home to School Transport in each year since 2015?

Answer:

Data for 2015 and 2016 is not currently available.

Year	Cost of home to school transport (£m)
2017-2018	20.5
2018-2019	21.8
2019-2020	25.4
2020-2021	26.6
2021-2022	30.1
2022-2023	Outturn not yet published

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

“Home to School Transport Taxi Costs”

Question:

How much of the total spend on Home to School Transport in each year since 2015 has been paid to taxi firms transporting individual children or young people to/from school?

Answer:

This breakdown is not available.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY

“Home to School Transport Taxi Numbers”

Question:

How many individuals were transported to school in taxis in each year since 2015?

Answer:

This information is not available for the whole period requested. As at the end of the 2022/23 academic year, 1,704 pupils were receiving taxi* transport to school. At the start of the 2023/24 academic year (as at 6 September 2023) 1,313 were receiving taxi transport to school.

*For the purpose of this answer, taxi transport has been defined as transport by car, MPV (6 seater), MPV (8 seater), or Wheelchair Accessible Black Cab.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE

“Home to School Transport Appeals”

Question:

Please provide the total number of stage one and two appeals for home to school transport in each year since 2015, broken down the those won and lost.

Answer:

Data not available for the whole period requested.

Stage 1 (03/02/23 – 04/09/23)

Number of appeals	Appeals agreed and any assistance awarded	Appeals declined
289	164 (of which 128 had shared transport awarded)	125

Stage 2 (03/04/23 - 04/09/23)

Number of appeals	Appeals agreed and any assistance awarded	Appeals declined
61	45 (of which 36 had shared transport awarded)	16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

“Home to School Transport Tribunals”

Question:

In each year since 2015, please detail the number of tribunals for home to school transport, including the total number, total number upheld and the total cost to the council of defending these tribunals?

Answer:

There have not been any tribunals regarding home to school transport since at least 2019. Data is not available prior to that.

C7

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

“Home to School Transport Judicial Reviews”

Question:

Please list all Judicial Reviews against the council with regard to Home to School Transport, detailing the court reference, outcome, and total cost to the council of defending the legal action.

Answer:

There have not been any Judicial Reviews regarding home to school transport since at least 2019.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum”

Question:

“Does the council fund Birmingham Parent Carer Forum or its activities in any way, such as paying for a worker or providing a venue?”

Answer:

Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children’s Trust and the Integrated Care Board (NHS) each provide Birmingham Parent Carer Forum with £7,472.12 per year via Birmingham Voluntary Services Council to fund a Participation Coordinator. A standard hosting agreement is in place.

C10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum (BPCF)”

Question:

“How were the current members of BPCF management committee elected and when will the BPCF AGM be held?”

Answer:

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. The national organisation representing Parent Carer Forums, Contact (<https://contact.org.uk/>), states that the aim of Parent Carer Forums is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made. As it is an independent body, we are not able to answer this question on the Forum’s behalf.

C11

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES

“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum (BPCF)”

Question:

“What steps are BPCF taking to ensure they capture the views of as many SEND parents in the city as possible, including those that are seldom heard?”

Answer:

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. The national organisation representing Parent Carer Forums, Contact (<https://contact.org.uk/>), states that the aim of Parent Carer Forums is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families. Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made. As it is an independent body, we are not able to answer this question on the Forum's behalf.

C12

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHURY

“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) members”

Question:

How many active members does BPCF have?”

Answer:

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. The national organisation representing Parent Carer Forums, Contact (<https://contact.org.uk/>), states that the aim of Parent Carer Forums is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

As it is an independent body, we are not able to answer this question on the Forum’s behalf.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN

“Representation of SEND parents”

Question:

“It has been made clear that not all send parents of the city wish to be represented by BPCF so, what steps are the SLT taking to ensure all parents are equally represented?”

Answer:

The council is committed to working with parents and carers of children with SEND. One of the established ways for this to be done is via the independent Parent Carer Forum. We understand that some parents may not choose to join the Parent Carer Forum so we organise and attend events that are open to all parents across the city.

Our SEND services are establishing processes to enable all parents and carers to provide feedback. These will be operating early in the new year.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES

“The SEND improvement board”

Question:

“How can parents of SEND children participate in or contribute to the SEND improvement board?”

Answer:

The SEND Improvement Board is chaired by the SEND Commissioner and oversees SEND improvement, including delivery of the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP).

Membership of the Board is determined by the SEND Commissioner. The Chair of Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is a member of the Board to ensure that parents of children and young people with SEND are represented.

All Board members must commit to ensure services consider the voice of child and/or parents/carers when making decisions. The first item on the agenda of every SEND Improvement Board meeting is a ‘voice of the child’ item where parents contribute a narrative of their family’s experience of services.

Feedback from parents and carers fundamentally underpins the work of the SEND Improvement Board. A piece of work was recently commissioned on co-production by the Board.

C15

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

“Social media”

Question:

“What is the departmental policy with regards to responding to comments and questions posed by parents on social media?”

Answer:

The council’s social media channels feature a variety of information from our services and partners, keeping citizens informed with what is happening across the city.

The corporate accounts are monitored Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and the team always try to help where they can.

Information about the council’s social media accounts, an overview of the policy and house rules can be found on the council’s website

(https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20179/news_and_publications/537/social_media).

This applies to all council directorates, including Children and Families.

C16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

“Travel Assist”

Question:

“Who was responsible for overseeing the costs for Travel Assist. Why did the provider get away with charging a highly expensive charge and how will this be rectified?”

Answer:

The procurement of home to school transport contracts is managed by a contracts team within the Children and Young People’s Travel Service and overseen by the council’s Procurement Team.

Tender opportunities follow robust procurement rules and procedures and contracts are awarded on merit based on a cost/quality matrix.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“Mobile Library”

Question:

For the last 5 years what were the library attendance figures for the mobile library by month?

Answer:

The Mobile Library services measure active engagement rather than just footfall. Three tables have been provided with this answer:

- Table A shows book issues per month from April 2018 to date (6 September 2023).
- Table B shows annual figures for attendance at school and other group sessions.
- Table C shows the current Mobile Library stops. Locations and frequency are reviewed regularly. On average, the Mobile Library makes 900 individual stops each year.

Table A (Mobile Library book issues per month)

	Issues	Borrowers
Aug-23	1449	170
Jul-23	979	163
Jun-23	2072	268
May-23	2163	290
Apr-23	1601	215
Mar-23	2304	289
Feb-23	2351	286
Jan-23	1874	277
Dec-22	1279	239
Nov-22	2714	255
Oct-22	1820	261
Sep-22	1792	254
Aug-22	1242	185
Jul-22	1288	221
Jun-22	1897	360

May-22	1949	292
Apr-22	1733	243
Mar-22	1557	227
Feb-22	1392	175
Jan-22	719	111
Dec-21	1074	158
Nov-21	1341	164
Oct-21	900	151
Sep-21	1280	163
Aug-21	947	144
Jul-21	1026	90
Jun-21	636	69
May-21	470	62
Apr-21	559	59
Mar-21	467	64
Feb-21	0	0
Jan-21	0	0
Dec-20	603	71
Nov-20	1066	103
Oct-20	848	94
Sep-20	777	85
Aug-20	191	44
Jul-20	0	0
Jun-20	0	0
May-20	0	0
Apr-20	0	0
Mar-20	1280	214
Feb-20	1967	350
Jan-20	2260	371
Dec-19	1929	297
Nov-19	2458	404
Oct-19	2324	341
Sep-19	2212	377
Aug-19	2060	263
Jul-19	2148	284
Jun-19	2154	331
May-19	2157	364
Apr-19	1993	308
Mar-19	2214	394
Feb-19	2314	398
Jan-19	2539	397
Dec-18	2257	349
Nov-18	2263	321
Oct-18	2827	434

Sep-18	2303	378
Aug-18	2488	314
Jul-18	2232	279
Jun-18	2828	477
May-18	2583	422
Apr-18	2281	429

Table B (Mobile Library attendance at school and other group sessions)

	Group sessions attendees
Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	4468
Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	3020
Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	214 (Covid impact)
Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	382 (Covid impact)
Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	3502
Apr 2023 to Date	1903

Table C (current mobile library stops)

Days	Times	Area	Location
Monday (fortnightly) 7 August 21 August 4 September	1:30pm to 2:20pm	Edgbaston	George Dixon Primary School/City Road
	2:45pm to 3:15pm	Edgbaston	Clark Street
	3:30pm to 4:00pm	Edgbaston	George Dixon Road
Tuesday (weekly)	10:00am to 11:00am	Banners Gate	Coppice View Road
	11:20am to 12:10pm	Erdington	Gunter Road
	1:45pm to 2:30pm	Bordesley Green	Pretoria Road
	2:45pm to 4:00pm	Saltley	St Saviours Road
Wednesday (weekly)	10am to 11:20am	West Heath	The Fordrough
	11:40am to 12:10pm	Stirchley	Dads Lane
	2:45pm to 4:00pm	Nechells	Vauxhall Road
Thursday (weekly)	9.50am to 10:30am	Sheldon	The Lea

Thursday (weekly)	9.50am to 10:30am	Sheldon	The Lea
	11:00am to 12:00pm	Highgate	Calthorpe Academy/Darwin Street
	1:45pm to 2:30pm	Edgbaston	Gillott Road
	2:45pm to 4:00pm	Winson Green	Cuthbert Road
Friday (weekly)	9:20am to 10:20am	Aston	Sycamore Road
	10:50am to 11:50am	Falcon Lodge	Churchill Road (lay-by, opposite shops)
	2:00pm to 2:45pm	Erdington	Inland Road (Happy Days Nursery)
	3:00pm to 4:00pm	Lozells	Gerrard Street
Saturday (monthly) 5 August 2 September 30 September	9.50am to 10:20am	Winson Green	Great Western Close
	10:45am to 11:45am	Handsworth Wood	Beechglade
	1:45pm to 2:30pm	Moseley	Forest Road
	2:50pm to 3:20pm	Balsall Heath	Balsall Heath Road
Saturday (monthly) 19 August 16 September 14 October	10am to 10:30am	Hodge Hill	Reynoldstown Road
	10:45am to 11:30am	Hodge Hill	Collingbourne Avenue
	11:40am to 12:10pm	Hodge Hill	Teesdale Avenue
	1:50pm to 2:30pm	Hodge Hill	Hodge Hill Road
	2:40pm to 3:15pm	Hodge Hill	Eastbourne Avenue

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU

“Council Website”

Question:

How much has been spent on changes to, and development of, the council's website in the last 10 years?

Answer:

£65,803 has been spent on third party development and change to the Council's main website over the last 10 years. Much of the development and change is done in house by the Council's web team and in house development team, which has varied between 10 and 12 people over the course of that time. The team undertake all form development, business as usual change and are supported by a network of content editors from across the Council.

E1

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR ROBER ALDEN**

“WRCO team meetings”

Question:

Please list all dates since 2017 on which the WRCOs have met together as a distinct team to discuss and implement new strategies to support behavioural change.

Answer:

A list of dates when WRCOs – or other roles – meet is not held.
WRCOs liaise with local depot management and waste prevention colleagues as and when necessary.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“WRCO impact”

Question:

Please list all changes made to waste collection as a result of WRCOs meeting together as a distinct team to discuss and implement strategies to support behavioural change.

Answer:

The WRCOs do not meet as a distinct team. Individual recommendations and suggestions are put forward to the Waste Management team for consideration and implementation.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

“WRCO effectiveness”

Question:

Please list dates on which formal monitoring of the effectiveness of the WRCO role has taken place and provide a copy of these reviews, including performance against recycling improvement targets.

Answer:

Recycling targets are monitored on a monthly basis on a city wide level, however data is not broken down to the level of each round that would enable an evaluation of the direct impact of the individual WRCO role.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Weed Killer”

Question:

How much glyphosate-based weedkiller has the council, or its contractors, used in each month since April 2020?

Answer:

The following figures have been taken from the contractor’s information supplied to the contracts that are sprayed with Glyphosate- based weedkiller. The contractor information is based on a yearly figure that is used across the City contracts during the spray programme which commences weather permitting March – October.

March - October 2020 2,850 Litres used.

March - October 2021 2,850 Litres used.

March - October 2022 2,850 Litres used.

March - August 2023 2,150 Litres currently used.

We are currently reviewing the spraying contract with our contractor to reduce the usage of Glyphosate-based weedkiller.

This is as per our previously-stated pledge to phase its use out completely once suitable alternatives are available for invasive species like Japanese Knotweed.

Trials of alternatives are being carried out elsewhere, but until proven alternatives are available, we have to adopt a practical and balanced approach because the threat such a species poses is significant to our communities.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Waste services overtime”

Question:

In each month since April 2018, how much was paid in overtime to waste collection and street cleaning crews?

Answer:

Given the information requested is going back to 2018 this requires data from both SAP Voyager and Oracle. This means there are significant difficulties in identifying a unique identifier so for now the data cannot be supplied. Colleagues in finance will continue to work to provide this information.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“HRC Operating Costs”

Question:

What is the net operating cost of each HRC site in each of the last 5 years?

Answer:

The five HRC Sites are managed as part of the current integrated Waste Disposal Contract with Veolia. The costs that BCC pay are not recorded as site specific, so we would not be able to show this on a site basis. There is a site-specific management fee managing the sites on behalf of BCC. However, this information is commercially sensitive, and as such cannot be shared in a public environment.

E7

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

“Task and Finish”

Question:

The Birmingham Mail have reported that concerns were raised with the Council in April 2022 that task and finish arrangements were continuing within the waste collection service. When the Birmingham Mail made enquiries of the council at the time they were told that the crews were “not working on a task and finish basis.” What action did the council take, and what did you personally do, to get assurances that the statement given to the press at the time was correct and that task and finish was not happening?

Answer:

I was not Cabinet Member for this service in April 2022 when a new way of working was discussed and implemented within the Waste Collection Service.

Managers are instructed by the Strategic Director of City Operations to ensure staff are working their full contracted hours. Working arrangements across the Waste Service are also monitored by HR officers and internal audit to ensure compliance.

We are awaiting the outcome of a recently-commissioned report from internal audit.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

“Task and Finish performance”

Question:

Aside from the Equal Pay risk of task and finish, residents will be concerned at how this was actually operated, given the perception of high numbers of missed collections, and rubbish left on the streets. As part of these working arrangements, what management action was taken to ensure that tasks had actually ‘finished’ before crews were allowed to leave early, and before they were allowed to work overtime to complete unfinished work?

Answer:

Driver Team Leaders were reporting any uncompleted work and random audits were undertaken by depot management to validate these submissions. The weekly performance of the crews and their reported uncollected work was then checked against resident enquiries to see if there were any discrepancy between the two.

Managers are instructed by the Strategic Director of City Operations to ensure staff are working their full contracted hours. Working arrangements across the Waste Service are also monitored by HR officers and internal audit to ensure compliance.

We are awaiting the outcome of a recently-commissioned report from internal audit.

I also note you reference there is a perception of a high number of missed collections. On that point, I refer you to my Executive Business Report that is being presented at today’s meeting – which shows encouraging progress on a number of related metrics.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Green Lid Bins”

Question:

How many 'green lid' bins have been ordered by the council, on what date and at what cost?

Answer:

840 bins were ordered on 24th July 2022 at a cost of £19.30 per unit.

E10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Perry Park”

Question:

“Could the Cabinet Member report which areas of Perry Park (by acreage and location) have been transferred from the parks department to the sports department since 2018, setting out the process for approving these changes?”

Answer:

The area immediately north of the High Performance Centre / GMAC on which the warm up track has been created will fall within the permanent secure fenceline around the stadium complex. This includes the throws circles and javelin run up strip – but not the majority of the throws field itself. This is an area of approx. 5.1 acres.

The use of the site went through a Full Business Case, Planning Application and associated consultation prior to the development of the stadium and surrounds for The Commonwealth Games.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN**

“Aston fly tipping cameras”

Question:

“Following the placement of Yew Tree Road cameras can I ask the cabinet member why I wasn’t advised by him about the camera installation. I did ask about this in the week prior by email after being tipped off by a local resident.

In your email dated 12 August you stated that “an officer from the waste enforcement unit contacted you the day before the media opportunity to inform you about the installation of the camera”

I was not contacted in advance, or after the event. Can you please investigate this and explain what happened?”

Answer:

All local councillors were informed about the upcoming installation of AI-enabled CCTV cameras on Yew Tree Road. Records confirm that an email was sent to apprise them of this development (see attached). It is noted that the email was sent without much lead in time, this was however due to a delay in provision of equipment from the provider leading to a lack of certainty around installation dates.



Notification of
Deployment of CCTV

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

“Volleyball in Perry Park”

Question:

“At their recent AGM, Volleyball England reported that “three beach volleyball courts at Moseley would officially open next month and that discussions were progressing on a second facility at the city’s Alexander Stadium.”

Given that the Perry Park proposal conflicts with previous planning permissions, and the 3B’s neighbourhood plan, did the parks department give any support to these proposals?”

Answer:

The pre-application engagement and consultation over proposals to enhance Perry Park, which include beach volleyball provision, has recently completed.

The public responses are now being considered ahead of a “you said, we did” exercise ahead of the formal planning application, which will be subject to a further period of statutory consultation. No final decisions have yet been taken.

The Parks Service are fully involved in the process and the Cabinet Member is supportive (resources permitting) for general volleyball provision in parks in response to local demand.

E13

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

“MHRC leaflets”

Question:

“Does the council still deliver leaflets to notify residents of Mobile Household Recycling Centre visits?”

Answer:

No. Template leaflets are produced for local councillors to deliver if they so wish.

They were only ever provided in a limited number of areas on a pilot basis.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

“Aston fly-tipping problem”

Question:

“Can cameras be installed as a matter of urgency around Deykin Avenue, Electric Avenue and Brantley Road to catch and prosecute fly-tippers?”

Answer:

I can clarify that, as of this date, no previous requests for CCTV installation in the locations you mentioned have been received. However, every request is taken seriously and the Waste Enforcement Team will be incorporating these locations into their evaluation matrix for potential future deployments.

The decisions regarding CCTV installations are primarily based on:

1. Feasibility of Installation – This entails the availability of suitable street furniture, such as lamp columns, which can support the installation of CCTV equipment.
2. Comparative Data on Flytipping Incidents – Locations are evaluated and potentially prioritised based on the volume of recorded flytipping or other relevant incidents. This ensures resources are directed to areas where they are most needed.

It's important to note that any CCTV installation entails a financial commitment for both the equipment and its installation. The waste enforcement budget for such expenditure was already under review prior to the s.114 announcement, so you will appreciate this may influence the timing and scope of potential deployments.

While the team cannot provide a definitive timeline or guarantee regarding CCTV installations at this juncture, please be assured that your input is valued and will play a role in the decision-making process. The aim is to address concerns effectively and efficiently, always keeping in mind the best interests of our community and regulatory guidelines.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Oscott Road cameras”

Question:

“We would like to be advised to when Oscott Road, Perry Barr will be getting temp cameras to record fly-tipping and ASB on this street, Cllr Mahmood as you are aware, you supported us with a site visit and agreed this street is bad, potentially the worst you have seen.”

Answer:

Requests for CCTV on Oscott Road were received by the Waste Enforcement Team in March and April of this year, which have been duly documented in their records.

As part of the surveillance review process, Oscott Road was considered for the recent surveillance phase initiated in June 2023. While the suitability of lamp columns on Oscott Road for camera installation is acknowledged and the concerns over flytipping in the area are recognised, the location did not meet the immediate criteria for camera deployment during this phase. This decision was based on comparative data, where other locations recorded a higher frequency of flytipping incidents.

It is essential to emphasise that any consideration for CCTV installation is always balanced with the need to ensure that such surveillance is both necessary and proportionate, especially in light of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which underscores the right to privacy and family life. Given the current data, while Oscott Road demonstrates a need, it did not surpass other locations in urgency based on the evaluation metrics.

However, the potential of Oscott Road for future CCTV deployments is recognised and have been retained it on Waste Enforcement’s list for consideration should additional resources become available. Please be aware that the installation of CCTV not only requires technical feasibility but also a financial outlay for equipment and installation. At this time, expenditure on this front is under review.

While a definitive timeline or guarantee regarding future CCTV deployments cannot be provided due to the current budgetary constraints, your concern is valued and you are assured that it remains a priority to address the issues at Oscott Road with the utmost respect for all relevant regulations and rights.

However, I must emphasise the importance of residents reporting instances of illegal tipping as they occur. The approach to camera deployments, as well as other resource allocations, is data-driven.

Consequently, if these incidents are under-reported, it could impact the team's ability to allocate the appropriate resources to address the problem.

E16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES

“Malcolm House”

Question:

“In June I asked a written question about Malcolm House, and you responded with a number of points.

It is noted that the land around Malcolm House has been deemed by a court to be HMPE (Highways maintained at public expense).

I would suggest no reports of fly tipping have been received because the land in question is a car park adjacent to a building, with a separate entrance. It is not obvious to the public that it forms part of the highway.

You responded that that this area is part of scheduled street cleansing activities in the Ward: “A Beatsweeper in the area daily, ward crew weekly and a sweeper vehicle fortnightly”.

I can confirm that the area in question is not being cleaned as you would suggest, neither is any action being taken about its use for the parking of untaxed and unroadworthy cars by a nearby car repair business.

Please can you explain why this land is not being regularly patrolled and litter picked, and confirm the council's long-term intention for this land?”

Answer:

The site in question was visited on 6 September and inspected. We acknowledge the cleanliness of the site is not to the standard we would expect. We have therefore arranged for a deep clean of the area on 13 September and the responsible Assistant Service Manager will monitor the cleanliness of the site to ensure standards are maintained after this clear up.

F1

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

“PPS Away Day”

Question:

What was the total cost of the PPS away day in July, broken down by venue hire, food and refreshments, payments to guest speakers (inc Stephen Knight) and any other costs, and was this event approved by the Spending Control Board?

Answer:

Purchase Order Number	Organisation	Description	Value
BCC20210029308P	ICC Birmingham	Awayday - Room Hire	£14,000.00
BCC20210029308P	ICC Birmingham	Awayday - Catering	£7,988.40
BCC20210030337P	Think Avellana	Speaker (Dr Hazel Harrison)	£2,669.61
			£24,658.01

The Away Day took place on 5th July 2023. The Finance Governance Board was not in place at the time that costs for the Away Day were approved and payments made.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

“Future City Plan Launch event”

Question:

How much did the Council pay for the hire of Highbury Hall for the launch event of the Future City Plan?

Answer:

The hire of Highbury Hall cost £3,150.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER

“Plaza Cars”

Question:

In each year since the start of 2018/19 how much has the council paid to Plaza Cars Birmingham?

Answer:

Period	Spend (£)
Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	£ 223,643
Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	£ 679,455
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	£ 160,679
Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	£ 176,962
Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	£ 104,806
Apr 2023 – Sep 2023	NIL

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

“Legal and Governance Away Day”

Question:

What was the total cost of the 'Be Bold, Be Curious, Be Together' away day for legal and governance services on 17 July 2023, broken down by cost type (e.g. venue hire)

Answer:

Venue £3000

Equipment £250

Tea & Coffee £1,239

Total £4,489

Note that the event was held at a Council owned building, and the above costs were recharged by a Council department.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“commissioned work”

Question:

Since 2012, including year to date, please list all work commissioned from the following companies, including the total cost of that work, the purpose of the work and the outcomes achieved:

- a) Method Consulting**
- b) 1900 Creative Ltd**
- c) Places in Common Ltd**
- d) Climate KIC**

Answer:

Due to the tight timescales for this request, we have unfortunately been unable to collate this information in time for the deadline. This information will be provided directly by email as soon as possible.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“Invoices paid in time”

Question:

What percentage of bills were paid within 30 days for each month since April 2022, including the percentage paid within 30 days for:

- a) SMEs**
- b) Care Homes**
- c) Home Care Providers**
- d) VCS organisations**

Answer:

SMEs – The Council’s Oracle system does not categorise Accounts Payable information by ‘Size of Business’ and therefore this level of detail cannot be readily derived from Accounts Payable reporting.

Care Homes and Home Support - These payments feed through into Oracle from the Carefirst system and as such this level of detail cannot be derived Accounts Payable reporting. In addition, following a similar FOI request back in July it was confirmed that this level of detail is not captured within the Carefirst system.

VCS - The Council’s Oracle system does not categorise Accounts Payable information by ‘Type of Vendor’ and therefore this level of detail cannot be readily derived from Accounts Payable reporting.

F7

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“Equal Pay Liability”

Question:

As of 1 January 2023, what did the Council believe the possible range of Equal Pay liability was?

Answer:

Please refer to question A11.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

“Equal Pay Liability budget provision”

Question:

The Budget in February 2023 included provision for £270m for equal pay settlements. What was the council basing this figure on?

Answer:

Based on estimated expenditure under settlement schemes that had already been agreed and the estimated cost of settling current equal pay claims where no settlement scheme has been agreed.

Since entering their posts in May, Leader John Cotton and Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson have worked tirelessly to unearth the issues facing Birmingham City Council.

Officers were then rapidly asked to carry out detailed and fresh analysis.

Once we knew the precise scale of the liability, we made it public as soon as possible as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“KPMG Bank reconciliation work”

Question:

The contract register shows 3 separate contracts with KPMG, totalling £480k, for support with bank reconciliation backlog. One of these expires in January 2024, one in February 2024, and one in April 2024. What is the purpose of the 3 separate contracts, and given the combined total exceeds the OJEU thresholds, what procurement route was followed?

Answer:

The 3 contracts were directly awarded through the PCR15 compliant route of Crown Commercial Services management consultancy framework (MCF3) and represented an urgent requirement to meet our year end audit timescales, awarded to KPMG due to the strong team they were able to provide with prior knowledge and experience of our process and technology issues.

These 3 pieces of work were to support the delivery of manual off system Bank Reconciliations required to meet our timescales for the 22/23-year end accounts production and audit. This was due to the automated functionality in to produce these reconciliations in Oracle failing. This required the development of manual processes and support of KPMG SME to expedite this work. Due to issues with the Oracle system, no bank reconciliations had been performed for the financial year 22/23, and this is an essential control required to produce accurate and meaningful accounting information, and essential to avoid qualification of our accounts by external auditors. The 3 contracts are described below;

1. The initial contracted work was to review processes and to prove them through to the completion of reconciliations up to P9 22/23. The work of this contract is completed.
2. The initial contract identified further issues with the Oracle solution, resulting in high levels of unreconciled items outstanding at the end of P9 that required detailed resolution and narrative, due to backlogs in allocating cash. The second contract was signed to extend the work from the first contract to support the development of processes to resolve these issues, and to provide support to complete outstanding actions and issues identified from the first contract. Included in this contract was work to support the completion of the reconciliations through to year end. The work of this contract is completed.
3. The work of the second contract identified further issues with the technology, resulting in errors requiring manual correction, explanation and resolution to meet our needs in delivering a fully auditable bank reconciliation for year-end audit purposes. This work has been co-dependent on ongoing data cleansing, reporting, accruals and posting challenges due to ongoing technology issues with Oracle. This third contract secured additional support to complete this work, which includes the final completion and preparation of bank reconciliations for year-end audit.

F10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

“Spending Control Board”

Question:

Please list all spending requests that have been rejected by the Spending Control Board since it was introduced, including the amount requested and the purpose of the proposed spend.

Answer:

The Spend Control Board met for the first time on Friday 8th September.

The following requests were rejected:

Item	Amount	Decision
Wellbeing Programme	£26,261	Reject

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

“GAUGE”

Question:

Since May 2018, how much has the Council spent on the Gauge Job Evaluation system?

Answer:

The cost of the contract with Pilat, the providers of the Gauge system, is £2,495 per annum, totalling £12,475 in the period April 18 – March 23.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“CT and NDR liability orders”

Question:

In each year since 2018, including the year to date, how many liability orders have been issued for non-payment of a) council tax and b) business rates that were subsequently found to have been incorrectly issued?

Answer:

The total number of Liability orders obtained during the requested years together with the total number of Liability orders which were subsequently deleted/removed at a later date. Unfortunately the RBIS Council tax and Business Rates billing system has no capacity to record a reason code against the deletion so we are unable to identify the numbers deleted due to specific issues but can confirm the total number of Liability orders which were deleted or quashed. This is not an exhaustive list but these could be for the following reasons:-

1. Late notification to the authority of a change of address
2. Customer payments made to the wrong account
3. Retrospective awarding of benefits
4. Incorrect liable party
5. Incorrect allocation of payments
6. Retrospective awarding of discounts or exemption

Number of Liability Orders						
Tax Year	Council Tax			Business Rates		
	Obtained	Deleted	%	Obtained	Deleted	%
2018/19	71751	7291	10	4354	1218	28
2019/20	73430	7219	10	4294	949	22
2020/21	9288	2205	24	1315	717	55
2021/22	75152	4984	7	7646	1718	22
2022/23	22371	1496	7	1437	273	19
2023/24	52310	939	2	3049	61	2

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
FROM COUNCILLOR DARUIS SANDHU**

“Audio-Visual Equipment Spend”

Question:

Please provide a breakdown by year of all spend on audio-visual equipment purchased since 2018, for example that used in committee rooms.

Answer:

Year	Cost
Row Labels	Sum of Total Cost
2018	£ 99,695.00
2019	£ 72,000.00
2020	£ 78,280.94
2021	£ 2,057.91
2022	£ 361,358.00
2023	£ 155,789.71
Grand Total	£ 769,181.56

Exec Summary: The figures include:

1. 2018 - Ongoing Civico Solution, and AV infrastructure set up to support
2. 2019 - Ongoing Support for Civico
3. 2020 - CH Refurbishment and interim solution for remote events
4. 2021 - Covid, and Teams use
5. 2022 - New high tech webcasting solution introduced
6. 2023 - Coroners Court Hybrid Solution

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

“Oracle”

Question:

“Please provide an update on the extra costs of the Oracle implementation process and a forecast of the total extra spend?”

Answer:

Currently spend to-date on the Oracle programme is in-line with the costs reported to Cabinet in June 2023 (the table below is taken from the Oracle Implementation Cabinet Report, June 2023), which covered the Safe and Compliant and Solution Design work. As per the June 2023 Cabinet Report, the cost to deliver the Optimisation phase will be confirmed once the Solution Design work has been completed and the final delivery plan agreed. The funding required to deliver the Optimisation phase will be requested via a separate, future Cabinet Report, expected at the end of 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG**

“Oracle”

Question:

“When will Oracle be implemented and the project complete?”

Answer:

In line with the above response, the timescale to deliver the Optimisation phase (and therefore to complete the project) will be confirmed as part of the final delivery plan, which will also be outlined in the future Cabinet Report, expected at the end of 2023.

G

**PLEASE NOTE: NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

“Charges for damage”

Question:

In each year since 2012, how many charges, at what total value, were made to council tenants for damage to council properties?

Answer:

Individual transaction analysis is time consuming and due to the extensive transactions and current demands on the finance team will take some time to collate.

Since 2012 the total value of charges made to council tenants for damage to council properties equates to £4.762m.

The table below shows the breakdown between charges made on damage to tenanted properties (£1.294m) and charges made on damage to void properties (£3.467m)

Date Range	Account Type	Debit Raised	Adjustment	Total Due	Payment	Paid (%)
April 2012 to August 2023	REPAIRS	£267,131.67	£1,027,261.13	£1,294,392.80	£480,991.03	37.16
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£3,470,693.42	-£2,977.53	£3,467,715.89	£540,312.00	15.58
OVERALL TOTALS		£3,737,825.09	£1,024,283.60	£4,762,108.69	£1,021,303.03	21.45

These figures are broken down by *each year* from April 2012 until August 2023 in the table below.

Annual Periods	Account Type	Debit Raised	Adjustment	Total Due	Payment	Paid (%)
01/04/2012 to 31/03/2013	REPAIRS	£146,726.24	£0.00	£146,726.24	£35,493.31	24.19%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£472,168.61	£0.00	£472,168.61	£33,253.44	7.04%
	Total	£618,894.85	£0.00	£618,894.85	£68,746.75	11.11%
01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014	REPAIRS	£24,673.22	£100,351.37	£125,024.59	£31,816.62	25.45%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£420,906.56	£0.00	£420,906.56	£59,407.49	14.11%
	Total	£445,579.78	£100,351.37	£545,931.15	£91,224.11	16.71%
01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015	REPAIRS	£15,420.50	£64,080.76	£79,501.26	£37,341.82	46.97%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£476,303.74	£298.47	£476,602.21	£87,114.67	18.28%
	Total	£491,724.24	£64,379.23	£556,103.47	£124,456.49	22.38%
01/04/2015 to 31/03/2016	REPAIRS	£14,335.40	£114,109.27	£128,444.67	£35,250.93	27.44%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£349,391.33	£0.00	£349,391.33	£52,632.33	15.06%
	Total	£363,726.73	£114,109.27	£477,836.00	£87,883.26	18.39%
01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	REPAIRS	£5,706.00	£83,018.76	£88,724.76	£46,162.64	52.03%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£246,403.94	£0.00	£246,403.94	£59,485.63	24.14%
	Total	£252,109.94	£83,018.76	£335,128.70	£105,648.27	31.52%
01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018	REPAIRS	£16,627.31	£162,199.71	£178,827.02	£39,781.09	22.25%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£384,464.00	£0.00	£384,464.00	£73,360.62	19.08%
	Total	£401,091.31	£162,199.71	£563,291.02	£113,141.71	20.09%
01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019	REPAIRS	£10,308.00	£130,266.32	£140,574.32	£40,514.21	28.82%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£234,600.80	£0.00	£234,600.80	£33,792.73	14.40%
	Total	£244,908.80	£130,266.32	£375,175.12	£74,306.94	19.81%
01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	REPAIRS	£7,964.00	£68,080.20	£76,044.20	£65,151.72	85.68%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£251,474.06	-£450.00	£251,024.06	£30,266.46	12.06%
	Total	£259,438.06	£67,630.20	£327,068.26	£95,418.18	29.17%
01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021	REPAIRS	£9,120.00	£79,920.38	£89,040.38	£52,660.51	59.14%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£176,722.74	-£1,708.00	£175,014.74	£36,234.11	20.70%
	Total	£185,842.74	£78,212.38	£264,055.12	£88,894.62	33.67%
01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022	REPAIRS	£7,156.00	£83,846.41	£91,002.41	£46,854.68	51.49%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£315,988.13	-£433.00	£315,555.13	£49,389.37	15.65%
	Total	£323,144.13	£83,413.41	£406,557.54	£96,244.05	23.67%
01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	REPAIRS	£6,647.00	£117,408.84	£124,055.84	£36,646.36	29.54%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£110,801.11	-£685.00	£110,116.11	£20,008.30	18.17%
	Total	£117,448.11	£116,723.84	£234,171.95	£56,654.66	24.19%
01/04/2023 to 31/08/2023	REPAIRS	£2,448.00	£23,979.11	£26,427.11	£13,317.14	50.39%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£31,468.40	£0.00	£31,468.40	£5,366.85	17.05%
	Total	£33,916.40	£23,979.11	£57,895.51	£18,683.99	32.27%

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“Birmingham Housing Week”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the approval report/form submitted to the Spending Control Board for 'Birmingham Housing Week' including a breakdown of costs involved.

Answer:

Birmingham Housing Week has been funded entirely through sponsorship and it is being led by Lovell – a huge social value initiative. The budget for the event is £80,000. Sponsorship is still being sought for some parts of the week, but any shortfall will be covered by Lovells.

The Council has not needed to provide funding but has acted as a strategic partner to drive forward the important messages and highlight the challenges that the housing sector faces as a whole. Therefore, there is no spending control board report required.

The event is paramount to bringing both the private and public sector together to tackle the key issues that face housing in Birmingham. The aim of the event is to create a report that informs our strategy and the sector on what the future of housing in Birmingham holds moving forwards.

Housing week event will now take place in February 2024.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

“Exempt properties”

Question:

“Given that the Bob Blackman MP’s private members bill covering exempt accommodation has become law, what is the likely timescale to when the council can use this legislation to improve the situation in Birmingham. What is the planned timetable for this and likely outcomes?”

Answer:

The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 is currently in its consultation stage. The below duties in consultation to be delegated to Local Authorities in England are as follows:

- Each local authority will be required to carry out a review of supported exempt accommodation and publish a supported housing strategy for the provision of supported exempt accommodation, which sets out the current and future needs of the city. (The Council have a Supported Housing Strategy and a Housing Needs Assessment agreed at Cabinet in January 2023).
- National Supported Housing Standards - property standards and standards in respect of care, support and supervision.
- Supported Housing Licensing Regulations – a person having control of, or managing, supported exempt accommodation must obtain and comply with a licence granted by the local housing authority for the district.
- Homelessness – an intentionally homelessness decision cannot be made for a person leaving supported housing where National Standards are not met.
- Planning regulations – deferred for 3 years.

It is anticipated that The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 will enable Local Authorities to have better control of the standards of provision within the city as well as enable alignment of provision to the needs of the City. The current timeline for the implementation of the Act is late 2024 to early 2025 following consultation and government’s development of the detailed regulations to deliver the Act.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

“Ladywood regeneration consultation”

Question:

“How many enquiries have been received by the ladywoodregeneration@birmingham.gov.uk inbox? Please include the percentage of enquiries responded to and the average length of time for responses to be sent.”

Answer:

The ‘LadywoodRegeneration’ email address was set up in July this year to provide the local community an opportunity to contact the council about the scheme. Since then, the Council has received 201 enquires. The Council has answered 92.54% of those to date and of the emails answered a response has been sent within an average of 6 working days.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG

“Reliance Social Housing CIC”

Question:

“Reliance Social Housing CIC, a key provider of exempt social housing, has been put under review by the Regulator of Social Housing. Given their significance in the exempt accommodation market in Birmingham, what is the cabinet member doing to respond to this?”

Answer:

The Council have a Supported Exempt Accommodation (SEA) partnership team funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities whose key priority is to drive up standards of provision. This partnership of multi-disciplinary officers from Community Safety, Housing, Benefits, Planning and Adult Social Care respond to concerns within the sector and have established relationships with key providers within the city as well as Reliance Social Housing CIC.

Unfortunately, Reliance Social Housing CIC as well as other large providers within Birmingham, have regulatory judgements. The Council are in conversation with the Regulator to ensure that the regulatory review of Reliance Social Housing CIC and other registered providers also consider the outcomes of the SEA multi-disciplinary team reviews undertaken.

The Council also strongly recommends that housing providers sign up to the SEA Quality Standards Accreditation scheme as the recommended standard of provision for the city. In keeping with the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations for SEA, a Preferred Provider List exists for those wishing to source non-commissioned accommodation. This list includes providers who have received a Quality Standard award and will be updated on the Council website on a regular basis.

H6

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

“Selective licensing update”

Question:

“Can you please provide ward by ward data as to what the uptake has been within the 25 Wards chosen to have Selective Licensing?”

Answer:

Please find below the number of Selective Licence applications received by ward, up until the 5 September 2023.

Ward	Number of Applications Received
Acocks Green	486
Alum Rock	238
Aston	327
Balsall Heath West	130
Birchfield	147
Bordesley & Highgate	1583
Bordesley Green	142
Bournbrook & Selly Park	266
Edgbaston	701
Gravelly Hill	250
Handsworth	151
Heartlands	122
Holyhead	218
Ladywood	4403
Lozells	56
North Edgbaston	835
Small Heath	178
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2222
South Yardley	244
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	285
Sparkhill	243
Stockland Green	636
Tyseley & Hay Mills	226
Ward End	111
Yardley West & Stechford	135

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

“Community Safety Partnership”

Question:

“Are there any plans to review the community safety partnership structure? If so, how is this progressing?”

Answer:

The Governance and structure of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Board was reviewed in September 2022 and a new governance structure was agreed by the Board in December 2022. The Board are now in the process of implementing the structure including a review of membership and of the new Thematic Boards and the 6 Local Community Safety Partnerships (formerly known as Local Partnership Delivery Groups).

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“UHB and UOB Parking Schemes”

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the total budget and spend for the planned parking schemes in Edgbaston, Harborne and Selly Oak as part of the s106 contributions from UHB and UOB to mitigate the impact of parking from these institutions on local residents. Please include the total s106 contributions due, the total paid, other funding sources allocated, the total spend so far, what this has been spent on, the budget remaining and progress with each of the proposed schemes and target completion dates.

Answer:

In order to respond fully, additional time is needed to provide a detailed response to this question, which includes reviewing and checking the information available within the Council's financial systems. This process requires going back to 2017 when the project started and has challenges associated with the current system issues.

A detailed written response will be provided once this work has been concluded.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

“UHB and UOB Parking Schemes consultation”

Question:

Please list all consultations, ward member meetings and any other public information events that have taken place since 2017 with regard to planned parking schemes in Edgbaston, Harborne and Selly Oak to mitigate the impact of parking from the hospital and university. In each case please detail the cost of the event, who was invited, and total attendance.

Answer:

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken using a number of activities including BeHeard the Council’s online consultation platform, leaflet distribution to households and businesses, public drop-in events and a static display. Officers have also attended ward forums upon request.

In advance of the public consultation, officers were invited to attend the Harborne Ward Forum on 19/1/19 to discuss the proposals.

As part of the design process for the ‘Hospital and University Parking Management Measures’ the design team carried out public and stakeholder consultation. The consultation ran for a period of 4 weeks from 29 April to 26 May 2019 to enable residents to comment on the proposals.

Stakeholders also included organisations that represent the emergency services, motoring organisations (taxi & freight), public transport providers, those representing cycling and pedestrians and disability groups.

6,500 letters were distributed to local residents and businesses explaining the background to the proposals and directing consultees to the relevant BeHeard website page. This included information on locations of exhibitions and drop-in sessions that were held in publicly accessible venues in the proximity of the schemes. These events were open to all residents from any of the areas or other persons who maybe interested. The public drop-in events were held at the following locations where officers were on hand to discuss the schemes with attendees:

- Water Mill Primary School Tuesday 7 May 2pm to 6pm;
- Harborne Fitness Centre Wednesday 8 May 11am to 3pm;
- Christ Church Selly Oak Tuesday 14 May 6pm to 8:30pm;
- TouchBase Pears Wednesday 15 May 11am to 3pm;
- Martineau Gardens Friday 17 May 2pm to 6pm; and

- Edgbaston Community Centre Tuesday 21 May 2pm to 4pm.

Additionally, Harborne Library hosted a static display of hard copy drawings from 30/04/19 to 12/05/19.

A letter and overview plan were distributed to the local councillors and MPs again directing them to BeHeard for the detailed information.

The cost of the consultation was £4,855. This does not include any staff time which is not identified specifically against the consultation stage but is charged against the whole scheme. The number of attendees were not recorded at events; however, a total of 1,146 representation were received in response to the consultation.

The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 sets out the process for Highway Authorities, in this case the Council, to introduce, change or remove Traffic Regulation Orders such as those to control parking through a permit scheme.

As such, a further statutory TRO process was required that consisted of a further letter to residents effected with a copy of the formal notice on the agreed proposals and how to comment or make other representations. In addition to the letters, a notice went into the press and notices were displayed on streets effected with the same information to enable other road users to have the opportunity to comment or make other representations. Anybody making a representation at this stage is required to do so in writing setting out the reasons for their objections, emails were accepted as valid responses. The statutory consultation took place between 5 August 2021 until 13 September 2021.

The cost for advertising the TRO was £2,000.

A total of 152 responses were received to the TRO advertisement across the eight areas.

On the 31/1/22 officers were invited to attend Harborne Ward Forum held on-line to discuss the proposed parking scheme and respond to any specific queries

On the 28/3/23 an officer attended Harborne ward forum to update residents on the proposed parking scheme.

In addition to the above, £2,085 has also been spent on public information relating to the 'go live' of the first scheme in Selly Park. Again, this does not include any staff costs.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Car Clubs”

Question:

“What data is there on the usage of car clubs in the city, how is this data documented and what data can be shared?”

Answer:

CoWheels provides Car Club vehicles for hire in Birmingham, which can be parked in specific Council provided parking bays. It is understood that CoWheels currently provide eight vehicles for this purpose as shown in the bookable list here: [Birmingham | Co Wheels \(co-wheels.org.uk\)](https://www.co-wheels.org.uk/Birmingham)

The Council receives updates from CoWheels on usage and the utilisation rate of these vehicles varies significantly by location (with the detail of this being commercially sensitive), however, typically Car Club vehicles can be utilised (ie on hire) between 0-60% of the time, with operators providing vehicles according to their commercial judgement of where the demand is located.

The Council does not currently collect data regarding any other Car Club operators; however, the Council is intending to work with Transport for West Midlands on further research into the Car Club market and potential for expansion in Birmingham.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG**

“Traffic enforcement cameras”

Question:

**“How many fines have been issued so far as part of the trial – by site/
month?”**

Answer:

Powers were granted to the Council in July 2023 to enable the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions by the local authority. As such, the necessary governance approvals can now be sought to develop and mobilise the trial.

Once the trial is live it will be possible to report on the number of fines issued.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

“Traffic enforcement cameras”

Question:

“What data has been collected as part of this trial to date which has not resulted in a penalty?”

Answer:

Powers were granted to the Council in July 2023 to enable the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions by the local authority. As such, the necessary governance approvals can now be sought to develop and mobilise the trial.

Once the trial is live, appropriate data will be collected.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR COLIN GREEN**

“Traffic enforcement cameras”

Question:

“Can we use “Brum Breathes” funding to implement these cameras in wards, and if so, from when?”

Answer:

Powers were granted to the Council in July 2023 to enable the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions by the local authority.

A trial of the relevant technology is currently in development, which will inform the strategy for further roll-out. Until this trial is operational, and an evaluation has been undertaken, it would not be prudent from a risk management perspective for the Council to commit to further camera enforcement sites at the current time.

It should be noted that there are strict criteria set out in the legislation for enforcement of moving traffic contraventions. There would need to be a proven case for camera enforcement in any given location, irrespective of funding source.

The criteria for the evaluation of applications to the Brum Breathes Fund are available on the Brum Breathes website and officers are happy to provide advice individually to members should this be required.

www.brumbreathes.co.uk/BrumBreathesFund

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

“Bus lane fines”

Question:

“How many fines have been issued per month for each bus lane in Birmingham? Please give details that identify the bus lane and the number of fines per month issued from each camera since January 2022?”

Answer:

	2022												2023						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Moor Street Queensway (towards The Priory Queensway)	4	1	33	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	33	28	31	39	16	47	54	52
Moor Street Queensway (south west bound slip road)	23	16	45	26	20	25	18	17	34	46	36	37	29	15	24	22	27	22	18
The Priory Queensway (north bound towards Old Square)	74	64	105	25	0	0	0	1	90	111	161	123	82	90	105	63	123	132	163
The Priory Queensway (south bound towards Masshouse Lane)	113	152	153	108	106	90	61	57	62	113	157	146	92	94	83	81	102	120	127
St Martin's Queensway (towards Moor Street Queensway)	659	647	671	657	670	607	860	726	703	765	743	758	517	538	599	450	621	611	776
The Priory Queensway (south bound towards Old Square)	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
St Martin's Queensway (towards New Street station)	21	21	19	26	10	26	26	28	13	30	20	27	14	6	28	16	17	13	14
The Priory Queensway (north bound towards Colmore Circus)	56	110	129	112	74	87	70	99	101	105	95	81	64	63	108	93	108	89	98
Longmore St Northbound	14	28	18	9	19	47	41	36	48	37	4	0	0	0	4	43	27	0	0
Horton Square Southbound	0	0	0	2	40	50	25	22	64	59	54	15	0	0	0	30	67	26	40
Sheepcote Street southbound at the canal bridge	2751	3205	3435	990	3356	3580	4123	3720	2981	3052	2768	2706	2022	1736	2341	2362	2272	2106	2843
Moor Street Queensway southbound towards Digbeth	4818	6761	6814	6613	4997	4831	4999	3916	2259	0	0	0	0	0	2948	3705	3257	2795	1545
Pershore Rd Northbound between Pebble Mill Rd and Priory Rd	109	149	177	159	155	91	96	118	185	185	143	83	0	97	16	0	0	59	153
Pershore Rd Northbound near Speedwell Rd	40	22	28	39	28	50	28	38	36	50	72	19	38	25	30	41	77	52	52
Bordesley Green East inbound towards Hospital entrance	488	171	279	73	42	293	237	190	302	309	347	309	172	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bordesley Green East outbound at Eastfield Road	207	209	259	232	291	256	204	180	72	194	242	203	181	148	208	139	315	284	232
Bordesley Green East inbound at Little Bromwich Road	43	55	40	26	17	46	24	39	36	20	34	29	30	32	42	36	33	44	0
Bordesley Green East outbound from Station Road	237	299	320	260	287	296	265	204	265	267	296	197	199	25	198	220	250	274	234
Corporation Street towards Lancaster Circus (inbound)	56	92	134	96	84	77	49	12	98	116	196	152	83	58	98	55	59	57	59
Lichfield Road at Rocky Lane (inbound)	33	46	67	48	60	42	48	55	69	92	81	46	20	39	6	61	68	70	52
Lichfield Road at Grosvenor Road (outbound)	108	186	161	83	105	89	63	12	28	148	109	65	76	62	101	86	115	94	60
Lichfield Road towards Salford Circus (outbound)	97	159	175	131	180	113	92	81	56	108	99	53	77	62	71	96	88	88	63
Tyburn Road towards Kingsbury Road (inbound)	53	38	38	63	62	50	58	64	55	59	75	35	48	53	46	47	67	73	46
Tyburn Road towards Bagot Arms (outbound)	52	62	30	0	77	57	0	0	48	53	75	43	27	23	44	52	61	88	48

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

“Parking enforcement tickets”

Question:

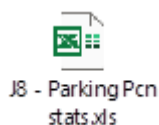
“How many parking enforcement tickets have been issued by ward/ month since January 2022?”

Answer:

260,507 Parking Penalty Charge Notices have been issued January 2022 to July 2023 and the monthly totals are shown below. The data is not held by ward, however, the attached spreadsheet shows the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued for each location listed in alphabetical order.

It should also be noted that some locations have less parking restrictions than others eg some only have corner restrictions.

	2022												2023						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Parking Pcns	10,546	10,533	10,506	11,538	11,873	12,209	14,538	14,160	14,008	16,011	16,769	15,251	13,964	13,947	14,382	15,718	16,659	14,865	13,030



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

“Glyphosate usage”

Question:

“In response to public campaigns relating to the use of glyphosate, what steps are being taken to ensure that weedkiller use is limited, in particular that it is not being sprayed on grass verges?”

Answer:

With regard to our Highways operations, the use of herbicides in controlling weeds is limited to treatment of weeds within the hard surfaces of the highway network only. Specifically, this is the spot treatment of weeds growing in or on the surfaced highway network and not treatment of the network regardless of weeds.

We are currently using Glyphosate as this is the most effective and economical solution available and approved for controlling weeds on hard surfaces. It is also the specified herbicide in the Interim Services Contract (ISC).

Nonetheless, we have been working to try and significantly reduce the amount of glyphosate used whilst assessing alternative products without success to date in order to maintain an effective service to residents.