



CITY COUNCIL
18 APRIL 2023

WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO
CABINET MEMBERS
AND COMMITTEE
CHAIR

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A To the Leader of the Council

1. LGA Peer Review

Councillor Debbie Clancy

2. Property Disposal Ward Member Consultation

Councillor Ewan Mackey

3. Centenary Square Fountain

Councillor Robert Alden

4. Community Chest

Councillor Gareth Moore

5. Smallbrook Queensway

Councillor Jon Hunt

6. Change of Full Council Date

Councillor Roger Harmer

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

NONE SUBMITTED

C To the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

1. Tribunal Decisions

Councillor Debbie Clancy

2. Oracle in Schools

Councillor Deborah Harries

D To the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

NONE SUBMITTED

E To the Cabinet Member for Environment

1. Street Sweepers

Councillor Darius Sandhu

2. Assisted Dropped Collections

Councillor Ewan Mackey

3. moved to J6

4. moved to J7

5. Cofton Park

Councillor Adrian Delaney

6. WRCO Interventions

Councillor Kerry Brewer

7. Driving Team Leader

Councillor Adam Higgs

8. WRCO Role

Councillor Gareth Moore

9. Tree Death Ratio

Councillor David Pears

10. Tree Canopy

Councillor Deirdre Alden

11. Assisted Bulky Waste Collections

Councillor David Barrie

12. Perry Park

Councillor Morriam Jan

13. Bin Collections During the Snow

Councillor Jon Hunt

14. Free Bulky Waste Collections for the Frail and Disabled

Councillor Mumtaz Hussain

15. Fleet and Waste Drivers

Councillor Baber Baz

16. Pesticides

Councillor Izzy Knowles

17. Council Policy on Rat Poison

Councillor Deborah Harries

F To the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

1. Oracle Security Testing

Councillor Ewan Mackey

2. West Midlands Forum

Councillor Robert Alden

3. Global Property

Councillor Ron Storer

4. Temporary Accommodation

Councillor Adam Higgs

5. Council Tax Data Ward Boundaries

Councillor Richard Parkin

6. West Midlands Forum Contract

Councillor David Barrie

7. West Midlands Forum Approval

Councillor David Pears

8. Oracle Predicted Savings

Councillor Jon Hunt

9. Oracle Expenditure

Councillor Roger Harmer

10. Oracle Functionality

Councillor Paul Tilsley

11. Oracle Future Expenditure

Councillor Zaker Choudhry

G To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

NONE SUBMITTED

H To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

1. Housing Officers

Councillor Bruce Lines

2. Damp

Councillor Robert Alden

3. EPC Rating

Councillor Adam Higgs

I To the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community, Safety and Equalities

1. Burials

Councillor Richard Parkin

2. Burials

Councillor Alex Yip

3. Home Working

Councillor Rick Payne

4. Home Working – Musculoskeletal Injuries

Councillor Debbie Clancy

5. Home Working Percentage

Councillor Gareth Moore

6. Home Working Percentage

Councillor Timothy Huxtable

7. Employees Working Two Jobs

Councillor Richard Parkin

8. BID Security

Councillor Matt Bennett

J To the Cabinet Member for Transport

1. Queen's Baton Qir Quality Monitoring

Councillor Adam Higgs

2. Bus Lane Enforcement

Councillor Ewan Mackey

3. Highways Fund

Councillor Roger Harmer

4. CAZ Fund

Councillor Jon Hunt

5. CAZ Fund

Councillor Zaker Choudhry

6. Grit Bins

Councillor Debbie Clancy

7. Grit Bins

Councillor Ron Storer

K To the Chair of Planning Committee

1. Planning Application 2020/08399/PA

Councillor Ayoub Khan

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“LGA Peer Review”

Question:

When does the Council intend to have its LGA Peer Review, which was postponed due to the Covid pandemic?

Answer:

A principle of the LGA peer review offer is that local authorities determine the timing of their peer review to ensure best fit with local context and priorities. We are carefully considering the timing of a corporate peer review and are discussing this with the LGA.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Property Disposal Ward Member consultation”

Question:

In answer to question A4 to Council on 28 February you said that the omission of Ward Councillor consultation for a property disposal in Bordesley and Highgate was due to a procedural breakdown that ‘will not happen again.’ On 28 March, you approved two further property disposals, again in Bordesley and Highgate, that again contained no reference to any Ward Councillor consultation. Why did you sign off these reports given this omission, and the assurances that officers had previously provided to you and promises you made to the chamber?

Answer:

The Ward Councillor for the area within which the two properties authorised for sale are located, was notified of the intention to sell on 22 February 2023 via email. A copy of this can be provided if needed.

Officers are now including a commentary regarding notification in the reports under the consultation section.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Centenary Square Fountain”

Question:

It appears that the fountain in Centenary Square is still not in operation, please can you provide an update for the reasons it is not working, the expected timeline for its repair and the total cost to the public purse of this work, including the funding source being used?

Answer:

The cold and wet weather throughout the past 2 months has prevented work to repair the granite bed of the Reflective Pool. However, a specialist contractor has now been appointed to carry out these in the coming weeks. The cost for these works will be fully funded through a recharge made in September 2022 to the Organising Committee for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The operational elements of the water feature are in full working order, with a regular servicing schedule in place. However, following advice from the maintenance contractor the water feature will remain switched off until the completion of the repair works to the bed of the Reflective Pool.

Since the reopening of Centenary Square in July 2019 a total sum of £1,064 has been expended to undertake repairs to the granite bed. The source of funding for these works was the ‘get ready’ element of the CWG budget. A further £5,995 has been spent to undertake re-commissioning and repair works to the water feature system (jets and pumps). This was fully recharged to the Organising Committee for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Community Chest”

Question:

By what date do you expect the new community chest to be fully implemented and available for local wards to spend?

Answer:

I sent an email yesterday to Elected Members setting out the ward funding available this financial year, along with any conditions and governance arrangements.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Smallbrook Queensway”

Question:

“Given the level of public concern, can the Leader set out the status of the Smallbrook Ringway demolition project? What will be done to retain the architectural features?”

Answer:

Giving this question relates to a current planning application it would not be appropriate to comment outside of that process. These issues will be considered as part of the assessment of the planning application.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Change of Full council date”

Question:

“In mid-March it was agreed to change the date of the Full council meeting from 4 April to 18 April to avoid the school holidays. Given that these dates are known well in advance and people had already organised childcare and holidays around them, does the Leader agree that significant date changes such as this should be given a notice period of at least 3 months? This date change was certainly avoidable.”

Answer:

At Council Business Management Committee (CBMC) on 13th March it was agreed to move the meeting of Full Council to 18th April. It was recognised that the decision was taken late, but in future CBMC will ensure that any meetings of Full Council will avoid the school holidays.

B

**PLEASE NOTE: NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE
DEPUTY LEADER**

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Tribunal Decisions”

Question:

How many times, in each academic year since September 2014 (including year to date), has the Council opted to not issue an amended EHCP in line with the decision of a first-tier tribunal, pending appeal to the upper tier?

Answer:

There is no statutory requirement for the Council to keep records of this nature, so it is not possible to provide this information.

The situation described in the question is an extremely rare occurrence.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Oracle in schools”

Question:

“How many schools have been unable to set budgets this year because of problems with the Oracle system?”

Answer:

I have been informed that all schools across Birmingham have either set their budgets for 2023/24 or are currently doing so. I understand that officers have been working with schools and considerable effort and time has and continues to be made available to support schools. I am grateful to schools for their continued patience and understanding.

D

**PLEASE NOTE: NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND
TOURISM**

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Street Sweepers”

Question:

By Ward, since April 2021, how many visits has each Ward received from street sweepers?

Answer:

Due to the number of records and data sources, it is not possible to compile this information within the time frame available to respond to this question.

The service will be happy to discuss any individual queries with Councillors and we will be arranging one to one sessions with elected members at the Council house with ASMs to go through their street cleaning schedules.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Assisted Dropped Collections”

Question:

Broken down by Ward, in each month since April 2021, how many dropped collections were there for assisted collections? Please include all known dropped collections, not just those reported by residents.

Answer:

For the date range in question, it is only possible to provide the reported missed assisted collections made by residents. This is residual and recycling only.



E2%20-%20Reporte
d%20missed%20assi

REDIRECTED to Cabinet Member for Transport

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

E3

REDIRECTED to Cabinet Member for Transport

E4

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Cofton Park”

Question:

What assessment has been carried out on the impact of using Cofton Park as a temporary site for household waste during the refurbishment of Lifford Lane, and what consultation is planned to be carried out with residents on this?

Answer:

Options for the provision of a temporary HWRC site during the refurbishment of Lifford Lane will be explored pending approval of the planning consent. Once a preferred option has been established any consultation will be carried out with both the Environment Agency and impacted parties. We have been looking at a number of options but these are at the very early scoping stage.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER**

“WRCO interventions”

Question:

In each month since the introduction of the role, how many interventions did WRCOs carry out in line with the new role agreed as part of settling the bin dispute?

Answer:

Currently, most of this work is paper based and individual interventions are not counted. However, we are looking to move that to an electronic format so that we can provide this information again in the future. However, work sent to the Waste Prevention Team from the collection teams is averaging around 6000 per month. These interventions relate to contamination reports and bin assessments.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Driving Team Leader”

Question:

On what date was the job description for the Driving Team Leader role within the Waste Collection service last updated, and please provide a copy of this job description?

Answer:

The Driver Team Leader role was created in 2011 and reviewed with no changes in 2017.

The job description follows.

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Team Leader (LGV driver / Manages 2 or more FTE)	JOB NO:	FWM/RRC/01
GRADE:	GR4	DIVISION:	Fleet and Waste Management
NO OF POSTS:	101	SECTION:	Operations

POST REQUIRES POLICE / CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU CLEARANCE: NO

1.0 JOB PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To manage an operational domestic refuse / recycling collection team (Driver plus 2 or more FTE) and associated operational activities, providing high quality services to the satisfaction of the citizens of Birmingham and to meet performance targets.
- 1.2 To drive and be responsible for a Large Goods Vehicle (LGV)

2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 2.1 To manage and control a domestic Refuse Collection Team in accordance with the strategies and policies of the City Council, Cabinet, relevant Committees, the Directorate and the Division, to ensure effective and efficient quality services are provided.
- 2.2 To be accountable for the performance of the operational team to ensure that targets are met and work programmes are managed and controlled to achieve objectives.
- 2.3 To effectively utilise the human and other resources available.
- 2.4 To recommend, facilitate and implement managerial, organisational and operational change as required.
- 2.5 To manage, motivate and develop employees to maintain a high level of satisfaction and achievement in delivering quality services.
- 2.6 To present reports relating to the Team's performance and to represent the Division, Directorate and/or Local Authority at Council Committees, Sub Committees, Ward Committees, professional events and other meetings and occasions.
- 2.7 To undertake and ensure compliance with all of the City Council's Policies and Procedures, including Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety at Work, Performance and Development Reviews (PDR's), Managing Performance, Disciplinary Procedures, Managing Attendance, BEST and Business Transformation.

- 2.8 To be aware of and ensure compliance with all relevant Health and Safety requirements, including Safe Working Practices, Risk Assessments and the use of Personal Protective Equipment.
- 2.9 To drive a Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) and to fulfill the duties and responsibilities associated with driving that vehicle, including vehicle checks, daily log sheets, etc.
- 2.10 To be responsible for the safe handling, operation, cleanliness, appearance, operational integrity and management of equipment, machinery and vehicles associated with the Team.
- 2.11 To ensure that services are provided with minimum disruption and maximum efficiency and effectiveness in a manner that does not compromise the cleanliness of the Ward / City.
- 2.12 To be responsible for promoting and maintaining a positive public image of the City Council
- 2.13 To use initiative to maximise the production and collection of potential recyclates by maintaining a high quality service and working with the public to encourage their involvement with recycling, ensuring the proper segregation of recyclate placed out for collection
- 2.14 To support any waste minimisation / recycling incentivisation schemes through participation monitoring and the electronic scanning or weighing of boxes / containers placed out for collection.
- 2.15 To ensure that only domestic waste / recyclate is collected and that any waste which appears to be from another source is dealt with through referral to the appropriate team / Officers
- 2.16 To have access and to be responsible for the safety and security of private premises as appropriate.
- 2.17 To identify and report a range of issues outside the scope of the service, which may require intervention by another City Council service or other agency.
- 2.18 To act as the interface between the City council and the public, dealing with a range of issues relevant to the City Council and other Strategic Partners.
- 2.19 To support enforcement and regulatory activity intended to control environmental crime
- 2.20 Contribute to the City Council's Sustainability Strategy by being aware of the resources required to undertake this work and making sure that resources are not wasted and disposed of in a sustainable way.
- 2.21 Any other duties commensurate with the grade and nature of the post

3.0 SUPERVISION RECEIVED

3.1 SUPERVISING OFFICER JOB TITLE:

Operations Manager

3.2 LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

~~1. Regularly supervised with work checked by supervisor.~~

2. ~~Left to work within established guidelines subject to scrutiny by supervisor.~~

3. Plan own work to ensure the meeting of defined objectives.

4.0 SUPERVISION GIVEN (excludes those who are INDIRECTLY supervised (i.e. through others))

POST TITLE	GRADE	NO OF POSTS	LEVEL OF SUPERVISION*
Leading Hand	GR3	1	3
Loader	GR2	2	2

*Use 1,2 or 3 as in 3.2

5.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS:

- (i) Hours: 36.5 hours per week, compressed hours, 4 days out of 5 (Monday – Friday) with the opportunity for overtime according to business need, in accordance with BCC terms and conditions of employment

Out of normal office hours working, including Bank Holidays, evenings and weekends may be required.

- (ii) Driving Licence It is essential for the post holder to have a current UK LGV Driving Licence

- (iii) Workplace: TBC.

CONTACTS

BCC Councillors, the public, Senior and other managers within the Division and the wider Council, Corporate Contact Centre, external organisations and service providers

COMPILED BY: K Mitchell

DATE:

PERSON SPECIFICATION

JOB TITLE: Team Leader (LGV driver /
Manages 2 or more FTE)

GRADE: GR4

DIVISION: Fleet and Waste Management

SECTION: Operations

Method of Assessment (M.O.A.)

AF = Application Form I = Interview T = Test P = Presentation

CRITERIA	ESSENTIAL	M.O.A.
EXPERIENCE (Relevant work and other experience)	General management experience to include employee relations, staff development and performance monitoring.	AF and I
	Ability to understand and manage data and data presentation	AF and I
	Experience at working directly with Elected Members in a political environment.	AF and I
	Direct experience and understanding of equality issues and the impact upon service delivery.	AF and I
	A detailed knowledge of environmental issues and challenges	AF and I
	Experience of heavy, outdoor, manual work including walking, lifting, bending and stretching. Working in all weather conditions.	AF and I
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	The ability to manage conflicting demands, prioritise and work to short deadlines.	AF and I

	Competent communication and presentation skills.	AF, I and P
	Ability to plan, manage and coordinate projects and programme services.	AF and I
	Ability to write clear, concise reports.	AF and I
	Ability to identify and respond to sensitive, complex political and equality issues relating to the services provided.	AF and I
	Ability to work corporately.	AF and I
	Demonstrate commitment to quality in all aspects of service delivery.	AF and I
TRAINING	To be willing to undertake appropriate training as required, including driver training, type training, tacographs, GPS systems, etc.	AF and I
EDUCATION/ QUALIFICATIONS	It is essential for the post holder to have a current UK LGV Driving Licence	AF
OTHER		

ALL STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMMITTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

COMPILED BY: Kevin Mitchell

DATE: June 2011

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“WRCO role”

Question:

In comparison to the job role for WRCOs agreed in settling the bin dispute, including the 'day in the life' description presented in the Cabinet report, what differences are there in how the role is currently carried out?

Answer:

During the Covid pandemic, WRCOs were continued to work to their role profile but with some tasks (such as resident engagement and education) temporarily suspended to ensure the focus on mitigating risk to employees and sustaining the essential waste services.

At the date of this response, WRCOs are expected to be working to the full duties of their role profile, including those engagement and education activities. The Council is improving the data collection, technology and performance management systems it operates to further target, record and drive service improvement in the engagement, and education aspects of their role.

The WRCO continues to play an important role in identifying contamination, undertaking bin assessments, tagging bins and bringing about behaviour change with residents through education.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

“Tree Death Ratio”

Question:

Split between parks and highways, what is the tree death ratio from council planted trees in each of the last 4 years?

Answer:

An average establishment rate across all plantings is in the region of 70% which as a ratio is 3:10 (expected failure: trees planted).

The survival rate of trees planted by BCC or in partnership with the Council varies depending on the location and type of planting plus the expected final result. Also, we do not plot and monitor every single tree planted so deriving a “number” based response is not possible.

As an overall average of all planting types and locations we expect in the region of 70% successful establishment after 3 years. At this point, barring any unforeseen problem, most trees will grow on to maturity.

Notes:

For new woodland plantings the accepted practice is to over plant on the basis that by maturity only around 40 – 60% of trees planted will remain. So, while approximately 1750 whips per acre may be planted, we would only expect in the region of 700 – 1000 to remain at 25 years+ with some as canopy trees and others as understorey replicating good woodland structure. This may still decline in numbers over time but canopy cover, carbon storage and provision of ecosystem services would increase with tree size. As such few, trees at maturity provide greater climate adaptation benefits than more trees retained in a smaller area.

For individual standard trees planted in parks the establishment rate is around 80 – 85% at 3 years due to more favourable rooting conditions. While climactic issues such as extreme drought/ heat will impact the establishment rates (such as during the summer of 2022) a significant proportion of trees are lost to vandalism.

For individual standard trees planted on the Highway the establishment rate is around 70%. Highway trees are amongst the hardest to establish, not only are the

conditions generally harsh/ unfavourable to tree planting but they are also subject to the highest levels of negligent and deliberate damage.

Key reasons for failure of tree planted on the highway are:

- Residents parking on the root ball of newly planted trees resulting in soil compaction and root death.
- Decline or death caused by direct damage – either through poor green space management or vehicular damage (other than compaction)
- Residents cutting the tree at the base or removal of the top with a saw
- Snapping or uprooting of trees – general random vandalism.
- Climate based issues - severe drought with limited resources to increase watering frequency

On the highway in partnership with Kier we are trialling several different interventions to try and eliminate a number of these issues.

Trees are being planted with mesh cages to minimise the impacts of direct damage. Trees are also being fitted with watering bags which provides a slower sustained water release and minimises evaporation.

In addition, newly planted trees will also be fitted with a “Please Water Me” tag which encourages local residents to water trees near their property (using grey or harvested water) during times of drought.

It should also be noted that with all planting on the highway or as part of development that there is a requirement for the replacement of any trees that fail to establish within the first three years. As such there is an incentive to achieve as higher level of establishment as possible first time.

For further information contact Simon Needle – Strategic lead Urban Forestry and Nature, Planning Transport and Sustainability.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Tree Canopy”

Question:

What is the total tree canopy by Ward, when parks are included, and when they are excluded from figures?

Answer:

It has not been possible to analyse the data held in the time available to give results to the question posed.

In order to consider the canopy cover for each ward, and to provide parity with how the standardised assessment at a city wide, constituency, ward and LSOA level is undertaken it needs to consider tree canopy as a percentage of the plantable space, this is already publicly available.

This means being able to exclude areas that are not plantable or unlikely to ever be such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs and sports pitches to name a few. A significant amount of officer time would be required to create and re analyse each ward with bespoke GIS masks for each part of the question (138 in total based on the 69 wards and two variations) and with over 600 parks and gardens to extract from any calculations.

In real operational terms the data as requested is of limited value which is why it is not currently held.

We do hold an analysis of tree cover percentages by land use type which is set out in the table below.

Land use type	% Cover
Commercial	8
Education	16
Housing	16
Industrial	4
Leisure	31
Road (Highway)	14
Services	10
Religious	35

From the data in that table it can be presumed that on average that parks (contained within the leisure land use) typically are composed of >30% canopy cover except where there are significant sporting facilities such as Perry Hall Park which contains the city's largest number of cricket wickets.

In terms of how the city considers the use of canopy cover as a tool for Climate Adaptation and Resilience planning it is at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) geography that it is most useful. This is also the level where considerations of Tree Equity are most easily considered and understood and relation to climate risk and vulnerability for our residents can be seen, and determination of planting programme potential and priority can be set.

Data on percentage canopy cover is available at this level but given there are 639 LSOA's in the city a table has not been provided here but can be made available electronically.

However, the table below provides an assessment of the canopy cover by ward and grouped by constituency.

The colour coding in the right hand column is indicative banding against a desirable base line of 25% canopy cover which is the lower end of the globally recognised thresholds for a climate change adapted and resilient city.

Constituency	Wards	Canopy % (25% baseline target)
Edgbaston	Edgbaston	33.6
Edgbaston	Harborne	30.5
Edgbaston	Quinton	30.9
Edgbaston	Bartley Green	26.1
Erdington	Gravelly Hill	17
Erdington	Kingstanding	16
Erdington	Perry Common	19.8
Erdington	Erdington	20.4
Erdington	Stockland Green	17.4
Erdington	Castle Vale	13
Erdington	Pype Hayes	17.4
Hall Green	Sparkhill	15.4
Hall Green	Hall Green South	34.1
Hall Green	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	10.15
Hall Green	Hall Green North	25.3
Hall Green	Balsall Heath West	13.14
Hall Green	Moseley	33.6
Hodge Hill	Alum Rock	12.6
Hodge Hill	Ward End	15.8
Hodge Hill	Small Heath	15.1
Hodge Hill	Heartlands	20
Hodge Hill	Bromford & Hodge Hill	22.2
Hodge Hill	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	20.6
Hodge Hill	Shard End	16.4
Ladywood	Holyhead	10.8
Ladywood	Bordesley Green	15.2

Ladywood	Ladywood	14.6
Ladywood	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	18.8
Ladywood	Bordesley & Highgate	9.66
Ladywood	North Edgbaston	26.7
Ladywood	Aston	11
Ladywood	Newtown	12
Ladywood	Nechells	13.2
Northfield	Allens Cross	20.8
Northfield	Frankley Great Park	24.8
Northfield	Rubery & Rednal	18.8
Northfield	Northfield	23.4
Northfield	Weoley & Selly Oak	19.29
Northfield	King's Norton South	26.1
Northfield	Longbridge & West Heath	23.2
Northfield	King's Norton North	30.3
Perry Barr	Birchfield	18.4
Perry Barr	Lozells	11.4
Perry Barr	Handsworth	16.4
Perry Barr	Oscott	18.6
Perry Barr	Handsworth Wood	23.8
Perry Barr	Perry Barr	20
Selly Oak	Brandwood & King's Heath	25.5
Selly Oak	Highters Heath	18.2
Selly Oak	Bournbrook & Selly Park	21.94
Selly Oak	Stirchley	19
Selly Oak	Bournville & Cotteridge	28.2
Selly Oak	Billesley	31.5
Selly Oak	Druids Heath & Monyhull	20.6
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Wylde Green	28.1
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Roughley	19.8
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Mere Green	22.6
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Reddip	17.4
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	19.2
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Trinity	46.8
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Four Oaks	46.7
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Vesey	36.5
Yardley	Tyseley & Hay Mills	16
Yardley	Yardley East	22
Yardley	Acocks Green	25.5
Yardley	Yardley West & Stechford	22.6
Yardley	South Yardley	20.4
Yardley	Garretts Green	11.4
Yardley	Sheldon	23.2

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

“Assisted Bulky Waste Collections”

Question:

By what date will the newly announced free bulky waste collections for those with assisted collections be fully implemented?

Answer:

The facility for people on the assisted collection scheme to book one free bulky waste collection is open now.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Perry Park”

Question:

“Following the petition presented to full Council on February 28 requesting the reinstatement of Perry Park for residents, what has been done to address the concerns of residents?”

Answer:

The position has not changed significantly since the petition at the end of February. We remain committed to reopening an enhanced Park at the earliest opportunity. Reinstatement works continue to progress and will conclude at various stages during 2023. Temporary fencing remains in place in the Park to ensure the safety of pedestrians whilst the reinstatement works are undertaken. I had offered a site visit at the last Cabinet meeting and was disappointed that it was cancelled but I will be visiting this week on 19 April along with the senior officers and local members to discuss progress.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Bin collections during the snow”

Question:

**“What contingency was there for catch up collections during the period of snow in March, and how effective were they in covering missed collections?
Please include data on missed or delayed collections in your response.”**

Answer:

Crews returned to catch up collections following the snow disruption in line with New Ways of Working (NWOW), where crews were not able to catch up all collections these were cleared on the the next scheduled collection with some picked up the following weekend which put us back in the position we were in before the snow disruption.

The majority of work was cleared prior to the following collection except at Perry Barr depot where they experienced high levels of sickness absence.

On our systems, we have 3004 of 5555 roads as being recorded as completed without any whole street exceptions actually on the correct day (Thursday 9th and Friday 10th March), the days that were affected by snow.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIROMENT
COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN**

“Free bulky waste collections for the frail and disabled”

Question:

“Recently Cllr Ian Ward said that the “frail and disabled” would be eligible for 1 free bulky waste collection per year if they are in receipt of an assisted bin collection, however, the Department concerned have not received any instructions on this. When is this going to be introduced?”

Answer:

The facility for people on the assisted collection scheme to book one free bulky waste collection is open now.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Fleet and waste drivers”

Question:

“In February, Cllr Ron Storer asked “How many driver roles are there in the fleet and waste service, and how many of these are vacant and how many covered by agency? Please split this between each service - waste collections, street cleaning etc.”

As this was a public question, can all receive a copy of this information with vacancy numbers reported by month for the past 2 years, up to the present month?”

Answer:

In the time available to Officers, we are unable to provide a breakdown figure by month for the past two years.

At the date of providing this written answer the vacancies are:

Refuse and recycling	193 driving positions of which 8 are vacant
Street cleansing	140 driving positions of which 56 are vacant

The service sustains 100% occupancy by using agency drivers in all cases.

In addition, under the present MOU the service also provides additional agency capacity and overtime to sustain cover for sickness, holidays and training within the refuse and recycling service that provides additional daily capacity.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Pesticides”

Question:

“It’s now over 6 months since the scrutiny meeting at which Bee Friendly Brum presented their petition to stop spraying of harmful pesticides in parks and streets of Birmingham. Yet, there is evidence of spraying on verges, open grass areas and parkland across Birmingham which seems totally unnecessary and is harmful to biodiversity. When will the Nature Recovery Plan be finalised and published?”

I fully support the petition that I presented to City Council last year and it is my aim to use a series of actions to encourage a better environment for our pollinators across the city.

Our Highways contactors, Kier, have already moved away from the use of Glyphosate based sprays to control weed growth on pavements and gutters to a more organic substance found naturally occurring in plants – this being Pelargonic Acid (a fatty acid). This treatment, while more environmentally friendly, is less effective and so more treatment may be required to keep footways and roadside gutters clear.

For the Parks Service, we are where we can, transitioning our practices and reducing our reliance on glyphosate-based products to a contact pelargonic acid-based product too.

The aim is to cease the use of all Glyphosate based product by the end of this season except for the treatment of invasive weed species where there may be no other suitable alternatives.

An ongoing review is taking place to identify appropriate alternatives to chemical treatment and new products and practices coming to market. This includes cultural practices but also new biological controls which are under trial with the Department for Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

These reviews and changes in practices will form an environmental improvement action plan which will be part of a wider Birmingham Biodiversity Policy. That Policy in turn will be a key aspect of Birmingham’s Local Nature Recovery Network Strategy (LNRNS).

It is the LNRNS and Biodiversity Policy that will set the overall direction and requirements for managing the natural green spaces of Birmingham in line with the mandate created for Biodiversity Net Gain set out in the Environment Act 2021; and the additional burdens placed on Local Authorities under the Biodiversity reporting requirements from the strengthened Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

This Policy work and all the readiness preparations for Biodiversity Net Gain, strategy, Implementation and Monitoring is being led by our strategic lead for Urban Forestry and Nature as part of the City of Nature programme, in conjunction with the Principal Ecologists, both within Places, Prosperity and Sustainability, as the statutory legislative responsibility lies with the planning authority.

The new Biodiversity Policy and LNRNS will be set out and adopted ahead of the full implementation of the Environment Act in November 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES**

“Council policy on Rat poison”

Question:

“What is the Council's policy on use of rat poison in both closed and open spaces and is that extended to outside contractors?”

Answer:

The Council discharges its statutory duty to tackle rats in Birmingham in part by providing a free at the point of delivery pest control service for rats. This is provided to domestic premises regardless of tenure to all residents in Birmingham.

We use 3 types of bait (wax blocks, grain, and paste) in differing concentrations depending on circumstances. All pest officers engaged in rat treatments are under a duty to use the bait safely. This could be from placing in areas that people or other animals cannot get to, e.g. behind a washing machine, under wooden floors, using bait boxes in gardens or under wooden decking. There is a balance to be struck between laying baiting and effective baiting in that introducing new items into the environment can cause rats to become “bait shy” (neophobia). It is also necessary for the bait to be accessible within the areas it is laid otherwise it won't be eaten by the rats. Having said this, the baits should be used in such a way as to minimise the possibility of poisoning non-target species such as squirrels, hedgehogs, or pets.

Safe laying of poisons is required for both indoor and outdoor settings, as we treat rats in houses as well as rats in gardens. Where advice can be given to modify the environment, to make pests less likely, officers will give this. This tends to be around keeping bin areas tidy, or pest proofing houses.

The Council's Pest Control service does not employ external contractors and therefore has no interaction with them.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Oracle security testing”

Question:

The Council’s external auditors requested that they be allowed to run an automated tool (Fastpath) to gain an understanding of security in relation to privileged access to Oracle. This request was repeated in December, January, and February. It was felt to be of particular importance given security issues previously highlighted by the auditor in successive audits relating to the old SAP system and the fact that Oracle was supposed to address these issues. Has this work now been completed, and if so, what were the results and please provide a copy of the report?

Answer:

Officers have provided information to the external auditors on how Oracle handles this specific security issue. They have provided assurance that those specific practices from SAP are not being repeated in the new system, have also provided data extracts and reports at the auditors’ request and will continue to work with them to enable the running of the Fastpath tool, at a time that suits their schedule and the other work being carried out.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“West Midlands Forum”

Question:

Broken down each year since 2015, how much does the Council pay to sponsor West Midlands Forum (as indicated on their website www.westmidlandsforum.co.uk). If this sponsorship is payment in kind or some other kind of non-monetary arrangement then please specify what this involves.

Answer:

I can confirm that the Cabinet Office has never sponsored the West Midlands Forum (WMF). A joint event was held between the WMF and the Levelling-Up Birmingham All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in July of last year.

BCC is a sponsor of the APPG. At this joint event BCC shared the cost of venue hire (the Library of Birmingham) with the WMF. The event was cross party political in nature with attendance and speeches from the Mayor of the West Midlands (Con), the Co-Chairs of the APPG, Andrew Mitchell MP (Con) and Preet Gill MP (Lab) and the Leader of Birmingham City Council (Lab).

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Global Property”

Question:

The Birmingham Mail carried a story on 6 April 2023 which confirmed in a statement from Birmingham City Council that the Council held a contract with Global Property Management since February 2018 for the provision of temporary accommodation. Why is this contract not listed on the Council's contract register in accordance with the Government's transparency code?

Answer:

From February 2018 Global Property Management were a provider of homes to be used as temporary accommodation in Birmingham, this was as part of the Council's Private Sector Leasing arrangements. When the Private Sector Leasing contract was re-tendered, Global Property Management were not successful and were not awarded a new contract for this service area. Birmingham City Council, therefore, are currently prioritising the process of securing alternative accommodation for households who remain in Global Property Management homes.

The reason why the Global Property Management contract is not on the Council's contract register is because we are now out of contract.

All contracts on the old PSL block including Global were extended until 31st June 2022 to tie in with the award of the new block contracts of which Global were not successful.

Since then we have needed to operate on a rolling basis whilst the team secures sufficient available new TA accommodation via the new block contract. We are currently prioritising the movement of families out of Global properties.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Temporary Accommodation”

Question:

Please provide a list of all private sector landlords for which the Council held a contract with for the provision of temporary accommodation under the arrangement let in February 2018, and all private sector landlords for which the Council holds a contract under existing arrangements.

Answer:

2018 – 2022 Contract Arrangements

Ezzi Lettings Solutions Ltd
Finefair Ltd
Global Property Management (UK) Ltd
HP Lakha
Mears Housing Management Ltd
Metropolitan Surveyors Ltd
PDS Property Management Ltd
Second City Housing Ltd
Select Care Solutions Ltd
Weir Housing Ltd

2022 – 2028 Contract Arrangements

Apex Property Services
Centennial Property Ltd
Claremont Living
Ezzi Lettings Solutions Ltd
Kwik Let Properties
Metropolitan Surveyors Ltd
Second City Housing Ltd
Select Care Solutions
Weir Housing Ltd

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD PARKIN**

“Council Tax Data Ward Boundaries”

Question:

Why is Council Tax data still not available at Ward level according to the Wards boundaries amended 5 years ago and when do you expect this to be done?

Answer:

The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) ward alignment was initially carried out in 2015. However, at the time the project did not have the funding to develop automation of the maintenance of the wards following the implementation. It is a very complex project involving many thousands of property records. Since 2015 a further boundary change was made which is not reflected in Revenues and Benefits computer system (RBIS). The next attempt was in 2019 where approximately 10,000 properties were identified which required review. This would have been a manual task and at that time the resources were not available.

A project to implement the ward boundary change recommenced in 2022. The project identified further anomalies with moving the data and relationships between wards and constituencies on the RBIS system. Further to this, the elections team confirmed there may be a constituency change announced in 2023/24 which will reduce the number of wards which span more than one constituency. Currently, there are 69 wards and 10 constituencies which sit within the Birmingham City Council boundary. From 2023/24 it is expected that there will be 9.5 constituencies, and BCC will share a constituency with a neighbouring authority (the most recent proposals suggest this will involve BCC ‘taking in’ some of Solihull to make up a full constituency. This cross-authority boundary will only apply for the administration of parliamentary elections – and the ward/local authority boundaries will not change. Continuing to carry out the ward boundary update in 2022, only to have to reverse this update in 23/24 to align all properties with the new constituency update would have involved a huge duplication of work and effort so a prudent decision was made to pause the project.

The final recommendations from the Boundary Commission are expected to be made on Tuesday 8 November, with the final round of consultation taking place until the end of the year. The new boundaries will be laid before Parliament in July 2023, when they should come into force (there are a number of things that could impact on this timetable – not least if a general election is called before then).

Based on the further potential change (and due to the extensive work required), the project has been delayed until after this year's boundary change has been approved. The project is scheduled to restart in Quarter 3 2023/24.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“West Midlands Forum contract”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the contract with West Midlands Forum for the Council’s sponsorship of the organisation, including what the Council gets for its sponsorship.

Answer:

I can confirm that the Cabinet Office has never sponsored the West Midlands Forum (WMF)

A joint event was held between the WMF and the Levelling-Up Birmingham All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in July of last year.

BCC is a sponsor of the APPG. At this joint event BCC shared the cost of venue hire (the Library of Birmingham) with the WMF. The event was cross party political in nature with attendance and speeches from the Mayor of the West Midlands (Con), the Co-Chairs of the APPG, Andrew Mitchell MP (Con) and Preet Gill MP (Lab) and the Leader of Birmingham City Council (Lab).

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“West Midlands Forum approval”

Question:

Who requested for the Council to provide sponsorship to West Midlands Forum and who approved it?

Answer:

I can confirm that the Cabinet Office has never sponsored the West Midlands Forum (WMF)

A joint event was held between the WMF and the Levelling-Up Birmingham All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in July of last year.

BCC is a sponsor of the APPG. At this joint event BCC shared the cost of venue hire (the Library of Birmingham) with the WMF. The event was cross party political in nature with attendance and speeches from the Mayor of the West Midlands (Con), the Co-Chairs of the APPG, Andrew Mitchell MP (Con) and Preet Gill MP (Lab) and the Leader of Birmingham City Council (Lab).

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Oracle predicted savings”

Question:

“The budget and business plan shows a £1.729 investment of capital receipts, 2022-2024, into Oracle, promising annual savings of £1m at an unspecified period in the future. However, the budget also identifies a £1.5million annual increase in spending on Oracle as a pressure. When will it start to deliver savings?”

Answer:

Officers have advised that Oracle will begin to deliver savings in this financial year 2023/24, specifically £2m of savings relating to reduced application costs in Digital and Technology Services. These will come about as a result of the change from SAP including reduced licenses and hosting costs.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

“Oracle expenditure”

Question:

“The budget and business plan shows a £1.729 investment of capital receipts, 2022-2024, into Oracle, promising annual savings of £1m at an unspecified period in the future. However, the budget also identifies a £1.5million annual increase in spending on Oracle as a pressure. Why have the costs increased so much?”

Answer:

The increased funding in the Council's 2023/24 budget has been agreed to support improved Oracle implementation across a range of functions including finance, procurement and people services. In any large and complex organisation there will be uncertainty around the costs of this kind of programme. We have taken appropriate steps to fund these pressures.

F10

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

“Oracle functionality”

Question:

“The budget and business plan shows a £1.729 investment of capital receipts, 2022-2024, into Oracle, promising annual savings of £1m at an unspecified period in the future. However, the budget also identifies a £1.5million annual increase in spending on Oracle as a pressure. When will Oracle be working properly?”

Answer:

Oracle is already delivering a wide range of important functionality including payroll, supplier payments, and accounts payable. We expect the system’s functionality to continue increasing over the course of 2023/24 and beyond, as we maximise its capability and benefits.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

“Oracle future expenditure”

Question:

“The budget and business plan shows a £1.729 investment of capital receipts, 2022-2024, into Oracle, promising annual savings of £1m at an unspecified period in the future. However, the budget also identifies a £1.5million annual increase in spending on Oracle as a pressure. Can Members be assured there will be no further drawdown of revenue or capital to support Oracle?”

Answer:

Financial decisions will continue to be made about Oracle on the basis of what is good value for the city as a whole. Any decisions will be made in line with the Council's constitution and financial regulations.

G

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

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“Housing Officers”

Question:

How many housing officers (in total and as percentage) working for the Council have a professional qualification in housing, and how many do you expect this to be by 2026?

Answer:

Currently the Council is not required to and does not record this information. All appointments will be made based on an assessment of candidates' relevant qualifications and/ or experience as an essential part of the recruitment process.

The Government has recently announced that professional qualifications are to be made mandatory for some social housing managers; we are still awaiting further details on what this will mean for local authorities. We are liaising with RSH and CIH with the aim of providing feedback during the consultation period.

The Council is aware of the potential impact this announcement will have for our workforce and service delivery and we are therefore taking a proactive approach. We are reviewing our workforce qualifications, training needs and plans in response to the proposals.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Damp”

Question:

What proportion of council homes have a) most serious damp, b) serious damp, and c) notable damp?

Answer:

From April 22 to March 23, we had 6,695 homes reporting damp and mould related issues across the city. This equates to 11% of our total stock. Our total stock is approximately 59,570.

The proportion of council homes with

- notable cases of damp are 6170 equating to 10% of total stock
- serious cases of damp are 456 equating to 0.76% of total stock
- most serious cases of damp are 69 equating to 0.1% of total stock

All cases are identified as damp related issues and are treated as a priority within 7 days. The extent of rectification will differ depending on the issues and severity for the citizen.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“EPC Rating”

Question:

By what year does the Council expect to achieve 100% compliance with EPC C or higher for all Council homes?

Answer:

Compliance with EPC Band C will be dependent on funding availability either directly from the HRA or mixed funding like Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). We have been successful with this year's bid for SHDF and are hopeful this support will continue over the longer term.

Our target is to aim to achieve EPC Band C by 2030. This will be a considerable challenge due to our current position. It will also be subject to carrying out further assessments of our stock condition and particularly those rated Band D and worse.

These will form part of our proposals in the new Asset Management Strategy, which is being prepared ready for review and approval in September 2023.

We are currently assessing the funding requirements to achieve this in the long-term financial plan.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD
PARKIN**

“Burials”

Question:

For each of the last 5 years, please provide figures for burials at each of the City's cemeteries broken down by religious belief.

Answer:

Please see the attached.



I1 - Social Justice 1
Cllr Parkin.pdf

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

“Burials”

Question:

For each of the City's cemeteries, please can you state the total size currently used for burial plots, and the total extra space available on each site for future expansion?

Answer:

Brandwood End – 53 acres, 2 of which were sold to the Jewish Community in 1919 – all used

Kings Norton – used = 11 acres – future = 17.75 acres

Lodge Hill – 61 acres – all used

Quinton – 51 acres total, used = 31, available = 20

Yardley – 64 acres – all used

Sutton Coldfield Cemetery – 17 Acres used for burial plots – No more room for extension

Witton Cemetery – 103 Acres used for burial plots – No more room for extension

Sutton New Hall Cemetery – 25 Acres used for burial plots. 15 Acres for additional extension.

Handsworth Cemetery – 68 Acres used for burial plots – additional extension being looked into. We are looking into using a small area that we have found within the cemetery. We are undertaking initial investigations to find out whether this area is suitable for burial ground.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

“Home working”

Question:

Prior to the introduction of New Ways of Working, what assessment was carried out on the impact on staff not allowed to work from home compared to those who were, including any equal pay implications, welfare, and staff satisfaction?

Answer:

The business case for the NWOW programme included an equality impact assessment (EQUA674) as per Cabinet report of 27 July 2021.

No specific Equal Pay assessments relating to work location were carried out prior to new ways of working however, the HR Policy framework, staff wellbeing and training provisions, and contracts of employment have remained under review prior to and since 2020.

ITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE
CLANCY**

“Home working – musculoskeletal injuries”

Question:

Prior to the introduction of New Ways of Working, what assessment was carried out on the risks of musculoskeletal injuries from inappropriate working positions and what mitigations were put in place against these risks?

Answer:

Prior to the introduction of New Ways of Working, the ‘Working for the Future’ programme (circa 2008) included risks associated to home working (primarily use of Display Screen Equipment DSE). Risks were assessed and organisational arrangements (in the form of intranet content, guidance, training and the provision of equipment) were communicated to managers and employees. The assessment of the potential for musculoskeletal injuries from inappropriate working positions was always a consideration of DSE use – utilising the HSEs VDU Workstation checklist to inform our approach. Mitigations primarily include the provision of information, training, appropriate workstations with changes of activity and regular breaks and contact with other members of the team.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH
MOORE**

“Home working percentage”

Question:

By month since January 2020, broken down by department, what percentage of staff worked from home for the majority of their working month?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council currently employs 9853 staff. We do not record the number or proportion of staff who may perform their work remotely (on a hybrid basis) as this requirement varies dependent on the needs of the individual service. All employees are expected to attend their notional work base as required by their role and the needs of the business. We do not prescribe a percentage of time per week that staff are able to work from home. This is managed locally by Directors and senior management. Developing an agile, flexible workforce is supported by the New Ways of Working Programme and hybrid working practices remain under review.

The Council also employs 420 contracted homeworkers (4.3% of the total employed workforce). These are broken down by department as follows:

Department	Full time homeworkers
Adult Social Care	6
Digital and Customer Service	326
Children & Families	17
Finance and Governance	6
People Services	11
Strategy, Equality and Partnerships	0
City Housing	30
City Ops	0
Partnerships, insight and Prevention	24
Total	420

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY
HUXTABLE**

“Home working percentage”

Question:

Broken down by department, what percentage of staff are expected to be working from home for the majority of their working week, in each of the next 3 years?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council currently employs 9853 staff. We do not record the number or proportion of staff who may perform their work remotely (on a hybrid basis) as this requirement varies dependent on the needs of the individual service. All employees are expected to attend their notional work base as required by their role and the needs of the business. We do not prescribe a percentage of time per week that staff are able to work from home. This is managed locally by Directors and senior management. Developing an agile, flexible workforce is supported by the New Ways of Working Programme and hybrid working practices remain under review.

The Council also employs 420 contracted homeworkers (4.3% of the total employed workforce). Refer to table on I5.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD
PARKIN**

“Employees working two jobs”

Question:

Since April 2020, how many disciplinary actions have been taken against staff for working more than one job without proper notification and authorisation and what proportion of these were employees who are allowed to work from home for some or all of their working week?

Answer:

To date there have been two disciplinary investigations which has resulted in one dismissal and one currently still within the disciplinary process.

We do not record the number or proportion of staff who may perform their work remotely (on a hybrid basis) as this requirement varies dependent on the needs of the individual service.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR MATT
BENNETT**

“BID security”

Question:

By BID area, please list the names of all security firms employed to patrol high streets?

Answer:

Each BID within Birmingham has their own company structure and are independent from the City Council. Officers will ask each BID to provide security information that is in the public domain and will forward the responses once received.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Queen’s Baton Air Quality monitoring”

Question:

Please publish all data collected from the air quality monitor contained in the Queen's Baton for the Commonwealth Games.

Answer:

The Queen’s Baton and air quality monitoring technology used as part of the Queen’s Baton Relay was developed by the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee with support from a team at the University of Birmingham. As such the Council does not have access to any of the data collected by the Queen’s Baton.

We will make contact with the University of Birmingham to gain some more information about the project, which we will share as soon as possible.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Bus Lane enforcement”

Question:

Between 20-26 March 2023, how many penalties were issued for bus lane infringements and what was the total value of these fines?

Answer:

2,369 Penalty Charge Notices were issued during the period 20-26 March 2023 for bus lane infringements.

The total £70 full fine value would equate to £165,830, but if paid within the discount period the fine is reduced to £35 and would equate to £82,915.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“Highways fund”

Question:

“What proportion of the Ward Highways Fund has been spent or allocated so far (breakdown by Ward)? How many projects (21/22 and 22/23) have been implemented and can you set out the timescales for incomplete projects? How many projects have been delayed? Can the data be broken down by number and length of delay?”

Answer:

The attached file provides a high-level overview of Ward Minor Transport Measures activity for the period 21/22 and 22/23. The file identifies those schemes which have been completed and those that have experienced any slippage from a financial perspective. Detail on the length of calendar delay to any historic individual project is not readily available but could be produced moving forward.



J3 -
WMTM_Schemes_Spe

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“CAZ fund”

Question:

“Can you explain how and where CAZ money has been and will be spent on road safety around schools?”

Answer:

We are using CAZ money to expand and enhance our existing Car Free School Streets programme, with a further phase of schools planned for September 2023, and a process in place for annual implementation with cohorts of additional schools following that. We are also progressing supplementary support packages and resources in relation to communications, stewarding, and enforcement in order to increase compliance with this restriction where it is currently in place. These measures will be funded from the Transport & Environment CAZ Programme Revenue Investment of which £1m is allocated to the Car Free School Streets programme. The Transport & Environment CAZ Programme Revenue Investment fund will also see the allocation of £1m to complete the expansion of the inner Birmingham 20mph zone which will cover streets outside and adjacent to schools.

In addition, the Brum Breathes Fund (total £4.040m) could be utilised to improve road safety around schools. Brum Breathes Fund is funding from net surplus Clean Air Zone revenues to support a range of schemes and projects that could be employed to deliver locality-based initiatives that address specific air quality challenges. These measures could include, but are not limited to, the following: school traffic exclusion plans, cycle bays; sustainable transport measures and parking restrictions.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

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

“CAZ fund”

Question:

“In your manifesto you pledged to spend £10M on school road safety. Can you set out when and how this money is being allocated and how it compares with previous allocations?”

Answer:

The 2022 Labour Manifesto stated, “We will invest at least £10 million in making our school streets among the safest in the city”.

Investment in making streets in and around our schools is to be funded from multiple projects and programmes. It should be noted that these projects and programmes will not wholly deliver improvements to streets in and around schools. Investment presented includes present forecasted funding commitments.

2022/23 to 2026/26 Forecasted Capital Investment

Local Improvement Budget, School Streets Programme, Safety Schemes Programme and Ward Minor Transport Measures Programme.

Total = £10.083m

2022/23 to 2026/26 Forecasted Transport & Environment CAZ Programme Revenue Investment

Continuation and enhancement of the Car Free School Streets programme and Expansion of the inner Birmingham 20mph zone to complete the project.

Total = £2m.

2023/24 to 2024/25 Brum Breathes Fund

Funding from net surplus Clean Air Zone revenues to support a range of schemes and projects that could be employed to deliver locality-based initiatives that address specific air quality challenges. These measures could include, but are not limited to, the following: school traffic exclusion plans, cycle bays; sustainable transport measures, parking restrictions etc.

Total = £4.040m

Further funding will continue to be sought from suitable sources.

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY****“Grit Bins”****Question:****In each year since April 2018, how many grit bins were there in each Ward?****Answer:**

See chart below. Grit bin numbers have been stable since 2018, with only a few additions in 2022.

Ward Name	Grit Bins 2018	Grit Bins 2023
Acocks Green	10	10
Allens Cross	29	30
Alum Rock	9	9
Aston	15	15
Balsall Heath West	3	3
Bartley Green	36	38
Billesley	26	26
Birchfield	14	14
Bordesley & Highgate	10	10
Bournbrook & Selly Park	19	19
Bournville & Cotteridge	23	23
Brandwood & Kings Heath	22	22
Bromford & Hodge Hill	24	24
Castle Vale	1	1
Druids Heath & Monyhull	23	24
Edgbaston	14	14
Erdington	18	18
Frankley Great Park	21	21
Garretts Green	9	9
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	18	18
Gravelly Hill	13	13
Hall Green North	13	13
Hall Green South	12	12
Handsworth	8	8
Handsworth Wood	47	47
Harborne	41	41

Heartlands	2	2
Highters Heath	11	11
Holyhead	3	3
Kings Norton North	29	29
Kings Norton South	34	34
Kingstanding	32	32
Ladywood	34	34
Longbridge & West Heath	37	37
Lozells	5	5
Moseley	26	26
Nechells	3	3
Newtown	5	5
North Edgbaston	15	15
Northfield	9	9
Oscott	47	47
Perry Barr	50	50
Perry Common	7	7
Pype Hayes	9	9
Quinton	37	37
Rubery & Rednal	23	24
Shard End	7	7
Sheldon	35	35
Small Heath	15	15
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	21	21
South Yardley	5	5
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath Eas	8	8
Sparkhill	10	10
Stirchley	21	22
Stockland Green	28	28
Sutton Four Oaks	16	16
Sutton Mere Green	22	22
Sutton Reddicap	12	12
Sutton Roughley	8	8
Sutton Trinity	24	24
Sutton Vesey	29	29
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	19	19
Sutton Wylde Green	13	13
Tyseley & Hay Mills	13	13
Ward End	10	10
Weoley & Selly Oak	39	39
Yardley East	27	27
Yardley West & Stechford	6	6

Total

1284

1290

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER****“Grit Bins”****Question:****In each year since April 2018, how often were grit bins checked and restocked in each Ward?****Answer:**

The data shows the number of times grit bins were re-filled in each ward during each Winter season. These occurred because of a combination of routine checks and requests from members of the public.

Over the duration of the reported 5-year period the location of some grit bins has been re-categorised in the computer system (the actual locations have not changed). This results in the blank cells in earlier years in the table below.

Ward	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Acocks Green	44	22	44	43	52
Allens Cross				58	87
Alum Rock				9	18
Aston	60	80	55	60	50
Balsall Heath W				3	9
Bartley Green	145	156	178	231	115
Billesley	108	108	108	134	106
Birchfield					14
Bordesley & H				30	10
Bordesley Green	64	32	49	48	32
Bournbrook & SP				38	38
Bournville	132	88	146	176	90
Brandwood	123	123	150	164	41
Brandwood&KH				44	44
Bromford & HH				21	48
Castle Vale				2	1
City Centre				23	23
Druids Heath&M				46	71
Edgbaston	60	80	77	80	68
Erdington	67	42	84	102	39
Frankley GP					105

Garretts Green				6	12
Glebe Farm & TC				18	36
Gravelly Hill					13
Hall Green	50	50	100	113	115
Handsworth					8
Handsworth Wood	200	150	228	200	144
Harborne	173	117	116	156	119
Heartlands				2	4
Highter's Heath					24
Hodge Hill	116	58	74	90	58
Holyhead				3	3
Kings Norton	256	256	304	320	316
Kingstanding	104	52	78	104	77
Ladywood	204	41	119	123	75
Longbridge	138	131	224	258	269
Lozells & EH	55	81	81	108	31
Moseley & Kings H	75	50	98	101	103
Nechells	42	41	31	42	20
Newtown					5
North Edgbaston					45
Northfield	224	180	176	135	126
Oscott	180	180	242	240	107
Perry Barr	156	156	208	208	102
Perry Common				21	14
Pype Hayes				18	9
Quinton	140	86	198	252	131
Rubery & Rednal					92
Selly Oak	135	56	86	112	28
Shard End	95	38	72	68	40
Sheldon	117	156	172	113	185
Small Heath					30
Soho	64	48	32	111	53
South Yardley	88	66	63	112	64
Sparkbrook	36	18	30	15	25
Sparkhill					20
Springfield	51	34	49	70	34
Stechford	123	82	80	51	82
Stirchley					42
Stockland Green	117	64	103	128	60
Sutton Four Oak	123	123	97	164	48
Sutton Mere G					66
Sutton New Hall	69	69	46	92	23
Sutton Reddicap					36
Sutton Roughley				8	16

CITY COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN**

“Planning application 2020/08399/PA”

Question:

“Can the letters of objection and support, the details of any community consultation done by Aston Villa and any other pertinent documentation relating to planning application 2020/08399/PA be sent to the Aston Councillors please?”

Answer:

Officers have confirmed that documents requested will be made available for Aston Councillors and circulated accordingly.