



18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO
CABINET MEMBERS**

18 MAY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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From Councillor Roger Harmer

18 MAY 2020

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

“PPE”

Question:

How many offers of PPE (donation or sale) has the Council had since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak and of these how many were

- a) Taken up**
- b) Rejected entirely**
- c) Referred to Central Government procurement vehicle**
- d) Not responded to?**

Answer:

As a result of the proactive steps BCC has taken in promoting the need for PPE we have received many offers of support, both as donations and as commercial propositions.

Both types of offer require an appropriate level of due diligence to be undertaken before accepting the support. Donations primarily simply require clarification that the type and manufacture of PPE meets the basic clinical and safety standards required in order to provide the level of protection that the equipment should be expected to afford to individuals.

Commercial offers need to have additional due diligence to ensure the legitimacy of the individuals/companies making those offers. To that end companies we are potentially seeking to form contracts and raise orders with are required to meet the basic industry requirements of standard financial and procurement criteria. Whilst these checks are not overly onerous, in the vast majority of cases the initial commercial offers we have received do not have sufficient information to demonstrate that they meet these criteria, and further information is requested by the BCC Procurement Team in those cases. This information is required for a combination of reasons ranging from possible specification shortcomings, inadequate financial standing of companies and (in at least one case) an initial search raising concerns over apparent links to criminal activity.

In total 388 offers from suppliers for the sale of PPE have been logged via the Corporate Procurement mailbox. Of these;

- a) Taken up – 15 offers received through the Corporate Procurement Mailbox have resulted in supply of PPE being sought by the City Council
- b) Rejected entirely – at this time only 4 offers have been completely rejected based on their inability to pass due diligence requirements. This is largely due to confirmation from those making the offer that they could not provide equipment to the necessary manufacturing safety standards. All other enquiries are actively going through the process of due diligence with the City Council’s procurement team (i.e. there is an ongoing exchange of information between BCC and those

making the offer). We are reliant upon the companies making commercial offers responding in a timely fashion to requests for further information.

- c) Referred to Central Government procurement vehicle – None. The centralised procurement route that has been communicated to Local Authorities by Government is the National PPE Dedicated Supply Channel (referred to generally as the Clipper system). This system is still in development by Government and not yet active.
- d) Not responded to – None. All offers to the Corporate Procurement mailbox have received an acknowledgement and where necessary additional information has been requested.

With respect to donations

- a) Taken up - 122
- b) Rejected entirely – 56
- c) Referred to Central Government procurement vehicle – None (see above)
- d) Not responded to – None. All offers of donations have been responded to.

18 MAY 2020

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

“Cashflow”

Question:

What is the Council’s latest projected cashflow position for June?

Answer:

Cashflow is the Council's flow of receipts and payments. Receipts come from government grants, Council Tax, Business Rates and other income; payments include employee costs and the normal cost of providing services. Any temporary imbalance between receipts and payments is covered by borrowing or lending. The Council also borrows to help fund the capital programme.

The Council's cashflow position is therefore reflected in its loan debt and cash deposits outstanding. This is reported to Cabinet as part of quarterly monitoring reports.

The Council's cashflows are significantly affected by COVID-19. The Government has provided grants in advance and has paid some normal grants early, in order to support uncertain local authority cashflows in this unpredictable time. In relation to COVID-19 costs and funding, as the cashflow position shifts daily and weekly, we are continuing to forecast within a range between zero and £15m required at the end of June. This range is due to the uncertain position of further COVID funding from central government.

COVID-19 has also affected the Council's normal business delivery. During lockdown the construction activity on the Council's capital programme has been greatly reduced. This has delayed planned cash payments, and the capital programme forecasts will be reviewed in future capital monitoring reports.

The Council's approved Financial Plan targets short term loan borrowing, net of short-term deposits, of around £460m to £560m. Our current forecast for the end of June, without having taken any long term borrowing in the year to date, is for net short term borrowing of around £500m, which is broadly in the middle of the planned range.

18 MAY 2020

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

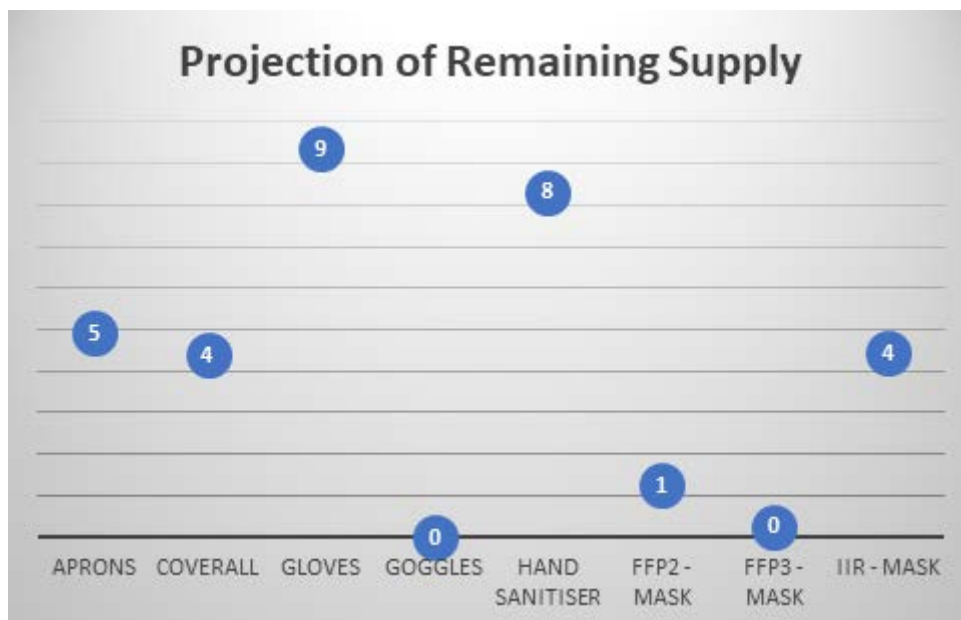
“PPE Supplies”

Question:

For each type of PPE how many weeks supply does the Council currently have access to?

Answer:

As at 7th May the following stock (expressed in weeks) of PPE was held by BCC



18 MAY 2020

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

‘CWG Village Contracts’

Question:

Could the leader set out what primary contracts have been awarded for each plot of the Athletes village development in Perry Barr/ Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme, indicating the date of the execution of each contract?

Answer:

Plot	Contractor	Contract Signed	Contract Start	Site Access Date
6	Kier	20 Dec 2019	20 Dec 2019	30 Jan 2020
7	Vinci	17 Feb 2020	24 Feb 2020	24 Feb 2020
8	Willmott Dixon	09 Jan 2020	20 Jan 2020	20 Jan 2020
9	Willmott Dixon	09 Jan 2020	20 Jan 2020	20 Jan 2020

18 MAY 2020

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

“Covid Business Grants”

Question:

Broken down by constituency level, how many businesses have been identified as eligible for the Government Covid Business Grants and how many of these have been paid?

Answer:

Constituency	*Identified	Paid
Edgbaston	802	476
Erdington	1,107	610
Hall Green	2,833	1,515
Hodge Hill	1,928	1,166
Ladywood	3,079	1,734
Northfield	1,329	685
Perry Barr	3,791	2,124
Selly Oak	1,290	779
Yardley	1,444	829
Sutton Coldfield	1,199	767
	18,802	10,685

The above figures are correct as of 12th May 2020. Please note that the number of businesses paid is rising daily as grants are processed by the team, and is likely to be significantly higher at the time of publication.

Note

As of 10th May 2020, Birmingham City Council has paid out more grants than any other Local Authority aside from Cornwall Council.

The Revenues Service is only able to identify eligible properties that meet the grant qualification criteria from the Authority's business rates database. It is then for the business who is registered for business rates at the eligible property to also meet the eligible business qualification criteria in order to obtain the grant.

Not every business and landlord has kept the city council informed of their change of address for example so whilst a property has been identified in the list above as eligible, the business trading from that property may be ineligible for a grant if it fails to meet the business criteria. A qualification, risk and fraud check is therefore carried out at the point at which a business completes our grant form on the BCC website but we are reliant on the business completing this form voluntarily.

Not all businesses have been in touch with BCC to complete their grant form for a number of reasons. Some businesses have not historically registered for business rates and are now fearful of applying for a grant because they will potentially become liable for a backdated business rates bill. Other businesses ceased trading leaving the property empty, together with the landlord they both failed to update their business rates record.

Contacting businesses who have not previously been in touch has been extremely challenging but the Authority has worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce as well as reaching out to the Federation of Small Businesses and the city's Business Improvement District to promote the grants. An extensive comms campaign has also been put into action with press releases, statements from the Leader and social media adverts being utilised to raise awareness with all communities of the grants and the need to complete the BCC grant form.

18 MAY 2020

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

“SEND consultants”

Question:

Please detail all interim and consultant resource (breakdown on a monthly basis since the start of this academic year of interim/consultant details with the specific cost paid to them) that has been utilised for SEND and the performance improvement that has been made as a result of these costs incurred to the Council.

Answer:

The table below reflects all interim and consultant resource spend since the start of this academic year for SEND performance improvement. A column has been added that reflects the work that this activity has supported in order to progress on SEND transformation needed. The table is not provided as a monthly breakdown in order to ensure a more holistic picture is provided.

	Role	Total Cost (incl VAT) 1/9/19 - 6/5/20	Comments
SEND Transformation	Interim SEND Transformation Consultant	£6,069.00	Focus of the consultants in this area has been on the Educational Health Care Plans recovery and transformation activity. Focus is on improving the timeliness of requests, communication with families / schools, managing a high volume of complaints and appeals, placements and improved decision making
	Interim SEND Transformation Consultant	£11,310.00	
	Interim SEND Transformation Consultant	£10,185.00	
	EHCP Recovery Lead	£21,840.00	
	Strategic SEND Consultant	£11,995.74	
	Sensory Consultant	£13,833.50	
	Interim Project Delivery Lead	£42,876.00	
Transport Transformation	Transport Recovery Consultant	£9,360.00	Consultants working in Home to School transport have worked on the implementation of the dynamic procurement system (DPS) and associated provider governance, improvements to the handling & timeliness of applications and appeals and there has been a reduction in the number of open complaints
	Guide transformation lead	£24,219.00	
	Interim QA Lead	£10,920.00	
	Interim QA Lead	£21,600.00	
	Safeguarding & QA lead	£25,200.00	
Transformation Support	Document Creation for self-evaluation	£2,928.50	This group have been integral to all of the transformation activity including action coordination and the development of accurate, visible data and management information
	Interim Project Officer	£14,688.00	
	Interim Data Officer	£13,464.00	

	Interim Data Officer	£13,020.00	
Annual Review Team	SEN Coordinator	£9,600.00	The interim annual review officers have been assessing and actioning outstanding annual reviews of Education, Health and Care Plans. Since March 2020, they have assessed and actioned 3,670 annual reviews. This team has freed up Principal Officers to focus on improving the EHCP request process and EHCP casework.
	Annual Review Officer	£13,125.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£10,800.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£12,480.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£9,984.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£11,856.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£7,800.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£13,416.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£13,416.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£13,104.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£12,012.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£12,480.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£10,860.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£6,708.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£8,424.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£10,608.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£10,296.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£9,360.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£9,360.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£9,672.00	
	Annual Review Officer	£7,200.00	

18 MAY 2020

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

“SEND consultants”

Question:

In answer to Question B1 (14 January 2020) it was confirmed that the SEN2 survey will be available on 28th February 2020.

Please provide an update on SEND performance in line with this.

Answer:

For the period January 2019 to January 2020, information submitted in SEN2:

- **The number of decisions that SHOULD have been made by SENAR that would have been appealable to the SENDIST (this includes requests for assessment, issuing of plans, contents of final plans and placements, as well as decisions to amend following annual reviews**

The number of EHC assessment applications has continued to rise in Birmingham and therefore the service are managing a higher level of review and request processes. The total appealable decisions reached was 9,803. The Total Appealable Decisions figure is calculated as the sum total of the following:

- Number of initial requests for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments refused
- Number of assessments completed, and a decision made not to issue an EHC plan
- Number with an EHC plan as at January each year
- Number of EHC plans ceased because the special educational needs of the child or young person are being met without an EHC plan

The number of children and young people with an EHC plan as at January 2019 was 9169. The service refused 467 initial requests for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments. A further 163 assessments did not result in an EHC plan being issued. From annual review, 478 decisions were made to amend the EHC plan and 4 children or young people's EHC plans were ceased because their special educational needs could be met without an EHC Plan. The total of appealable decisions was 9803, however this resulted in 1112 actual appealable decisions following processes within the EHC request or annual review system.

Out of the total appealable decisions at 9169, 297 appeals were registered with the tribunal service (SENDIST). This resulted in an appeal rate of 3%. The SEND tribunal rate for England was 1.6%. In 2018, the Birmingham SEND service made 10,214 decisions which resulted in 265 registered appeals. The appeal rate in

Birmingham in 2018 was 2.6%. The appeal rate of 3% is the highest in the Midlands area but also more significantly is among the top 11 Local authorities in England.

Summary

Birmingham SEND service are now examining more robust, equitable and transparent decision-making processes which will start to have an impact on the appeal rate and reduce this to be more in line with national expectations. By having clearer processes, new decision-making groups and improve communications with parents, families should be able to receive the best outcomes for their child or young person without having to face a tribunal or mediation to achieve this. The service now employs a link professional or key working role and decisions are made in a clear forum. The Local Offer is being improved to be more transparent and accessible to families so that they are able to under the best offer and work with many professionals. The decision-making process will aim to be accessible for families and drive parents to wards being an equal partner in the process. The child, young person and the families voice and now central to all systems and will be reflected within any decisions that are made.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

“Birmingham Employment Skills Board”

Question:

When did the Birmingham Employment Skills Board managed by the Council last meet?

Answer:

The last meeting of the Birmingham Employment Skills Board took place on 20 June 2018.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

“Dates for Birmingham Employment Skills Board”

Question:

Please list the dates of all the meetings of the Birmingham Employment and Skills Board for the last 5 years.

Answer:

Officers who are currently employed by the council have records of the below meetings of the Birmingham Employment and Skills Board.

- January 2017
- March 2017
- May 2017
- June 2017
- December 2017
- March 2018
- June 2018

18 MAY 2020

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

'Support for Home Schooling'

Question:

What steps have been taken to coordinate central resources for parents and schools seeking to provide home education during the lock-down?

Answer:

Along with Birmingham Education Partnership, work has focussed on sharing information and resources among Birmingham's school leaders. This has included the national initiatives such as the Oak National Academy as well as local resources developed by Birmingham schools. Schools are also working together in networks and consortia to share resources and best practice.

We have had concerns about families who are unable to access learning online. In addition to the devices provided to vulnerable Year 10 pupils through the national scheme, a Birmingham project has also worked to gather and re-purpose IT devices that can be provided to families to assist with learning.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

‘Children in School?’

Question:

By secondary and primary sector, could the Cabinet Member set out how many children have been attending school daily?

Answer:

The number of pupils attending schools has been changing each day and is monitored by officers in Education and Skills.

The number who attended each day for w/c 4 May is below:

Phase (state-funded schools)	Number of pupils on Monday 4 May	Number of pupils on Tuesday 5 May	Number of pupils on Wednesday 6 May	Number of pupils on Thursday 7 May
Nursery	93	109	116	116
Primary	2290	2448	2480	2450
Secondary	321	337	355	331
All-through	54	70	81	80
Special	146	167	185	171
Alternative Provision	10	11	7	9
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	10	13	10	9
Total	2924	3155	3234	3166

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

“Easements”

Question:

To date, how many decisions regarding social care assessments and provision have been undertaken using the easement powers?

Answer:

2,287 assessments have been undertaken. Although these citizens were advised verbally of the outcome of their assessment, they may not have received written documentation in line with our usual practice. This will be reviewed and any outstanding documentation sent out over the next two months.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“Easements communication”

Question:

On what date were all providers, services users and carers first informed that the Council was enacting social easements under the Coronavirus Act 2020?

Answer:

The information was posted on Birmingham City Council’s website on 20th April 2020.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

“Easements”

Question:

**The Government guidance on Social Care easements states that;
"Local Authorities should have a record of the decision with evidence that was
taken into account. Where possible the record should include the following:**

The nature of the changes to demand or the workforce

The steps that have been taken to mitigate against the need for this to happen

The expected impact of the measures taken

**How the changes will help to avoid breaches of people’s human rights at a
population level**

The individuals involved in the decision-making process

The points at which this decision will be reviewed again"

**Please can you provide a copy of the record of the decision which covers
these points. If such a record is not available please can you explain why and
outline the steps taken to address each of the points above?**

Answer:

In line with government guidance, the decision was taken by the Director of Adult Social Services on the advice of the Principal Social Worker. A Care Act Easements Board was established with representation from the directorate management team and legal services to oversee the implementation of the easements.

As required by the guidance, the decision made by officers was informed by a discussion with the local NHS leadership via the Birmingham and Solihull STP and Black Country and West Birmingham STP. I was briefed on the decision as lead member and as required by the guidance.

Given the level of impact of Covid19 on the West Midlands region, the Board moved quickly to review how the new powers might best assist staff to respond to increased and urgent pressures and to manage most effectively in the then very different environment.

Considerations included the much increased pressures on care providers, linked to staffing pressures, infection rates and concerns about the availability of PPE, as well as the need to assist the NHS with urgent work to ensure acute hospital capacity.

The review indicated that, at this stage, the Board would **not** consider going to the highest level of easement (Stage 4) which would involve the prioritisation of services, but did conclude that there would be benefits to streamlining our processes (Stage 3) to enable staff to focus on priority activities, to recognise the practical difficulties of operating in the current environment and to recognise the pressures on the care provider sector.

There was **no change** to the services received by existing service users as a result of this decision.

The Board has met weekly to keep this decision under review, and has now agreed that the use of the easements will cease with effect from 18th May 2020.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“Easements consultation”

Question:

**With whom did the Council consult before enacting the easements under the
Coronavirus Act 2020?**

Answer:

As required by the guidance, the decision made by officers was informed by a discussion with the local NHS leadership via the Birmingham and Solihull STP and Black Country and West Birmingham STP.

I was briefed on the decision as lead member and as required by the guidance.

18 MAY 2020

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

'Carer Testing'

Question:

How many Carers have been able to access testing?

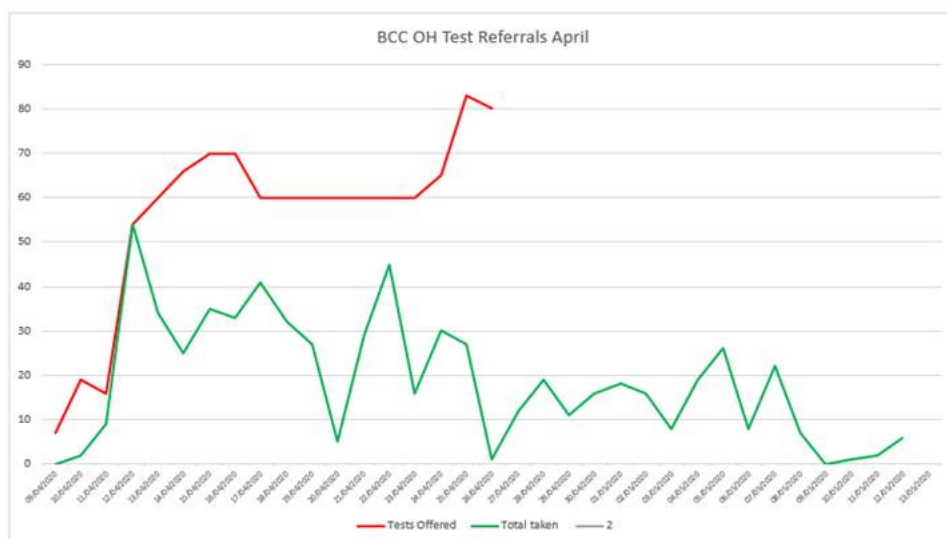
Answer:

From 9th April tests were made available to carers that worked for Birmingham City Council and at Birmingham Care Homes Via the Birmingham and Solihull (BSOL) NHS CCG. Birmingham City Councils Occupational Health Team agreed to triage testing. The criteria for eligibility changed a number of times over the period by BSOL CCG as the process evolved – from within 1 – 5 days of being symptomatic to eventually those who were asymptomatic, along with the .gov route to testing also going live later on within this period (24th April) – although initially suffering from some glitches (website closing down within the 1st hour of going live).

All carers now are able to access testing regardless of the number of days they may have been symptomatic and tests are offered via two sites within the city, with the addition of home testing kits being available. Tests are arranged for the next working day if submitted before 12:30pm.

As of 13th May, the City Council's Occupational Health team have arranged testing for 638 carers.

Date	Tests Offered	Total taken	Home Tests
09/04/2020	7	0	Not offered
10/04/2020	19	2	Not offered
11/04/2020	16	9	Not offered
12/04/2020	54	54	Not offered
13/04/2020	60	34	Not offered
14/04/2020	66	25	Not offered
15/04/2020	70	35	Not offered
16/04/2020	70	33	Not offered
17/04/2020	60	41	Not offered
18/04/2020	60	32	Not offered
19/04/2020	60	27	Not offered
20/04/2020	60	5	Not offered
21/04/2020	60	29	Not offered
22/04/2020	60	45	Not offered
23/04/2020	60	16	Not offered
24/04/2020	65	30	2
25/04/2020	83	27	Not offered
26/04/2020	80	1	Not offered
27/04/2020	Not offered	12	Not offered
28/04/2020	Not offered	19	Not offered
29/04/2020	Not offered	11	Not offered
30/04/2020	Not offered	16	Not offered
01/05/2020	Not offered	18	Not offered
02/05/2020	Not offered	16	Not offered
03/05/2020	Not offered	8	Not offered
04/05/2020	Not offered	19	Not offered
05/05/2020	Not offered	25	Not offered
06/05/2020	Not offered	8	Not offered
07/05/2020	Not offered	22	Not offered
08/05/2020	Not offered	7	Not offered
09/05/2020	Not offered	0	Not offered
10/05/2020	Not offered	1	Not offered
11/05/2020	Not offered	2	Not offered
12/05/2020	Not offered	6	Not offered
13/05/2020	Not offered	Not offered	Not offered



18 MAY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

'Carer Sickness Rates'

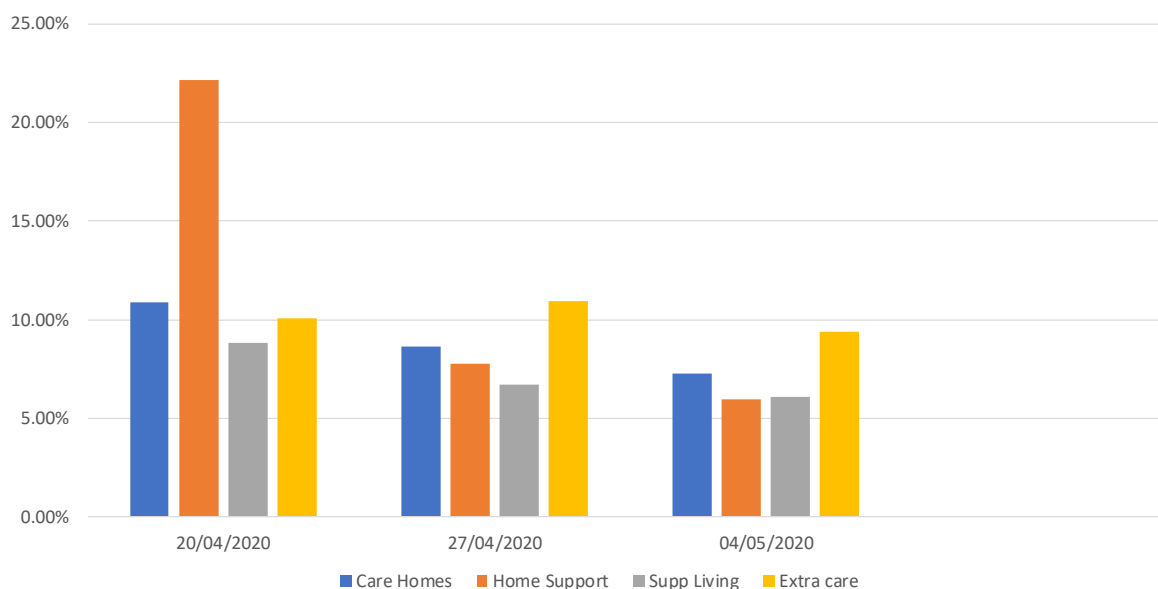
Question:

The efforts of the carer workforce to continue to support their clients and the personal risks they have undertaken are well-appreciated. Could the Cabinet Member indicate rates of sickness among these workers, setting it out by week?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council has been working with care providers to understand the impact of Covid19 on their service users, staff and businesses and to provide support. We have been collecting data from care providers about staff absence levels since 20th April 2020 and whilst response rates have varied from providers, locally collected self-reported data suggests the following staff absence rates in the regulated care sector:

Proportion of regulated social care workforce reported as absent due to Covid19



Source: Birmingham City Council, Be Heard weekly survey

In relation to Birmingham City Council front line Adults Social staff who provide direct support to our vulnerable citizens, ongoing support has been provided to preserve and maintain employee wellbeing. Daily absence returns have been submitted by managers and these have been reviewed on a weekly basis. Rates of sickness amongst these workers has been as follows:

Date	% of sickness
20/04/2020	9.1
27/04/2020	8.9
04/05/2020	8.2

Figures show that sickness has continued to reduce over the month of April and into May.

18 MAY 2020

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

'Carer PPE'

Question:

The efforts of the carer workforce to continue to support their clients and the personal risks they have undertaken are well-appreciated. Could the Cabinet Member set out what steps have been taken to ensure they have adequate Personal Protective Equipment?

Answer:

In the first instance it is the responsibility of all independent care providers to use their existing supply chain to purchase the PPE that they require. However, we are aware that there is pressure on supply chains which has led to some disruption in the supply of PPE.

To support care providers the Council has taken a number of steps:

1. Communication – directing providers to PPE wholesalers who are known to have stock and to the National Supply Disruption Hotline and publicising our mailbox PPEStock@birmingham.gov.uk as a point of contact for care providers who are experiencing difficulties;
2. Emergency PPE – providing emergency supplies of PPE to providers who are at risk of running out of stock;
3. Co-ordinating our effort with NHS colleagues. Birmingham Community HealthCare Trust have established a team to support care homes with all aspects of responding to COVID-19. The Council are collaborating with the trust to supply emergency PPE to care homes – where there is the greatest risk of transmission and outbreaks - through this team (COVID-19.PPE@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk);
4. Making use of data collected through the national capacity tracker and by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to proactively target providers who are reporting supply problems;
5. Directly contacting shielded citizens who arrange their own care through a direct payment to offer support with PPE if required.

As a result we have now provided over 330 emergency deliveries of PPE to care providers.

In addition, we are committed to ensuring that BCC care staff working at the Council's care centres or in the community are being supplied with the kit they need to work safely with the vulnerable residents in their care. Whilst there is demand for PPE from across many service areas in the Council, top priority is being giving to

those who provide personal care. Requirements for PPE for these teams – as set out in Public Health guidance – have been fully met.

18 MAY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JULIEN PRITCHARD

“Social Care Support – Legal Duties to People”

Question:

Why does Birmingham find it necessary to suspend its legal duties to people with a need for social care support when other local authorities continue to meet those duties in full?

There are very real concerns that some people will not get the social care and support that they need at all or quickly enough. The way we treat the most vulnerable people in our communities speaks volumes about our city.

Answer:

Care Act Easements under the Coronavirus Act 2020 were introduced to allow councils to respond flexibly, at scale and at pace, to the Covid19 crisis.

The legislation was introduced at a time when the rate of Covid19 infections and deaths were increasing rapidly and the number of patients in intensive care was estimated to be doubling every 3-4 days. The situation in Birmingham was extremely serious, with hospitals reporting some of the highest death rates in the country. Over the Easter weekend, the Midlands was the worst affected region for Covid19 deaths, significantly higher than any other region including London. The Birmingham Nightingale Hospital was under construction, with Birmingham and Solihull Councils expected to provide social care support to the new hospital.

The local decision to temporarily streamline some of processes required in the Care Act was made by officers at this time and in this context to ensure that we would be able to protect and support citizens at this period of unprecedented pressure on the health and social care system. We wanted to enable staff to focus on priority activities, to recognise the pressures on the care and hospital sectors and the practical difficulties of operating in the lockdown environment.

There was **no change** to the services received by existing service users as a result of this decision, and we committed to completing all assessment processes in full once the emergency period was over. We have been supporting the care provider sector during this exceptionally challenging time and have not had to prioritise who receives care and support, which is an option open to us under the legislation.

Since the decision was taken on 14th April, infection rates and deaths have not continued to increase at the same pace, and the additional capacity at the Nightingale has not been required. We have therefore taken the decision to cease the use of the easements and return to our usual processes with effect from 18th May 2020.

Far from reducing services, staff, providers and partners in Birmingham have been working exceptionally hard to ensure that people have been able to receive the care and support they need, quickly and in very challenging circumstances.

18 MAY 2020

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

'Burial Slots at Sutton New Hall Cemetery'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member indicate whether the number of daily burial slots at Sutton New Hall Cemetery been increased recently in response to the pandemic, setting out by how much and when?

Answer:

The number of burials at Sutton New Hall have not been increased during the pandemic although other cemeteries have with forecast demand and use. Since end March the number of slots and take up have been according to the Table below:-

Week commencing	Weekday Total		Weekend Total		Total Number	
	Available	Booked	Available	Booked	Available	Booked
30.3.20	20	10	6	0	26	10
6.4.20	19	12	6	1	25	13
13.4.20	20	14	6	5	26	19
20.4.20	20	11	6	1	26	12
27.4.20	20	16	6	0	26	16
4.5.20	20	11	6	0	26	11

18 MAY 2020

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

“Acivico”

Question:

In each of the last 4 financial years, what has been the net cost to the Council of Acivico?

Answer:

The tables below are reproduced from the Council's Financial Statements in the pertinent years and can be found under the Related Parties and Provisions notes, please note that figures for 2019/20 are draft as neither the accounts of Acivico nor the Council have yet been audited.

	Acivico Limited					
			Loans		Council Assets at year end	Council Liabilities at year end
			Council as Grantor			
	Exp.	Income	Granted	Repaid		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
2019/20 (DRAFT)	23.0	1.8	1.2	0.1	7.0	3.0
2018/19	27.7	1.0	6.0	26.1	10.3	5.1
2017/18	28.3	2.9	25.1	13.5	14.1	7.0
2016/17	28.8	3.1	9.5	1.0	4.1	8.3

Table 1

- Table 1 above shows within the first 2 columns the traded services both obtained from the company and supplied to the company by the Council. They include in 2018/19 a payment of £1.6m and in 2019/20 a payment of £0.17m for redundancy and pension strain costs approved in the Council's Financial Plan 2019-2023.
- The second two columns headed loans, show amounts that the council has provided as cash-flow facility to the company under the original contract between the council and Acivico, the amounts to 2018/19 summing to nil.
- The loan outstanding in 2019/20 relates to a Cabinet approved loan to Acivico for their ICT investment as part of their business plan presented in December 2018. This loan is at a commercial rate of interest.
- The final two columns, assets and liabilities are a snapshot of the position at the year end and include the position on pension fund guarantees for TUPE'd staff.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£m	£m	£m
PROVISIONS			
17/18 and 18/19 Losses	0.0	2.0	3.4
Guarantee net Current Liabilities	0.0	3.0	5.0
Invoice Mismatches	0.0	1.7	0.3
	0.0	6.7	8.7

Table 2

Table 2 is also part of the annual Statement of Accounts. At each year end the council has considered as part of its outturn report the cumulative amount that it should prudently set aside within a provision to cover the losses and liabilities of the company in case these are not recoverable in the future by the council. The increase in provision from 2017/18 to 2018/19 was £2.0m. The cumulative provision is expected to reduce significantly for 2019/20 but the exact figure cannot be determined until the Council has received Acivico's draft accounts.

18 MAY 2020

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

“Capita Birmingham Contracts”

Question:

How many individual contracts were novated over from Capita Birmingham to the Council and what percentage of these have now been re-procured through a competitive process?

Answer:

194 contracts were novated from Capita Birmingham Ltd to the Council (based on the data shared between both organisations as at Sept 2019). The urgency to begin to complete renewals commenced on the transition date of 1 August 2019, and in light of the criticality of many of the IT services, the Council had to prioritise what could be achieved in terms of full re-procurements within the timescales, therefore a PPAR report was issued to Cabinet in August 2019 which provided permission to direct award IT contracts novated from Capita for a period of 12 months.

There is a continuous rolling requirement to re-procure or renew the contracts as each contract is subject to its own specific renewal / expiry date and terms. The total number of contracts listed above include both contracts which require annual renewals and those which are multi-year deal contracts. This means some contracts have not yet needed to be re-procured under Public Contract Regulations and Council Governance.

Of the 194 novated contracts, 106 contracts were included within the PPAR report which equates to 55% of the total of novated contracts. Of the 106 contracts, 105 have been direct awarded as per the PPAR. 1 contract is currently still in progress and will be completed through a CCS framework.

The PPAR did not include 88 contracts which are below a value of £10k. Of the 88 contracts, 45 are not yet due to be re-procured, this equates to 23% of the total contracts or 51% of the number which are below the £10k value.

Of the remaining 43 contracts (22% and 49% respectively), 1 contract has been awarded through a CCS Framework, 1 contract has been awarded through a Council led tender process, 24 contracts have been direct awarded and 17 are still in progress to completion. Of the 17 contracts in progress, 7 will be through a framework, 1 via tender and 9 by direct award.

From January 2020 the Council have recruited more resources to complete the work and the IT Procurement Team are approaching all renewals with a focus on

obtaining the most appropriate products, services and pricing, whilst obtaining maximum savings where possible in accordance with Public Contract Regulations and BCC Governance rules.

18 MAY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

“Flytipping”

Question:

In each week since the beginning of January 2020, how many reported cases of fly-tipping have there been in the city?

Answer:

Week beginning	Number of reported cases of fly-tipping
30/12/2019	495
06/01/2020	648
13/01/2020	280
20/01/2020	533
27/01/2020	580
03/02/2020	590
10/02/2020	533
17/02/2020	467
24/02/2020	486
02/03/2020	527
09/03/2020	491
16/03/2020	239
23/03/2020	163
30/03/2020	388
06/04/2020	466
13/04/2020	520
20/04/2020	549
27/04/2020	563

04/05/2020	447 (excluding 10/5/20)
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18 MAY 2020

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

'Parks During Pandemic'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member set out what support the Parks Department has had from the Police and other departments in ensuring compliance with social distancing and outdoor exercise rules in parks during the outbreak?

Answer:

The Parks service has maintained contact with local Police teams on a daily basis and where required Police officers have attended sites to help reinforce messages about social distancing. This has been a joint effort.

The Service has also used its Ranger Service to provide a visible presence in the Parks and this has been further supported with an additional 10 teams from grounds maintenance staff not engaged in normal duties.

All of these teams have been operating from 12pm until 8pm 7 days a week. They have clear messaging on their vans about the need to maintain 2 metre social distancing. Megaphones have also been used in an attempt to move on any persistent groups.

18 MAY 2020

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

'Waste Collection Sickness'

Question:

The public is appreciative of the efforts made by staff to keep waste collection going during the lockdown. Could the Cabinet Member report on sickness absence rates within Fleet and Waste, setting it out by week?

Answer:

The table below includes all sickness including those staff self-isolating without symptoms. This is for all personnel within Waste Management who are involved with waste collections and street cleansing.

23-29 March	59
30 – 5 April	52
6 -12 April	54
13 -19 April	53
20 – 26 April	48
27 – 3 May	44
4 – 10 May	37

18 MAY 2020

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

'A34 Contracts'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member set out what contracts have been awarded for delivery of the A34 Transport Scheme in Perry Barr, setting out the date of awarding of any contract?

Answer:

The only contract awarded to date is the first phase of the Design and Build Contract. This was let through Lot 4 of the BCC Highways and Infrastructure Works Framework to Alun Griffiths (Tarmac) in September 2019. The first phase includes design, development and enabling works.

18 MAY 2020

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

'Clean Air Zone Delay'

Question:

Given the delay in the implementation of the Clean Air Zone, could the Cabinet Member indicate what proportion and numbers of staff working on this project have been redeployed to supporting the response to the Covid-19 pandemic?

Answer:

The Clean Air Zone team consists of eight full time employees. There are an additional 11 full time employees from different Council services who support the delivery programme and whose time is funded through the Clean Air Zone implementation fund.

From this group four (21%) have been redeployed to support the Council's response to COVID-19. Two are supporting the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – one is employed at a GR6 level, the other GR5. The other two are supporting the Council's COVID-19 related communications activity – both of these people are employed in GR5 roles. All four members of the team were re-deployed from the end of March 2020.

18 MAY 2020

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

'Transport Plan Consultation'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member state how many face to face consultation events on the Birmingham Transport Plan had to be cancelled because of the lockdown?

Answer:

All scheduled face to face consultation events were before full lockdown came into effect. One stakeholder round table – for freight, delivery and logistics organisations was a short time before lockdown and was changed from a face to face event to an online meeting in response to Covid-19. All others took place as planned.

In addition, officers had been planning to attend the Access Birmingham group, representing people with disabilities on 16 March, but the meeting was cancelled in response to Covid-19. Members of the group were instead encouraged to submit responses to the consultation either by email or Be Heard.

The consultation period was extended to allow more time for people to respond, and the team are willing to continue to receive comments from groups and organisations even though the main consultation has ended.

Engagement with key stakeholders will continue during the further development and delivery of the Birmingham Transport Plan. In addition, further consultation will be undertaken on a number of the key delivery components prior to any schemes being delivered.

18 MAY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE

'Responses to Transport Plan'

Question:

How many responses have been received during the Consultation on the Birmingham Transport Plan?

Answer:

- 619 responses from individuals recorded on Be Heard, plus a small number of additional comments via email.
- Written responses from 43 organisations (via Be Heard and email)

Figures are provisional until publication of the consultation report.

18 MAY 2020

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

‘Perry Barr Flyover Project’

Question:

Does the cabinet member believe the A34 Transport Scheme for Perry Barr and flyover replacement is deliverable by July 2022?

Answer:

Yes.