



**CITY COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2021**

**WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO**

**CABINET MEMBERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIR**

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A To the Leader of the Council

1. **Property Deals**

From Councillor Jon Hunt

2. **Partnerships for People and Place Programme**

From Councillor Paul Tilsley

3. **Assets**

From Councillor David Barrie

4. **Perry Barr Residential Scheme**

From Councillor Adam Higgs

5. **Deep Cleaning and Graffiti Removal Project**

From Councillor Zaker Choudhry

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

1. **Household Support Fund**

From Councillor Roger Harmer

2. **Working from Home**

From Councillor Simon Morrall

3. **Performance Monitoring Dashboard**

From Councillor Charlotte Hodiola

C To the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture

1. **Catch Up from the Pandemic**

From Councillor Baber Baz

2. **CO2 Monitors in City Schools**

From Councillor Jon Hunt

3. **TV and Film Recording**

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

4. **City Youth Clubs**

From Councillor Morriam Jan

D To the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Levelling Up Bids

From Councillor Maureen Cornish

E To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

None Submitted

F To the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

1. **Passivhaus**

From Councillor Mike Ward

2. **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund**

From Councillor Roger Harmer

3. **Evictions from Private Rented Accommodation**

From Councillor Jon Hunt

4. **Exempt Accommodation 2**

From Councillor Gareth Moore

5. **Exempt Accommodation**

From Councillor Maureen Cornish

6. **Roommatch**

From Councillor Matt Bennett

G To the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities

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From Councillor Baber Baz

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2. **Mobile Household Recycling Units**
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3. **Removal of electrical items**
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4. **Mobile Household Recycling Units**
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2. **Pothole Compensation**
From Councillor Zaker Choudhry

3. **Average Speed Cameras**
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4. **Clean Air Zone**
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5. **Clean Air Zone**
From Councillor Paul Tilsley
6. **Average Speed Cameras**
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5. **Data Required**

From Councillor Timothy Huxtable

K To the Chair of Licensing and Public Protection Committee

Licensed Private Hire Vehicles

Councillor Mike Ward

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Property Deals’

Question:

Your predecessor travelled to China and signed a deal with at least one property company.

What became of those deals?

Answer:

All Leaders of Birmingham City Council can play a pivotal role in attracting transformational investment into our communities to fund homes and employment space. My predecessor signed an MOU with Chinese investor and developer Country Garden in 2016. The purpose of the MOU was to explore largescale residential investment opportunities in Birmingham for them to act as both funder and developer. Though several investment sites were explored with other private sector parties no commercial agreement was able to be reached. The MOU had a 2 year timeframe, which has obviously been exhausted, and we are not actively in dialogue with Country Garden. The venture was undertaken on both sides in good faith and with no risk to Birmingham City Council and we remain open to working with investor and development partners, domestically and internationally, to continue to finance our growth as a city.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Partnerships for People and Place Programme’

Question:

Could the Leader comment on the award that has been made to Birmingham from the ‘The Partnerships for People and Place programme’, giving details of the grant and an outline of how it is expected to be spent?

Answer:

The long-term vision of the Partnerships for People and Place project is of **local communities who are empowered to develop and deliver solutions to the problems that matter to them, whilst being supported in an efficient and joined-up way by both central and local government**. To deliver this, the project will test the hypothesis that better co-ordination within and between central government and local places can improve efficiency and outcomes of place-based policy. The project will test and promote a more joined-up approach to support the delivery of improved outcomes for individuals. The programme seeks to make an impact:

- At central government level: improving coordination between government departments and their arm's length bodies.
- Between central government and local places: improving coordination between central and local government.
- At an individual level: improving outcomes for people as a result of better central and local government coordination.

In November 2021 it was announced that the Council's expression of interest (EOI) to the Partnerships for People and Place programme has been successful, and Birmingham City Council has been chosen as a pilot place.

The pilot will focus on developing and delivering a **locally designed scheme of employment support for young people and businesses**. This is one of the ten recommendations in the Birmingham City Council report *Breaking Down Barriers* launched on 22 July 2021, based on extensive consultation and research.

Following completion on 30 November 2021 of a series of national workshops (facilitated by LUHC) Birmingham City Council is required to submit a Delivery Plan by 18 February

2022. Officers are now focussed on development and successful submission of the plan. £50 000 from LUHC will be issued to BCC to support this work.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Assets”

Question:

Have the Council asked Property Services to sell assets for what they are worth or to raise a specific figure regardless of asset value, over the next 3 years?

Answer:

Property Services are set a target to raise a specific amount each year depending on current budgetary planning.

The way the target is achieved is totally at the discretion of Property Services as are the assets it considers it needs to sell from assets it directly manages, and assets released by service directorates.

The Council is under a fiduciary duty to ensure it achieves best consideration for its surplus assets and Property Services ensure this is done in an open transparent manner. This is achieved by the use auctions, informal tenders and private treaty where appropriate.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Perry Barr Residential Scheme”

Question:

What is the current proposed forecast total of the Perry Barr residential scheme. Please include the original forecasted figure?

Answer:

The planning consent is for 1,414 homes on Phase 1 and it is expected that this will be delivered across the site. Phase 2 has outline consent for up to 500 homes and is expected that these will also be delivered.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Deep Cleaning and Graffiti Removal Project’

Question:

The Council have allocated £276,000 of the Welcome Back Fund towards a deep cleaning and graffiti removal project which will be delivered across 24 locations in the city.

Could the Cabinet Member provide full details of the 24 locations, confirming the work to be undertaken in each?

Answer:

The Welcome Back Fund follows the ERDF Reopening High Streets Safely Fund, and was introduced to allow local authorities in England to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in high streets, as the economy reopens following Covid-19 restrictions.

Following consultation with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Councillors and other business/community groups, deep cleaning of pavements in shopping areas and removal of graffiti was considered a priority. Subsequently, £276k of the ERDF Welcome Back Fund was allocated to this and a tender issued. The tender was awarded on 1st October 2021 to Ramora and will deliver 6 months of deep cleaning and graffiti removal.

A total of 27 areas have been identified for the cleaning programme. Details of these can be found in Table One. The areas were initially identified using the Urban Centre Framework, Pioneer Places group, and areas with active BIDs or business/community groups. Other areas came forward following this and were included in the schedule of works.

The deep cleaning of pavements will only be carried out on the public realm; funding cannot be used to clean private land. This also applies to graffiti removal.

The programme of works commenced on 4th October 2021 and deep cleaning has now been completed in Acocks Green, Colmore BID, Erdington BID, Retail BID, Southside BID and Sutton Coldfield BID. Works are scheduled for Digbeth, Glebe

Farm, Lea Hall and Stirchley throughout December 2021, with a draft timetable in place for remaining areas while timings are confirmed with Ward Councillors and other stakeholders (BIDs, business/community groups etc).

The programme will be complete before the ERDF Welcome Back Fund project deadline of 31 March 2022.

Table One: Confirmed Locations for WBF Deep Clean and Graffiti Programme

1	Acocks Green	Complete
2	Alum Rock	
3	Bordesley Green	
4	Colmore BID	Complete
5	Cotteridge	
6	Coventry Road, Small Heath	
7	Digbeth	Scheduled
8	Erdington BID	Complete
9	Glebe Farm	Scheduled
10	Harborne BID	
11	Jewellery Quarter BID	
12	Kings Heath BID	
13	Lea Hall	Scheduled
14	Meadway	
15	Moseley	
16	Northfield BID	
17	Perry Barr	
18	Retail BID	Complete
19	Sheldon	
20	Soho Road BID	
21	Southside BID	Complete
22	Sparkhill	
23	Stechford	
24	Stirchley	Scheduled
25	Sutton Coldfield BID	Complete
26	Westside BID	
27	Yardley	

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Household Support Fund’

Question:

Why has it taken so long to develop plans to distribute Birmingham’s share of the £500m Household Support Fund, announced by the Government in September?

Answer:

Birmingham’s allocation of £12.791m under the Household Support Fund was confirmed by the Department for Work and Pensions in October 2021.

£3.7m of the allocation has been used to fund supermarket vouchers for families eligible for free school meals during the October half-term and Christmas school holidays.

A report setting out the council’s plans for use of the remainder of the allocation is due to be considered by Cabinet.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Working From Home”

Question:

Broken down by Department, what is the average number of days staff spend in the office v. at home since the end of the lockdown in March 2021?

Answer:

This information is not collected.

The goal of the New Ways of Working Programme is to cultivate an agile culture and behaviours throughout the organisation. The aim is not to manage every hour of every employee in every location for every directorate, because it is about empowering them to put citizens first in the work they do, the role they perform and in line with management expectations. This shift is supported by the results of the Health and Wellbeing Survey carried out in June 2021 whereby >80% said they would like more flexibility and are more productive when they have more choice. Productivity and sickness absence levels also back up that feedback.

In terms of staff coming into offices, for example, the numbers of staff booking desks and meeting space in Woodcock Street has steadily risen since August and is now about 200 staff per day from across all Directorates.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Performance Monitoring Dashboard”

Question:

Please provide a copy of each department’s performance monitoring dashboard for each month from April 2018 to now.

Answer: The council publishes its performance to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and this has been the case since before 2018. The performance reports cover all aspects of performance across each portfolio / directorate. All previous performance reports are available for download via CMIS. Links to each report are found in the table below.

Date of Cabinet Meeting	Name of Item	Link to report(s) on CMIS
26 Jun 2018 - 15:00 to 17:20	<u>Performance Monitoring - April 2017 to March 2018</u>	<u>Report</u>
18 Sep 2018 - 10:00 to 00:00	<u>Performance Monitoring - April to June 2018</u>	<u>report</u>
13 Nov 2018 - 10:00 to 11:30	<u>Performance Monitoring – April to September 2018 (Quarter 2) Update</u>	<u>report</u>
5 Mar 2019 - 10:00 to 11:00	<u>Performance Monitoring – April to December 2018 (up to Quarter 3) Update</u>	<u>report</u>
25 Jun 2019 - 10:00 to 12:00	<u>Performance Monitoring End of Year Report April 2018 to March 2019</u>	<u>report</u>
30 Jul 2019 - 10:00 to 12:00	<u>Performance Monitoring April to May 2019</u>	<u>report</u>
29 Oct 2019 - 10:00 to 12:00	<u>Performance Monitoring Report - April to August 2019</u>	<u>report</u>
11 Feb 2020 - 10:00 to 12:35	<u>Performance Monitoring Report - April to November 2019</u>	<u>report</u>

23 Jun 2020 - 10:00 to 12:00	<u>Performance Monitoring Report - April 2019 to March 2020</u>	<u>report</u>
8 Sep 2020 - 10:00 to 12:10	<u>Performance Monitoring April to June 2020</u>	<u>report</u>
16 Mar 2021 - 10:00 to 13:20	<u>Birmingham City Council Performance and Progress Against Delivery Plan During Q3 2020-21</u>	<u>report</u>
29 Jun 2021 - 10:00 to 12:25	<u>Birmingham City Council Performance and Progress Against Delivery Plan During Q4 2020-21</u>	<u>report</u>
7 Sep 2021 - 10:00 to 11:47	<u>Birmingham City Council Performance and Progress Against Delivery Plan During Q1 2021-22</u>	<u>report</u>

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

‘Catch up from the Pandemic’

Question:

A study by the Department of Education has shown that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds have been slower in catching up on lost learning following the pandemic. Could the Cabinet Member comment on this, giving details of how City Schools are addressing this worrying issue?

Answer:

I agree that the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds is a very worrying issue.

Staff in Birmingham schools are committed to supporting all pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged, catch up from any learning lost due to the pandemic. I would like to thank them for their continued commitment.

Schools are making use of catch-up funding provided for this purpose by the government to support their pupils. Ways schools are using this funding includes providing extra tuition to the pupils who most need support to catch up on lost learning.

Many secondary schools held summer schools over the summer holidays for incoming new Year 7 pupils to ensure they were as prepared as possible for the start of term.

Schools also participated in the Holiday Activities and Food Programme over the summer and will do so again at Christmas where activities are focused on children and young people who are eligible for free school meals.

I do not underestimate the scale of the challenge though and will continue to lobby government for additional funding for schools to support Birmingham pupils in the years to come.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

‘CO2 Monitors in City Schools’

Question:

It has been reported more than half of the 300,000 CO2 monitors promised to schools to improve ventilation and prevent transmission of the coronavirus are yet to be delivered. Could the Cabinet Member provide details of any City schools that could be affected by this delay?

Answer:

The government announced in August that all schools in England were to receive CO2 monitors so that staff could quickly identify where ventilation needed to be improved. At the time the government said these monitors would be received by schools ‘from September’.

Following queries from schools about when they would receive their monitors, officers in Education and Skills undertook a survey of Birmingham schools before October half-term.

Of the 268 Birmingham schools who responded, only 32 schools had received their monitors as at 1st November 2021.

I was extremely disappointed to learn so many schools had not received the monitors they’d been promised, particularly as good ventilation is one of the main ways to keep pupils and staff safe while at school.

Officers raised this, as well as feedback the council had received from schools about the performance of the monitors they’d received, with senior officials at the Department for Education in early November. Since then, increased deliveries of monitors have taken place.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
& CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

“TV and Film Recording”

Question:

How much has the Council received from all TV and Film recording that has happened within Birmingham this year? Please break this down by gross figure and net profit?

Answer:

Filming in Birmingham has so far this year generated almost £300,000 income for various City Council services in 2021/22 including highways, car parks, catering, parks, property services etc. Income is not recorded in the format requested ie gross figure/profit. The £300k is input as overall income across the various service areas.

In addition to the direct benefit to the City Council, the filming delivers a wider economic benefit to the city as a whole. This was calculated at £7m in 2020-21 and is anticipated to increase in 2021-22 due to some major production companies filming in the city.

The costs of the film office ‘Film Birmingham’ are currently £80k this year and for every £1 invested, the service is therefore delivering a return of nearly 1:4 for the City Council and 1:87 for the economic benefit for the wider city.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

‘City Youth Clubs’

Question:

It’s been reported in a survey by the National Youth Agency, children in affluent areas in England are twice as likely to have access to youth clubs and other out-of-school activities as opposed to those in less affluent areas. Could the Cabinet Member give clear indications of how this issue is being addressed in the City?

Answer:

The information below refers to Birmingham City Council Youth Services and does not include all youth provision and out of school activities provided by the third sector in the city.

Birmingham has 15 youth centres. I can confirm that 10 of these are in wards that are ranked in the top 10% most deprived wards nationally.

We also have one youth centre based in Oscott ward serving young people in Kingstanding which is ranked 12th in the Birmingham most deprived ward ranking and in the top 10% nationally.

We have 2 centres (Ladywood and North Edgbaston wards) based in the top 20% of the most deprived wards in the country.

This shows that Birmingham Youth Service has the majority of its centres located in the most deprived areas of Birmingham.

We will continue to use intelligence gathered to ensure that our services and interventions for young people are targeted at those wards which we know suffer most from socio-economic deprivation.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

“Levelling Up Bids”

Question:

How much money did the Council spend of the capacity funding putting together each of the four bids for levelling up funding submitted in round 1, including the cost of all associated reports and appendices linked to the bids, broken down by bid?

Answer:

A total of £46,057 was spent completing the standard green book compliant funding application templates issued by Government for the 4 round one bids. This comprised a single commission so not broken down by bid

A further £28,000 was spent specifically on the Wheels application in respect of additional technical information.

E

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTION WERE SUBMITTED FOR
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

‘Passivhaus’

Question:

**Could the Cabinet Member report on how many buildings in Birmingham
have Passivhaus status?**

Answer:

There are currently 2 dwellings in the Birmingham City Council’s municipal housing stock which have Passivhaus status. Information regarding private dwellings or other buildings in Birmingham is not available.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund?’

Question:

Why did Birmingham City Council fail to make a bid under Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund? Will we be bidding in Wave 2?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council did make an initial expression of interest application to the SHDF Wave 1. The deadline for the initial bid closed on 15th October and the Council submitted its interest as part of a wider consortia bid and we are awaiting feedback, which is expected sometime in December.

Additionally, we will be making a similar expression of interest for Wave 2.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

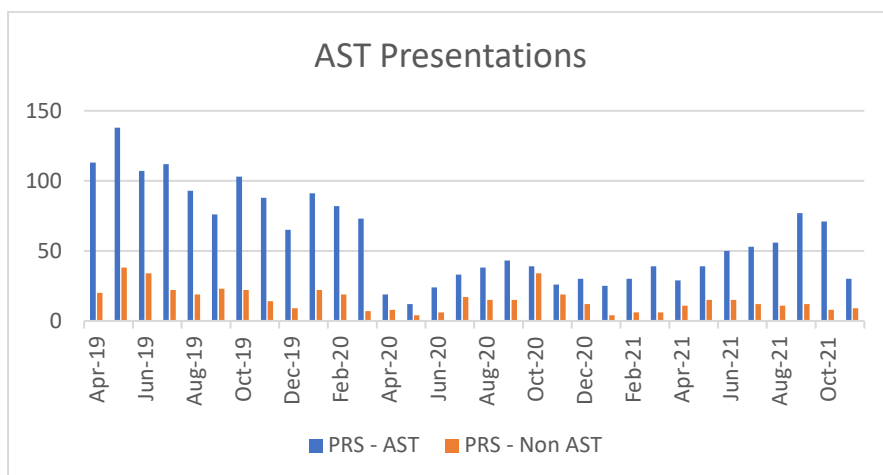
'Evictions from Private Rented Accommodation'

Question:

Following the lifting of restrictions relating to evictions from private rented accommodation, could the Cabinet Member give an indication of how this has had an impact on City Council housing lists?

Answer:

The graph below depicts the approaches of households to the City Council as threatened with homelessness where leaving private rented accommodation (the blue columns). As can be seen the restrictions relating to evictions as a result of the pandemic had a marked impact in reducing approaches to the City Council. The lifting of restrictions can be seen resulting in an increase in presentations. Measures are in place to mitigate against some of this pressure, but it is estimated that pressure is likely to continue and grow.



Applications to the Housing Register have also increased in this period. Between April – September 2020 there were on average 376 applications; between April – September 2021 there were 440 per week, this rise will not be entirely down to the lifting of restrictions relating to evictions from the private rented sector.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

“Exempt Accommodation 2”

Question:

What steps does the Council take to ensure that partners such as the NHS are only referring people into exempt accommodation in Birmingham who had a previous connection to the City?

Answer:

We are very much aware of the need to ensure statutory referring agencies take a responsible approach when referring to Exempt providers in the city. The largest number of statutory referrals come in via the criminal justice system and we have established relationships with National Probation Service at a local level and Foreign National Offender teams nationally.

Both of these have agreed to work with us to ensure referrals are only made to providers signing up to the Birmingham Quality Standards accreditation scheme. The work we are doing to expand the provision covered by the standards will also allow us to work with other referring agencies such as the NHS in the commitment to only refer to accredited providers.

As part of the pilot we have raised concerns at a national level with DLUHC as part of the pilot steering group, that there are a lack of protocols in place and no regulation around referral processes especially in regard to referrals from ‘out of area’ and currently no regulation in place to control this. This has been a key item of the pilot evaluation. It has further been raised with ministers directly as part of our ongoing lobbying activity and will continue to do so.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Exempt Accommodation”

Question:

What steps does the Council take to ensure that partners such as the NHS are only referring people into exempt accommodation in Birmingham with reputable providers?

Answer:

We are very much aware of the need to ensure statutory referring agencies take a responsible approach when referring to Exempt providers in the city. The largest number of statutory referrals come in via the criminal justice system and we have established relationships with National Probation Service at a local level and Foreign National Offender teams nationally.

Both of these have agreed to work with us to ensure referrals are only made to providers signing up to the Birmingham Quality Standards accreditation scheme. The work we are doing to expand the provision covered by the standards will also allow us to work with other referring agencies such as the NHS in the commitment to only refer to accredited providers.

As part of the pilot we have raised concerns at a national level with DLUHC as part of the pilot steering group, that there is a lack of protocols in place and no regulation around referral processes and this has been a key item of evaluation. It has further been raised with ministers directly as part of our ongoing lobbying activity

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

“Roommatch”

Question:

Does the Council use or signpost people to Roomatch.co.uk and if so, what steps has it taken to assure itself that only responsible providers and suitable accommodation are on the site?

Answer:

Following enquiries, Birmingham City Council does not use or signpost people to Roomatch.co.uk

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

‘Domestic Violence’

Question:

Figures suggest the number of “honour-based” offences recorded by English Police forces has increased 81% in the last 5 years, could the Cabinet Member indicate what measures have been put in place to protect vulnerable City residents from this horrific form of Domestic Violence?

Answer:

Honour-based violence is an often hidden crime, as many victims do not coming forward and report abuse. There is no statutory definition of honour-based abuse and it can take many forms. However, domestic abuse is a frequent indicator. Victims of honour-based abuse are supported to report crimes to West Midlands Police, should they feel confident to do so, and also by our commissioned domestic abuse services. These include the Domestic Abuse Hub delivered via Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid, Emergency Refuge Provision and Lead Worker Services. All of these services include support for victims of honour-based abuse and violence as part of the main domestic abuse service offer. The commissioned providers will also connect with a range of specialist organisations to ensure that victims and their children are able to access a full range of support services.

Our multi-agency work around domestic abuse is brought together at the Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Board, and honour-based abuse is recognised specifically within the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2023. *Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives*. Delivery of the Domestic Abuse Prevention strategy is overseen by the Board and the Part 4 duties of the local authority under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Board is Chaired by Cllr Nicky Brennan the Cabinet Advisor for Domestic Abuse and the Victims Commissioner for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The work of the Board will also be aligned to the wider evolving work led by the CSP in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the Rape and Sexual Violence Strategy.

Adult Social Care Commissioning are currently developing a community grants prospectus utilising Part 4 funding to encourage small specialist providers to bid for

funding to address gaps in existing service delivery, alongside a focus on the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Adult Social Care also deliver an in-house support service called Bharosa, which has been established since 1990 to deliver support to predominantly South Asian women and their children. Bharosa also supports victims of honour-based abuse and violence. The service is closely connected to the wider Adult Social Care and Children's Trust statutory services.

We work closely with the Violence Reduction Unit on the wider issues of domestic abuse. This includes two new partnership pilots with local, grassroots faith-based projects: one on coercive control and youth violence for faith communities and 'Empowering Futures' which is a faith-based anti-violence workshop.

In addition to the above, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership commission a specialised service to support victims and to prevent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Community champions are recruited and supported to help prevent FGM occurring within their own communities as well as potential victims being identified and safeguarded through the wider service. We work with the multi-agency Birmingham Against FGM Board bringing together professionals from a wide range of organisations to ensure training, networking, joined up delivery, support and identification of individuals who may be at risk. Birmingham City Council provide a specific training module on identifying and support for honour-based abuse. All employees have access to and are encouraged to complete it.

We are proactively participating in the national 16 Days of Action campaign to recognise the impact of violence against women and girls globally. Each day is themed. On 09 December we will be highlighting Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. We will be amplifying messages from support organisations and promoting the Forced Marriage Helpline.

Moving forward, honour-based abuse will continue to form part of the city's response to domestic abuse but will be provided with additional focus as part of an enhanced response to Violence Against Women & Girls.

H1

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION H1 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO
QUESTION A5

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Mobile Household Recycling Units’

Question:

Could the cabinet member explain the communications strategy that is used to let residents know when a mobile household recycling centre is visiting their neighbourhood?

Answer:

Elected Members and MPs are emailed dates and locations by the project team, ahead of planned visits to their wards/constituencies. We also work with local community groups and news sites where we have details of them to help publicise the events.

This is to ensure they, as the elected representatives in their area, are able to promote to their residents, community organisations in their locality and with hyperlocal media.

There is a need to strike a balance between promotion of the initiative and ensuring that people from outside the city do not abuse this service, which has been warmly welcomed by residents and elected members across the city.

It is believed that widespread publicity would increase such risks which is why we aim to inform Elected Members and MPs no more than 3 weeks in advance. Given this is a new initiative, we are closely monitoring all outcomes and metrics and will adjust if necessary and resources allow.

To date, this has enabled us to develop a more structured set of updates in recent times, with the information being presented in a more standardised format than was the case in the early days of the scheme.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES**

‘Removal of electrical items’

Question:

I have been told there is a delay in the collection of dumped fridges because resources are being directed into paid for electrical collections. Given the allocation of funding for tackling fly tipping, why are resources not available to collect dumped fridges, especially given their contribution to global warming?

Answer:

We use a specialist crew to collect white goods like fridges and washing machines - whether as part of our paid-for bulky waste collection service or fly-tipped items. As part of the £7.2 million investment in keeping our streets clean, we have now added a second crew to that service and we are clearing 80-100 fridges a day.

Almost all the fridges that are fly-tipped illegally will have had any metal – typically the motor and the cooling tubes – removed. Any CFC/HCFC gases within that cooling system will have escaped long before the fly-tipping is reported to us.

There is no excuse for fly-tipping. The Council offers a bulky waste collection service and major retailers are also required to collect electrical items for recycling. They are only allowed to levy a charge for transport, typically set at about £20.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

'Mobile Household Recycling Units'

Question:

Since the start of the Mobile Household Recycling Centre, can you provide me with a ward by ward breakdown of how many visits each ward has had up to present and setting out the tonnage collected by ward?

Answer:

A table detailing MHRC visits per Ward is provided below.

Ward	Visits	Ward	Visits
Acocks Green	3	Longbridge and West Heath	4
Allens Cross	3	Lozells	7
Alum Rock	7	Moseley	4
Aston	7	Nechells	6
Balsall Heath West	6	Newtown	6
Bartley Green	6	North Edgbaston	5
Billesley	6	Northfield	4
Birchfield	4	Oscott	2
Bordesley & Highgate	5	Perry Barr	2
Bordesley Green	6	Perry Common	1
Bournbrook & Selly Park	4	Pype Hayes	1
Bournville	1	Quinton	4
Bournville & Cotteridge	3	Rubery and Rednal	3
Brandwood & King's Heath	5	Shard End	3
Bromford & Hodge Hill	4	Sheldon	3
Castle Vale	1	Small Heath	6
Druids Heath and Monyhull	4	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	7
Edgbaston	4	South Yardley	2
Erdington	3	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	2
Frankley Great Park	6	Sparkhill	4
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	4	Stirchley	4
Gravelly Hill	1	Stockland Green	3

Hall Green North	3	Sutton Four Oaks	1
Hall Green South	2	Sutton Mere Green	1
Handsworth	7	Sutton Reddicap	1
Handsworth Wood	2	Sutton Roughley	1
Harborne	6	Sutton Vesey	1
Heartlands	5	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	1
Highters Heath	2	Sutton Wylde Green	1
Holyhead	5	Tyseley & Hay Mills	3
Kings Norton North	3	Ward End	2
King's Norton South	7	Weoley & Selly Oak	4
Kingstanding	2	Yardley West and Stechford	2
Ladywood	9		

There is a difference between visits to Wards, this was initially due to the roll out programme, which was staggered by vehicle deliveries. Now that all 4 teams are in operation and each ward has had a visit, the frequency of visits will be determined by the data we hold on fly-tipping.

Any waste presented at the local ward locations may not be tipped on the same day due to the load capacity of the vehicle, so it is not possible to provide a tonnage breakdown per ward. A breakdown of overall monthly tonnages is provided.

Month	Weight Collected
July	48.54 tonnes
August	37.37 tonnes
September	107.99 tonnes
October	140.61 tonnes
November (to 26 th)	142.71 tonnes

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

‘Trees Call to Action Fund’

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide details of applications made to the new £6m ‘Trees Call to Action Fund’ that was recently announced by DEFRA, providing of details of where the trees will be planted and when?

Answer:

Rather than funding focused on tree planting the Trees Call to Action Fund (TCAF) will support the development of new and existing projects and partnerships, helping to deliver the England Trees Action Plan. This is part of the Nature for Climate Fund, which the government has created to treble tree planting rates in England by 2025.

There is an application being made to the Trees Call for Action fund, but this is being made in conjunction with a consortium of the National Trust, The Woodland Trust and the Community Forest Trust – this follows on from a successful EOI being submitted to DEFRA under that call. BCC’s Principal Arboriculturist, Simon Needle, will be working with the consortium group to formulate the full application to be submitted prior to the 20th January 2022.

This application will not be specifically for the planting of trees, often grant schemes are short term and cover only the purchase of trees with the bulk of establishment and the long term management costs being borne by the landowners (typically the Council). This is unsustainable in the current financial climate.

Therefore, this application would see a different approach. Birmingham has been asked to be a national pilot following on from the launch of the Urban Forest Master Plan 2021 - 2051 to model and trial strategic planning around long term sustainable governance of and most importantly finance for the Urban Forest.

Working in partnership with the consortium will allow us to draw on their expertise in fundraising and financing but also engage with their wider UK city and Community Forest networks and their work on national initiatives such as the Future Parks Accelerator.

The application, if successful, would see up to £250,000 come to the city over 18 months for capacity building to enable that exploration and creation of a sustainable model for Urban Forestry.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

“Average Bin Route Distance”

Question:

What is the average refuse vehicle route distance from Montague Street?

Answer:

Mileage data on individual collection rounds is not held.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Rubbish Collected”

Question:

What was the amount of rubbish collected at Mobile HRC month by month since they were launched?

Answer:

The tonnages of rubbish collected are outlined in the table below:

Month	Weight Collected
July	48.54 tonnes
August	37.37 tonnes
September	107.99 tonnes
October	140.61 tonnes
November (to 26 th)	142.71 tonnes

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS

“Waste Collected”

Question:

What was the amount of waste collected by the HRC sites month by month since January 2019.

Answer:

Please see table below.

Waste materials received at Birmingham’s HRC sites (tonnes), noting that in 2020 all HRC sites closed from 23 March until 7 May due to the Covid 19 pandemic national lockdown, in line with national guidance. They then reopened on a restricted basis, with an advance booking system coming into effect from the 10 June 2020. The number of available slots has been increased since then. Perry Barr HRC site closed for refurbishment in July 2021.

	2019	2020	2021
January	6,686.08	6,464.05	3,362.72
February	7,534.09	5,681.45	3,163.98
March	8,315.88	5,980.24	4,948.63
April	10,225.97	343.15	6,028.91
May	9,625.8	3,056.47	4,885.21
June	8,694	4,276.23	6,284.8
July	10,062.03	5,108.86	6,321.52
August	9,862.76	4,810.97	5,209.75
September	8,009	4,763.87	5,161.51
October	6,955.12	4,448.61	3,957.78
November	6,026.68	3,978.65	
December	5,593.7	3,099.7	
Total	97591.13	52012.26	49324.8

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Deep Cleaning”

Question:

List all Wards visited by the three deep cleaning crews so far and how many times they have visited each Ward.

Answer:

Since their introduction in September all Wards in the City have been visited between 1-3 times, dependent on need and period of time spent in the location. The crews may cover several wards a day clearing individual roads and to date the depots haven't been recording visits per ward.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

“Repairs to Council Vehicles”

Question:

What is the total number of repairs and cost of these repairs on Council vehicles in each of the last 4 years, broken down between repairs undertaken by its own garage and repairs undertake externally?

Answer:

Year	In House	Contractors
2021/22 up to P7	£1,100m	£250k
2020/21	£1,700m	£445k
2019/20	£1,300m	£617k

Information for 2018/19 is held in different format and it is not possible to break down between contractor and in-house repairs.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

“Missed Collections”

Question:

How many missed collections have there been in both this calendar year so far and for the last four years, broken down by Ward. Please clarify if this is only reported missed collections or total affected properties?

Answer:

Please see the attached file. This is the combined figure of reported missed collections for residual and recycling, based on the current new ward structure. The data may include duplicate reports about the same missed bin prior to October 2019. Note that also, if a resident reports a recycling and residual bin as being missed on the same day, then this is counted twice. It is also worth noting in the attached spreadsheet the number of planned collections for each ward which provides some context to the number of missed collections.



H11.xlsx

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

'Pothole Compensation'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member give details of how much compensation has been paid to drivers whose vehicles have been damaged by potholes on City roads in the last five years?

Answer:

2021 – £24,875.58

2020 – £14,253.93

2019 – £15,098.21

2018 – £17,579.60

2017 – £7,259.93

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

'Pothole Compensation'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member explain how many applications for compensation following pothole damage have been refused in the last five years and for what reasons?

Answer:

2021 – 122
2020 – 79
2019 – 42
2018 – 160
2017 – 71

Our defence for claims would be that we have carried out our duty in accordance with Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 by inspecting when programmed and reacting accordingly to any criteria defects brought to our attention within the correct time frame. This would discharge our liability in line with Section 58 of the Highway Act 1980.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

'Average Speed Cameras'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the programme of installing average speed cameras, in the light of the resolution passed by Council in September?

Answer:

A working group has convened including myself as Cabinet Member, Council Officers, West Midlands Police and representatives from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Work has commenced to review the financial model as the current model is not sustainable for either party and unlocking this is critical to our ability to proceed. In parallel with this, officers will shortly commence the technical work to develop the criteria against which further locations for average speed enforcement will be assessed. Both the Council and the Police are committed to expanding the programme of average speed enforcement in the city.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

'Clean Air Zone'

Question:

I have been receiving reports the CAZ system is incredibly customer unfriendly, with drivers being issued with Penalty Tickets as a result of them having no means of checking if they need to pay the daily fee. As a result there appears to be a very high number of Penalty Notices that have been issued. Could the Cabinet Member state what plans he has to make this system more user friendly?

Answer:

The design and the operation of the payment system for the Clean Air Zone daily fee, the online vehicle checker and the national contact centre is the responsibility of the government. This is because these 'central' services are shared by all of the local authorities who are, or will be, operating Clean Air Zones over the next few years.

To avoid being issued with a penalty charge notice (PCN) we have encouraged, and continue to do so, drivers to check whether or not their vehicle is subject to the daily fee. This can be done through the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones>

In addition, there are over 300 signs in place to alert drivers to the fact that they are approaching a Clean Air Zone. The layout of these signs is also intended to provide drivers with an opportunity to avoid the zone, if they can. These signs start at two miles from the boundary of the zone. There is another reminder at one mile from the zone, then another at approximately 100 yards from the boundary of the zone. Finally, there is another sign on the boundary of the zone. All of these signs say: Charges apply. Pay online.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

'Clean Air Zone'

Question:

I understand there are delays in responding to residents' complaints and appeals. Could the Cabinet Member report on how long appeals are taking to resolve?

Answer:

As at the end of October 2021, the Council's Parking Services team had received 37,337 representations, which represents 9.5% of all Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued up to that point.

Of the representations received 21,539 had been determined, which means that there were 15,798 to be determined.

Data about the time taken to review a representation is not held as cases often require further information so pass through various processes and teams before a final determination is provided.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

'Average Speed Cameras'

Question:

The cabinet member will be aware that ward councillors have been deeply concerned about the impact on traffic safety of putting a third (bus) lane on the Walsall Road given the high casualty rate in the vicinity of the Tower Hill junction. He will also be aware of Council's recent declaration of support for average speed cameras and that the ward councillors have repeatedly requested this to be part of the Sprint programme, given the widening of the road. It has now emerged there will not even be bus lane enforcement cameras on much of these new bus lanes. Will he therefore give us a date to install average speed cameras and prevent another road safety tragedy in this neighbourhood?

Answer:

We cannot provide a date for installing average speed cameras on the Walsall Road at this time.

Work is underway, jointly with West Midlands Police and the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to agree a new delivery model which is financially sustainable for all parties. Alongside this, new criteria for locations to qualify for average speed cameras is to be developed.

Both the Council and the Police are committed to expanding the programme of average speed enforcement in the city but any further commitment on specific locations would be pre-empting this important work that first must be undertaken.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Speed Awareness”

Question:

How much has the Council received from speed awareness courses from West Midlands Police over the last 4 years, including what has it spent this money on?

Answer:

To date, the Council has received £308,531.30 from the Police covering the period to the end of March 2021. This has been used as a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the average speed enforcement cameras or is being held in reserve for this purpose for future years and/or to undertake reactive maintenance on the historic GATSO cameras that remain in place.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Pot Holes”

Question:

For this calendar year and the last four years, how many claims have there been for damage caused to motor vehicles by a pothole, please provide the number of claims and total value of compensation has been paid out?

Answer:

Year paid out	Claims Received	Claims Settled	Total value of compensation
2021 –	262	89	£24,875.58
2020 –	138	58	£14,253.93
2019 –	82	40	£15,098.21
2018 –	238	78	£17,579.60
2017 –	99	28	£7,259.93

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“CAZ Enforcement”

Question:

How does the Council enforce the daily charge on vehicles, such as diggers etc that are brought into the zone on flat beds?

Answer:

If a non-compliant vehicle is brought into and/or removed from the zone by another vehicle (such as a flat-bed truck) then the transported vehicle is not subject to the daily fee. If that vehicle is operated within the zone and does not have a valid temporary or permanent exemption in place, then it should be subject to the normal enforcement process. This would involve the capture of a vehicle registration mark by at least one of the Clean Air Zone ANPR cameras that are in place to support the enforcement of the zone.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES

“Emissions”

Question:

What are the daily emissions from generators/delivery vehicles etc at the Frankfurt Christmas Market?

Answer:

There is no prescribed regime for monitoring the emissions of generators. However, any complaints about generators are reviewed on a case by case basis using the statutory nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Any vehicle that enters the Clean Air Zone and does not meet the emission standards for the zone is subject to the daily fee, unless there is a valid exemption in place.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“MTFP”

Question:

What adjustments have been made within the MTFP for car parking income across as a result of proposed changes to car parking provision and private car access within various Council policies and strategies?

Answer:

There was a £0.5m reduction to car parking income in 2021/22 on an ongoing basis for partial mitigation of anticipated car parking income reductions.

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

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

“Street Lighting”

Question:

For this calendar year and the last four years, please provide the number of streetlights that have been reported to be broken, damaged or faulty, including the cost of any repairs?

Answer:

Year	Reported Faults Repaired	Approximate Cost
2017	11,878	£1,047,000
2018	12,935	£1,260,000
2019	9,514	£ 727,000
2020	11,518	£ 776,000
2021 (to 30.11.21)	16,707	£1,054,000

Repairs include a range of fault types from ‘insecure door’ through to ‘column knock down’. Typically, over 90% of faults result in the lamp being out.

J1

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION J1 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO
QUESTION C4

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES**

‘Domestic Violence and Homelessness’

Question:

Domestic abuse caused nearly one in six new homelessness cases in England between April and June, according to government figures. Could the Cabinet Member comment on the position in the City, stating if there has been a rise in cases of homelessness due to this reason?

Answer:

Data on initial assessments of homelessness duties owed shows that in 2019/20 domestic abuse accounted for 741 cases, with family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate being the highest reason at 1515.

In 2020-21 domestic abuse accounted for 745 cases and family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate being highest at 1257.

For the first quarter 2021-22 there were 408 presentations of people as homeless on account of domestic abuse.

The above is a picture of the pressure upon families and the services seeking to support in instances of domestic abuse.

(data from Northgate and H-CLIC returns).

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

'Rough Sleepers'

Question:

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced £66 million will be available to provide accommodation for rough sleepers this winter. Could the Cabinet Member confirm if the City has been successful in bidding for a share of this money, giving details on what the money is to be allocated to?

Answer:

With this announcement came a breakdown of allocation. For Birmingham the Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Treatment Grant £652,329 was assigned. Operationally this was money already secured, funding drug and alcohol treatment for people who have or are sleeping rough through services provided by our commissioned provider Change Grow Live (CGL).

In addition, a figure of £68,640 through the Homelessness Transformation Fund was announced, these funds directly to the hostel provider. This will enable improvements to provision including less shared facilities for residents.

Birmingham was not offered the opportunity to bid for other funds

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS

“EA Providers”

Question:

How many people have the Council placed with the 75% of EA providers under investigation or notice by the regulator in the last four years.

Answer:

Prior to the work of the Supported Housing Pilot, Officers developed a list of providers to be used in finding accommodation for single homeless people, this was based upon working experience of using those providers. From that list there are three providers who subsequently came under review by the Regulator for Social Housing, two of these either have no Regulatory Judgements or Regulatory Notifications over the past 4 years, or are compliant; one of which has been found in breach of the regulatory standards.

The Council would not refer people into those providers who are under investigation.

Currently there is not a data set recording the number of placements made. We are currently reviewing all providers that we or our commissioned services refer to, to fall in line with the objective to only refer to those who are going through the Quality Standard Accreditation process. As the work of the Supported Housing Pilot matures officers are adopting the intelligence arising from that work on quality standards to determine which providers to work with going forwards, however we are in a cross over period in that regard.

It is important to note also the judgements by the regulator are against finance and governance standards not supported accommodation standards, which the Quality standards and Charter of Rights assess.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE

“Data Required”

Question:

"Please supply an updated version of BOTH tables provided in response to Written Question B7 from the Full Council meeting of 13th April 2021 (itself an updated version of information provided to written questions at previous full council meetings). To be clear, this refers to the shorter table, listing agencies and the longer table, itemising the role, area, who they were commissioned by, agency, start date, contract end date, active/inactive status, cumulative costs from Sept 18 to present, list of activities and summary of improvements.

Please note that the starting point for this data remains September 2019, so the new data should be added to that already provided in April."

Answer:

Since the Ofsted inspection outcome and the paper submitted to Full Council in September 2021, we have completely restructured the interim/consultant staff within the SEND service. We have released a number of staff and focused the interim/consultants on activity to provide better outcomes for young people. We have renegotiated with the agencies and agreed flat rates for roles which has allowed for more consistency in cost for particular roles. This also means that we no longer track the information in the original table provided in response to questions answered previously in February and April.

The previously provided table (Feb and April data) has been updated until the end of August 2021 and is provided as Appendix 1.

There is also a new table included that sets out, in the same format, the information requested for all interim/consultants within the SEND service from September 2021 to March 2022 (workers yet to start have also been included for information).

We have provided secondment opportunities to internal staff and these will be noted in the agency column as INTERNAL. This table is provided as Appendix 2.

The table on agency spend which details the costs of each agency has also been amended to reflect the spend from October 2021.

Please be advised that we have yet to be invoiced for the costs associated with all interim/consultants in the service for November 2021 and therefore the figures go up to, and are inclusive of, October 2021.

Please find attached 3 separate documents containing the following information:

- Appendix 1 - Interim/Consultant spend from Sept 2018 to August 2021
- Appendix 2 - Interim/Consultant spend from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022
- Appendix 3 - Total Agency spend updated table

CITY COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

‘Licensed Private Hire Vehicles’

Question:

The Licensed Private Car Hire Association estimates the industry is short of 160,000 drivers who have not returned to work following the pandemic and has suggested there is also a backlog in licensing and registration of vehicles, as well as criminal and medical checks for drivers. Could the Chair of Licensing and Public Protection give an indication as to whether this is an issue for Birmingham ?

Answer:

The Birmingham City Council Licensing Service has had to adapt the way applications are accepted and processed as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, however the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Team has continued to accept and process applications throughout the pandemic

The introduction of appropriate Covid risk assessments has meant that there have been delays in processing but only for a matter of days usually and at worst a few weeks. It is certainly not the case that new applicants are not being licensed, or that new applications are months in arrears.

Drivers are required to book medical appointments with the Occupational Health Service of Birmingham City Council and we are currently working to determine if the processing of medicals can be improved to speed up the process.

The figures below give an indication of the effect the pandemic has had on the number of new licences issued. The figures for private hire vehicle grants are of particular interest as they show numbers issued during the height of the pandemic were not significantly different from the numbers issued in the preceding year and since May 2021 the rate of issue has actually increased.

Although driver numbers were down, this has had more to do with a reduced number of applications, rather than any failure to process and as can be seen those numbers are starting to increase again, but there are currently only fifteen new driver applications awaiting processing.

12 months (Pre-pandemic) 12 months (Lockdowns) 6 months (post lockdowns)

	MAY-19 to APR-20	MAY-20 to APR-21	MAY-21 to OCT-21
HC Driver Grants	22	2	0
HC Vehicle Grants	6	93	53
PH Driver Grants	489	189	149
PH Vehicle Grants	1391	1262	1019