



**CITY COUNCIL
2 FEBRUARY 2021**

**WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO
CABINET MEMBERS
AND LEAD MEMBERS**

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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The Sustrans

Councillor Eustace

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Commonwealth Games”

Question:

Further to comments made in the local and national press by the Leader during the West Midlands Combined Authority meeting held on Friday, 15 January 2021, that while the council is working under the assumption the 2022 Commonwealth Games would go ahead and committing to spending along those lines to ensure improvement works are completed on time, could the Leader clarify these comments giving details of when such a decision will be made?

Answer:

We live in uncertain times and it is right and proper that we regularly review the situation. But acknowledging potential risks does not automatically mean they become reality and the misinterpretation of my recent comments last week ignores the balanced and sensible approach the Games Partners are taking.

As I have consistently said, we are all working towards 2022 and remain confident that the Games will go ahead, in spite of what is happening around the world with the pandemic.

The Games are a year and a half away and the vaccine roll-out means we can reasonably expect the situation to have improved dramatically by then. We will continue to monitor the situation and will of course learn from other major events scheduled to take place before July 2022.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“COVID 19 – Supermarket spot check”

Question:

The Times have recently reported Council staff will be visiting supermarkets to ‘spot check’ and ensure they are COVID secure. Could the Leader provide full details of this initiative in the City, confirming if the results of such visits will be made available to members of the public and if so, where?

Answer:

Government ministers have requested that Local Authorities assess how supermarkets are operating during the current lockdown, with reference to the implementation of the Covid control measures within supermarkets. This is as a result of concerns regarding the non-use of face masks within such premises and complaints of too many customers within stores.

All local authorities will be required to report their findings to the Local Government Association. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) (part of the Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy Government Department) has provided local authorities with guidance for conducting these visits. The Environmental Health service will be undertaking this work for the City in the coming weeks.

Prior to this announcement, the Environmental Health Service has undertaken considerable enforcement and compliance interventions concerning supermarkets in the city council area following whistleblowing complaints or associated Covid outbreaks. For this project a risk-based approach for visits to supermarkets has been devised as per OPSS guidance. These visits will include both the large national supermarkets and independent high street supermarkets.

Visits will be prioritised for the supermarkets that are located within hot spot areas (high positive Covid case rates). Mapping of hot spot areas has occurred, and the supermarkets identified in these areas. Visits will be carried out by City Council enforcement officers and West Midlands Police. These are programmed to be undertaken during the week commencing 8 February 2021.

The visits will be structured as detailed below, for consistency across the local authorities, nationally:

- *Following the customer journey:*
 - looking at whether customers' egress is managed;
 - can they access cleaning materials and hand sanitiser;
 - can they see appropriate signage;
 - can they hear the tannoy scripts, etc.
- Police will be undertaking their role by
 - challenge customers and staff for not wearing face coverings;
 - monitor customer behaviour; and,
 - support the business in relation to the management of customer behaviour.
- Enforcement officers and Police will educate customers who are not social distancing and/or shopping alone, helping to reinforce these messages;
- Enforcement officers will challenge the supermarket's management for employees not wearing face coverings and/or social distancing;
- Several national supermarkets have already shared their control measures with local authorities and enforcement officers will be checking, if Covid control measures and mitigations are being followed. If they are not being followed, this will be taken up with individual supermarkets;
- A national aide memoire of points to check will be used by officers to ensure consistency;
- The City Council will follow its enforcement policy regarding any required action for non-compliance of Covid Control measures.

It is expected that the result of the project will be reported to the Licensing and Public Protection Committee, as part of its routine open enforcement reports.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR
BABER BAZ**

“Business Grants”

Question:

It has been widely publicised that one-off grants of £10,000 will be paid to 421 hospitality and leisure businesses in Birmingham which have previously missed out on Government support or require emergency intervention to protect jobs. Could the Cabinet Member confirm how many payments have now been made, including the number of businesses the grants have aided?

Answer:

To date, we have made 142 grant payments to eligible hospitality and leisure businesses, totalling £1,420,000. These are one-off grants to businesses, which means that we have supported 142 separate businesses through this scheme so far.

Of the remaining 279 identified businesses:

- 102 businesses have submitted their details, and are awaiting validation and State Aid clearance prior to payment
- 177 businesses have been contacted by email and letter, requesting them to create a BRUM account and submit a form with their details to be considered for a payment. These are businesses that have not previously made an application for business support grants, so we do not have their details on file.

We are also sharing details of eligible businesses with BIDs to help promote take up.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Social Isolation Payments ”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member give a full update of the status of Social Isolation Payments in Birmingham comprising: (a) total number of applications to date (b) total number of claims rejected and the reasons why (c) total number of payments made since December 2020 (d) total number of cases pending and (e) average time waiting for payment?

Answer:

(a) total number of applications to date

The volume of claims received by team continues to be considerably higher than the initial estimates provided by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), placing significant pressure upon the service.

As of 24th January 2021, we have received 10,097 applications for Social Isolation Payments. DHSC had previously advised that we should expect to receive between 1,700 and 3,400 applications for support.

(b) total number of claims rejected and the reasons why

As of 24th January 2021, we have rejected 3,224 claims for Social Isolation Payments. A breakdown of the reasons for rejection is provided in the table below.

Reason	% of rejections
Severe hardship not demonstrated	21%
Not valid code or period on CTAS	18%
Not eligible – receiving full sick pay	13%
Not eligible - earning above eligibility threshold	12%
Information/evidence not received	10%
Insufficient evidence provided	9%
Not eligible - savings exceed threshold of £6,000	6%
Not currently employed	4%

Tested negative for Covid-19	2%
Not on a qualifying benefit	2%
Not eligible – claimant from abroad	1%
Not eligible – can work from home	1%
Claim not made within claim period	1%

(c) total number of payments made since December 2020

From 1st December 2020 to date (24th January 2021), we have paid 1,035 claims.

(d) total number of cases pending

As of 24th January 2021, we have 3,509 claims waiting to be processed. A further 1,125 claims are on hold awaiting further information from the claimant.

(e) average waiting time for payment

As of 24th January 2021, the average waiting time for a Social Isolation Payment is 17.53 days.

Before a payment can be made, all claims must be verified through the national DHSC 'CTAS' eligibility checker. The team has had to deal with multiple issues involving CTAS, which has considerably slowed down the rate of payments.

For the first two months of the scheme, CTAS would not display up-to-date information for over ten days for the majority of cases. This meant a large delay between citizens being told by the NHS App to self-isolate and their information becoming verifiable on the CTAS system. Despite initiating discussions with DHSC to find alternative methods of verification, we were informed that all claims must continue to be verified using CTAS and no other evidence could be considered in assessing a claim. This issue was not unique to Birmingham, and other local authorities experienced similar difficulties.

Adding to the delays, a high percentage of applicants do not supply the mandatory evidence to support their claim for support, requiring further communications from the team before an assessment can be made.

BCC remains in discussion with DHSC about resourcing. Considering the high number of applications received, and their complexity, the funding received by the Council to administer the scheme only covers around 55% of the actual administrative costs.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH

“Consultants/Interims”

Question:

In response to written questions for the November, December and January full Council meetings, of last year, you provided information regarding the use of consultants/interims. This information proved rather difficult to obtain as it had to be requested three times and on not one occasion did you manage to provide the complete dataset requested – you ended up providing separate tables and information, making it difficult to match together.

Please could you supply ALL of the information requested below in one table (this should not now prove difficult or time consuming as you will have analysed the majority of this information to provide the previous fragmented information). If this is not provided on this occasion it will be requested through FOI.

All interim and consultant resource used in SEND and Home to School Transport, broken down on a monthly basis since September 2019 specifying:

- ☐ Interim/consultant/company details
- ☐ Day Rate for external resource
- ☐ Total Amount paid inclusive of expenses/other payments
- ☐ Number of days worked
- ☐ Dates the period of work covered
- ☐ Ethnic Origin of the Interim/Consultant
- ☐ Company/Interim resident in Birmingham (Y/N)
- ☐ Commissioned by (officer title)
- ☐ Approved by (officer title)
- ☐ Reports produced
- ☐ Performance improvement that has been made as a result of these costs. Please specify the data to demonstrate this performance improvement – what was the starting point, evidenced with stats and what was the outcome evidenced by stats
- ☐ Date Vacancy advertised internally to give current employees opportunity to deliver this work
- ☐ Date decision made to outsource this work

Answer:

The information has been collated into a single table as requested, however some of the newly requested information is not available:

- Day Rate
- Number of days worked - will take significant time to collate individual timesheets for 95 individuals
- Ethnic origin – Self defined categorisation of ethnicity has not been requested from interim resources and therefore cannot be provided
- Resident in Birmingham – this information not collected, one benefit of remote working is being able to access a wider resource market
- Date vacancy advertised & Date decision made to outsource this work – A decision has not been made to outsource this work. The majority of the interim resource are additional capacity that has been brought in to support the service therefore, there was no vacancy to advertise. Where vacancies are being temporarily resourced through interim resources these are being advertised as soon as possible, subject to completion of HR processes.

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Guide transformation lead	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	27/01/2020	31/08/2020	£ 48,848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case to support the reduction of Agency Guides • 1st Draft Business Case in relation to SEND Transport Application process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the service Saving Strategy and improved gatekeeping and application of policy conditions relating to transport eligibility
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/10/2020	£19,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support • Reduction in the backlog of assessments from 500 to 200
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	22/05/2020	£8,775		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/10/2020	£19,840		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/10/2020	£22,840		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	£19,810		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/07/2020	£13,910		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	£11,700		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	£13,378		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	£14,280		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	04/10/2020	18/12/2020	£43,470		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	£12,350		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	19/03/2020	31/05/2020	£12,220		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	£13,780		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	£18,540		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	11/03/2020	31/05/2020	£16,940		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31.10.2020	£19,020		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	£21,600		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	£12,220		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	17/03/2020	31/05/2020	£14,040		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	03/03/2020	31/10/2020	£20,865		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	12/03/2020	31/10/2020	£21,880		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	16/03/2020	31/05/2020	£16,563		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim Communication Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones		30/03/2021	£17,850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communication strategy * Communication plan * Communication material including newsletters for schools and parents, and briefings 	* Improved communication and engagement with PCF
Interim Communication officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	30/12/2019	12/02/2020	£1,313		
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	06/10/2020	21/04/2021	£10,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Safeguarding and PATS training program to be delivered to 480 guides in the new year. • Driver and Guide handbook to be issues to all guides and then drivers. • Daily compliance reports • Supplier check reports • Investigation findings for safeguarding complaints 	As per Compliance Manager and Senior Compliance Officer
Interim Compliance Performance Officer	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	23/09/2020	21/04/2021	£6,825	Generate information from the Compliance team and Assessment officer to develop and produce accurate information that can provide an overview of the service performance and suppliers, identify trends and areas of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors and Heads of service are now understanding the performance of suppliers and identify social, mechanical or performance trends at source and in the coming weeks/ months note an increase in service delivery

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
						improvement. Provide additional support to the Compliance team to carry out site visits and depot audits as required.	
Interim Data Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	18/03/2020	18/09/2020	£50,060	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * EHCP requests tracker and associated reports * EHCP review recovery project database and associated reports * Tracker for new EHCP reviews * Tracker for complaints * Tracker for mediations and appeals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved workflow management * Automated monitoring reports for managers
Interim Data Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	18/03/2020	18/12/2020	£46,550		
Interim Early Years SEND Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones	01/09/2020	01/09/2021	£7,500	* Review of early years service	* Recommendations to improve early years service
Interim Educational Psychologist	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones	06/07/2020	18/09/2020	£29,910	* Tracker of children awaiting a special school place	• Consolidated view of children awaiting special school place so placements could be managed
Interim Finance Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	01/11/2019	30/09/2020	£21,900	* Review formula funding for specialist provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established mechanisms for financial reporting for specialist provision • New criteria and allocation of top up funding for mainstream
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Nichola Jones			£1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Responding to contact from parents and schools via email and telephone * Support families through the needs assessment process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing support to families (24 new referrals in Jan 20 > 205 in Dec 20) New satisfaction survey launched in Dec 20 recorded a positive rating of 4.78 / 5
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Nichola Jones	13/03/2020	31/10/2020	£15,980		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Nichola Jones	04/03/2020	31/10/2020	£12,430		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Nichola Jones	09/03/2020	31/10/2020	£17,035	* Signposting families to relevant support	
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Nichola Jones	24/07/2020	31/10/2020	£2,530		
Interim Ops Manager (Transport)	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	24/08/2020	24/02/2021	£17,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone systems – Cirrus • Email system – Cirrus Omni • Bus Pass report • Invoice reports • Staff 1-to-1 • Complaints • Restructure operations service • Performance Improvement - guides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current telephone system failings resulting in Cirrus implementation. Daily / weekly reports regarding the Cirrus phone system. Calls answered / abandoned. Time taken to answer calls / calls being abandoned in compliance with the BCC KPI's of 90% answered – 10% abandoned. Ensuring the team meet these KPI's Bus Passes- Identifying hidden issues within the service; identifying the weakness in the service and ensuring new staff are training in the processing of these bus passes. Identifying improvements with the system to avoid the volume of future applications given the 80% rejection rate. Invoice reports – ensuring the overdue invoices are processed in a timely manner considering value and age of invoices and finding solutions to improve service Redesign of the variation form to provide transparency with the variation form process submitted by contractors asking for price increase/ decrease

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim Performance Lead	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	17/02/2020	13/03/2020	£13,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * HST dashboard * HST immediate fixes plan * HST weekly sit rep report * HST contract performance reporting schedule * SEND dashboard * SEND Weekly sit rep report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility of data • Improved data reliability
Interim Performance Lead	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	11/06/2020	10/09/2020	£34,762		
Interim Performance Lead	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	11/03/2020	12/06/2020	£36,500		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	David Bridgman			£25,674	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Statutory processes for assessment and review of EHCPs * Research and respond to complaints * Associated case work, including consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the backlog of assessments from 500 to 200 Complaints allocation process • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	David Bridgman			£47,291		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones		31/01/2021	£24,675		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	13/07/2020	20/10/2020	£63,817		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/09/2020	18/12/2020	£1,980		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/10/2020	18/12/2020	£4,950		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	04/10/2020	18/12/2020	£7,350		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	26/05/2020	31/08/2020	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	02/10/2020	18/12/2020	£26,175		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	04/10/2020	18/12/2020	£19,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/09/2020	18/12/2020	£10,500		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	04/10/2020	31/01/2021	£40,830		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	17/08/2020	04/10/2020	£ -		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/10/2020	18/12/2020	£10,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	02/10/2020	18/12/2020	£2,475		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	04/10/2020	18/12/2020	£24,900		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/10/2020	18/12/2020	£ -		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/10/2020	18/12/2020	£5,400		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	04/05/2020	31/08/2020	£21,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	20/04/2020	18/12/2020	£52,650		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	£24,054		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	02/10/2020	18/12/2020	£16,425		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	29/04/2020	16/10/2020	£13,873		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	13/07/2020	18/12/2020	£16,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	£35,515		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	13/07/2020	22/08/2020	£ 9,920		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	02/10/2020	18/12/2020	£24,318		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	£66,969		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	£79,270		

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	£72,127		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	01/04/2020	04/10/2020	£30,750		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	31/08/2020	18/12/2020	£37,260		
Interim Post 16 SEND Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones			£31,890	* Review of post 16 service	Recommendations to improve preparation for adulthood
Interim Project Lead - Local Offer Website	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	20/08/2020	31/10/2020	£12,638	* Local offer website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Online booking system in final stages of development to be launched in the spring
Interim Project Manager	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones			£22,070	* Developing & managing local provision project plan and associated governance	* DLP project launched
Interim Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	11/03/2020	11/09/2020	£41,820	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * School Planning meeting documentation * Local offer website upload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Improved communication with special school transport leads
Interim Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	01/04/2020	30/09/2021	£15,224	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weekly report and liaison with special schools * Consolidation report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input to Home to school transport improvement programme

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
Interim Safeguarding & Compliance SEND Transport Manager	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	21/07/2020	24/01/2021	£22,875	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weekly & monthly performance reports * Safeguarding process for complaints * data analysis from supplier returns (monthly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust compliance team who apply safeguarding checks at schools and supplier premises to ensure vehicles and staff are compliant. • Vehicle inspections carried out to ensure vehicles transporting clients are fully roadworthy and feedback given to supplier they additional checks to ensure compliance. • Supplier performance has improved as a result of the checks and visits made to schools and suppliers, once concerns are identified and improvement plans are agreed. • Depot Audits at supplier premises to ensure policies are being applied throughout the operation against their contract. • Regular supplier meetings to ensure performance issues are identified and actioned. • Safeguarding tracker to capture safeguarding complaints ensure escalated to LADO and managed appropriately in a timely way. • Supplier monthly reporting processes are accurate and identify DBS application's so they are processed as quickly as possible to ensure supplier has sufficient staff to delivery service. • Improved communication and feed back to suppliers is carried out in a

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
							timely was to ensure failings identified are rectified.
Interim Safeguarding & QA Lead	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	18/11/2019	06/03/2020	£25,200	* initial safeguarding audit of suppliers * DPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts confirmed with suppliers • Baseline safeguarding reports
Interim SEN Coordinator - EHCP Reviews	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Nichola Jones	05/03/2020	31/10/2020	£8,000	* Managing allocation of paperwork to officers * Maintaining record of activity * Liaising with schools to obtain further information as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation		Nov-19	Dec-19	£25,810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of SENAR administration services * Draft review recovery project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones	10/03/2020	25/09/2020	£30,575		
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation		22/11/2019	14/01/2020	£4,463		
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones			£9,585		
Interim SEND Transport manager	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	20/07/2020	17/01/2021	£22,750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * DfE bid for COVID funding * Deed variation for supply of guides * Deed variation for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has had improved leadership and structure in order to achieve a number of significant improvement key tasks. This development has worked in partnership

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
						alteration of DBS process * Communication & Implementation plan * Org chart for restructure * Summer operations plan * Draft revised risk assessment process * Contribution to immediate fixes plan, weekly and daily sit rep, monthly covid plan, service dashboard and revised implementation plan	with the recommendations outlined in the Service Investigation Report. • The service is now able to ensure early identification of operational concern and introduce strategies in order to improve performance and administration across the service as a whole
Interim Senior Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	17/09/2020	17/03/2021	£2,800	• Supplier performance figures on a daily and weekly basis • Carry out record and report on Supplier Audit. • Daily engagement with suppliers to address any issues identified within compliance checks. • Recognize training needs for drivers and suppliers relating to compliance	• Robust and engaging compliance team in place. Robust procedures implemented to improve supplier /driver compliance • Implemented a revised parking plan at 2 schools to date (Calthorpe & Dame Ellen Pinsent) • Allocate work to the compliance team to ensure work is completed and prioritised. • Advise suppliers on compliance matters i.e. procedures and technique to improve performance. • Improved communication with suppliers, schools and internal teams to ensure concerns are addressed and recorded in a timely way

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support other service areas to address any safeguarding /compliance issues and resolve in a timely way.
Interim Transformation Lead/Programme mgr	Transformation & Project Support	Nichola Jones	21/01/2020	31/12/2020	£86,205	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review recovery project * Draft EHCP multi agency QA framework * Draft managing send provision model * PCF briefing * Internal engagement and briefings * Multi agency operational stakeholder engagement * Draft Pathways * Resource tracker & resource plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a contact database for families 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue • Multi agency operational stakeholder engagement • Progress against the written statement of action
Interim Transport Manager Operations, Commissioning & Contracts	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	01/06/2020	30/11/2020	£44,240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed system requirements for the Home to school transport database • Procurement Business case for the purchase of the new system (365 Response chosen) • Implementation Plan for 365 • Communications Plan for the implementation of 365 • Mobile Phones for Guides requirements document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken the request for a new transport system from concept, through requirements definition and procurement to commencement of operational roll out and live testing. • Defined additional costs to cover data requirements for BCC in the absence of a legacy database and revised the business case to justify new requirements. • Revised business case includes the cost of project management.

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CXM Bus Pass Administration requirements • Also developed the daily route report which underpins the Daily SitRep reporting to Chief Executive 	
Interim Transport Operations Manager	Home To School Transport	Nichola Jones	11/03/2020	21/04/2021	£55,580	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Mobility Assessment Risk Assessment Process. • Review of Current Assessment Process and recommendations • Provide guidance on improving safer accurate assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Risk Assessments are being carried out. • Engage with relevant service areas to obtain all relevant information to produce accurate information and assessments.
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	01/06/2020	31/08/2020	£6,450	Managing the throughput of mediations, appeals and tribunals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of compliance with statutory timelines. • Robust mediation process to ensure resolution
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Nichola Jones	30/06/2020	30/09/2020	£19,200		
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Dave Bridgman	01/06/2020	14/08/2020	£40,500		
Sensory Consultant	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones	01/09/2019	30/03/2021	£25,384	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of sensory resource bases * Review of FAMS * Supporting implementation of recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of more inclusive provision for children with physical difficulties • Improved use of resources through use of sensory resource bases
Strategic SEND Consultant	SEND Strategic Transformation	Nichola Jones	Sep-19	Dec-20	£15,836	* Funding comparison for special schools to inform the special school funding review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP project launched • Special school funding review in progress

Role	Area	Approved By	Start Date	End Date	Cumulative costs to Nov 2020	A high-level list of activities	A summary of improvements
						* Preparatory work for the DLP project	

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“SEND Requirements”

Question:

Minister for Children, Vicky Ford MP has written to all LAs (14th January 2021) to outline the current requirements around SEND. It is clear that there are no relaxation of Legal Duties relating to EHCPs and the statutory SEND framework. However, it is noted that Manchester LA sent out a letter that is not in line with the present obligations to deliver SEND. Can we have assurance that such a letter will not be sent out to parents here and can we have a copy of the letter that was sent out to parents, at the first lockdown (as per the requirement last year)?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council is not intending to issue such a letter.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Pre-Action Judicial Review”

Question:

In response to Written Question C11 at November 2020, Full Council meeting you advised that there had been an increase in letters received by the Council under pre-action Judicial Review protocol on behalf of parents regarding their children's special educational needs and provision from 5 in 2019 to 32 in 2020 (a 540% increase or, if you prefer, a 3100% increase on 2018's figure of 1). You stated that a report into the significant increase in 2020 was at that time being compiled by Legal Services. Please provide a copy of that report.

Answer:

A copy of the report is attached below.

LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

January 2021

Report into the increase in the number of Judicial Review Pre-action Protocol letters received in 2020, relating to Special Educational Needs.

1. Purpose of report

To highlight the types of issues raised by parents and their solicitors in the Pre-action Protocol letters, and to identify the reason why there was a significant increase in the number of letters received in 2020 when compared with previous years. This report also includes the recommendations which have been made by Legal Services to the SEND Service in the Education and Skills Directorate.

2. Background

In the context of SEND, Judicial Review is the way in which parents can challenge the lawfulness of decisions taken, and procedures followed, by the Council's SEND Service. Before taking the matter to court, parents or their legal representatives must first send to the Council a Judicial Review Pre-action Protocol letter. The letter includes the details of the matters being challenged, the reasons why it is claimed that the Council has acted unlawfully, and the action that the parent and their solicitor expect the Council to take. The purpose of the letter is to identify any issues in dispute and establish whether they can be resolved without going to court.

In 2020 a total of 40 Judicial Review Pre-action letters were received by, or referred to Legal Services, each raising issues in respect of a child or young person's special educational needs. This is a significant increase when compared to previous years. In 2019 there were 5 letters.

Of the 40 letters received in 2020 only one claim proceeded to court, and the judge in that case refused permission for the claim to continue to a full court hearing. Except for a few relatively minor outstanding issues, the issues raised in the 40 letters have all been resolved.

Legal Services responded to all the letters based on information and instructions provided by the SEND Service.

3. Issues raised in the Pre-action letters

The main and recurring issues raised in the letters received during 2020 were allegations that the SEND Service had:

- Failed to secure the provision set out in the EHCP, in breach of section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014;
- Failed to comply with the timescales set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, for

example to issue a Final EHCP within 20 weeks of a request for an assessment being received;

- Failed to secure alternative suitable education for children who are unable to attend school, in breach of section 19 of the Education Act 1996;
- Failed to hold or conclude the Annual Review of the EHCP;
- Failed to comply with Tribunal Orders;
- Failed to notify parents of their right of appeal to the Tribunal in certain cases;
- Failed to consult the parent's preferred school.

4. The reason for the increase in the number of letters received

Although most of the pre-action letters were received from solicitors that specialise in the law relating to education and special educational needs, the increase is not a consequence of any single, or new law firm, sending the letters.

Other local authorities did not experience a significant increase in the number of pre-action letters they received in 2020. Of the 9 local authorities contacted by Legal Services, only 2 said that they had seen a slight increase. The rest received fewer, or the same the number of letters, when compared to 2019.

The reason for the increased number of letters received in Birmingham in 2020 is because on more occasions than in previous years the SEND Service did not comply with the legal requirements as listed in section 3 above and did not have due regard to the requirements in the SEND Code of Practice. Consequently, in 2020, more parents instructed their legal representatives to write and send pre-action letters to the Council.

5. Recommendations

The following actions are required:

- i. Ensure compliance with the law, and the requirements contained in the SEND Code of Practice;
- ii. Training on the legal requirements and the SEND Code of Practice should be undertaken, particularly by those officers involved in decision-making;
- iii. Decision-making processes must be documented and clear;
- iv. Clearer structures of accountability and responsibility should be implemented within the SEND Service.

Head of Law (Education)
Legal Services

B4

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

"EHCP'S"

Question:

Please provide, broken down by area of need, year group, number of children & young people with EHCPs who are currently:

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

Answer:

The number of children without a school place has increased despite several children being placed in specialist provision since last full council meeting. This term children have been added to Home Bridging case load because they have turned 5 in the autumn term and are now of statutory school age, families who have moved into Birmingham, looked after children have been placed in the city and EHC plans have been finalised.

Home Bridging Team continue to support children and their families while a suitable placement is secured. The team offer home teaching through teams (online platform), video calls and sending work directly on email or by post. Feedback from families is positive regarding the communication and support they receive from the Home Bridging Team.

Tutoring agencies are commissioned, and this is presently being delivered virtually or door stop visits because of lockdown restrictions. Feedback from families regarding this is positive. Tutoring is commissioned and reviewed on a half termly basis and tutors send at least fortnightly reports on children's progress.

There are a small number of children who are accessing Academy 21 which is an online provider delivering learning from Key Stage Two onwards. This is commissioned on a pay as you go basis with the focus being to secure full-time provision back in a school setting. This schooling enables children to take part in a

lesson with other students in a supervised way with mentoring/pastoral support still being delivered though the Home Bridging team contact with the child and family.

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

Families are kept fully informed of the education provision made for their child while they are awaiting a school place. There are instances where families have turned down tutoring as they do not feel online sessions will suit their child's needs, prior to lockdown families also did not feel comfortable having tutors come into the house, with tier 3 and 4 restrictions this meant that libraries and children's centres were not able to facilitate sessions.

A task and finish group has been created and instructed to focus the relevant stakeholder officers of Birmingham City Council on the series of tasks that needs to take place to ensure that all children are assigned a Special School Placement where the EHCP identifies this as provision. We have also identified several special school places that we are working closely with the Special School headteachers to fill with children

This group has been tasked to work together through the key areas of focus within the service area to identify areas for improvement and placement resolution. As well as agreeing the process and planning for future activity. As part of this group the data held by the service will be interrogated, cleansed and quality assured to ensure that an accurate picture of need is provided.

The numbers highlighted in the table below refer to those children that are being supported by the Home Bridging team and are out of school awaiting a special school placement.

By Age Group

Year Gr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of Children	11	2	6	2	2	10	14	11	4	15	6	2

By Need

Need	ASD	MLD	PD	SEMH	SLD	VI
No. of Children	63	1	1	18	1	1

By Area

Area	North	South	East	West
No. of Children	12	36	31	6

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Terms of Reference”

Question:

In response to Written Question B18 of December 2020 Full Council meeting (which itself followed on from an omission in an answer from November 2020 meeting) you stated that the Terms of Reference (including membership) for Decision Making Groups (DMGs) were in draft and would be shared. Please now provide both the Terms of Reference and the membership of the DMGs and the decision-making authority they hold.

Answer:

Since the Council meetings in November and December 2020, a number of activities have taken place to finalise the Decision Making Group process for children with SEND in Birmingham. Advice from the legal team has been considered and has been used to adapt the draft terms of reference for each DMG. However, in the light of the proposed restructuring of the SENAR and Provision teams, it has been necessary to review the original DMG configuration and the position is currently as follows.

Birmingham's Seven SEN Decision Making Groups (DMGs)					
Tier 1 DMGs	Provision DMGs	Types of Decision	Tier 2 DMGs	High Level DMGs	Types of Decision
1	Physical and Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Interventions Peer support Local funding and resources EHC assessment and EHC Plan decisions Resource Base placements 	6	Exceptional Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional top-up funding Exceptional equipment needs Exceptional Therapy interventions Independent Non-Maintained costs
2	Autistic Spectrum Condition		7	Special School Placements	Allocation of Special School Placements
3	Cognition and Learning				
4	SEMH				
5	Early Years				

Tier 1 DMGs

Provision Decision Making Groups have been established in order to reach decisions for children and young people with SEND about:

- whether or not to statutorily assess a child's needs
- whether or not to issue an Education, Health and Care plan
- placement in a specialist Resource Base
- local interventions
- funding and resources available locally to meet needs

These groups cover the 0-25 age range across four specific areas of need with a fifth group focussed on Early Years

1. Physical and Sensory
2. ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition)
3. Cognition and Learning
4. SEMH
5. Early Years

Where the Groups determine that a child's needs should be met in a specialist environment or require exceptional funding to support the needs, decisions are reached by a second tier of decision-making groups.

Tier 2 DMGs

In some cases, specialist placements will be required and higher levels of funding need to be allocated to meet a child's complex needs. These decisions are reached by the:

6. Exceptional Funding DMG
7. Special School DMG including decisions about independent placements

In total there are 7 DMGs

The groups have been established for the Physical and Sensory, ASC and Cognition and Learning DMGs. These are supported by criteria to be applied for reaching decisions to ensure consistency across all groups. Work is underway to further develop arrangements for Early years, SEMH, Exceptional Funding and Special School DMGs.

We are currently working on terms of reference based upon the new provision teams.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN

“Developing Local Provision (DLP)”

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditure and detail progress towards outcomes from the Developing Local Provision (DLP) projects. Please outline:

- who is leading and working on these projects and the payments they have received and are likely to receive.
- what the project is and the data set that defines how the need for the project was identified.
- the data set for the outcome/impact the project will make.

Answer:

Breakdown of expenditure on DLP to February 2021

DLP Current expenditure Feb 2021		
Consortia and Network projects	Reference Group Approved	£470,332
Consortia and Network Projects	Awaiting Approval	£175,374
	Total	£615. 706
With staffing costs below		£60.000
	Total	£675,706

Who is leading and working on these projects and the payments they have received and are likely to receive?

		Total Costs to date	Total Cost -End of financial year
Roles leading and working on project	1x P/T Project lead 1x P/T Primary Schools Lead 1 F/T Project Manager	£60,000 approx*	£96, 000 approx
Roles leading and working on project	P/T Secondary schools lead P/T Data manager	£0	£0

	(BEP support from BCC allocation)		
	TOTAL	£60,000.00 approx*	£96,000.00 approx*

* awaiting claims to be processed

Future Planned Expenditure – Financial Year end 2021

DLP Expected expenditure April 2021		
Consortia and Network projects	Reference Group Approved	£470,332
Consortia and Network Projects	Currently Awaiting Approval	£175,374
Consortia and Network Projects	Proposals to be in by April	£981,936
	Total	£1,627,642
With staffing costs below		£96,000.00
	Total	£1,723,642

Please see appendix a for project cost breakdown.

WHAT THE PROJECT IS :

- It is a city-wide school led project, focused on the development of SEND local provision across partnerships of schools to improve outcomes and enable greater inclusion of children and young people with SEND educated in their local community schools.
- All schools across the city, regardless of their context, (e.g., mainstream schools, academies, free schools, schools causing concern etc) are being supported to engage in the project.
- Two other strands of DLP are currently focussed on projects related to teams of professionals and partnerships of schools working together on
 - targeted lists of rising five years olds and secondary pupils, who are either at risk of a school placement breakdown or who are not currently into on a school roll to ensure they stay in their local school where possible secure placements.
 - focussed work with nurseries and in the Post 16 sector to develop projects to improve outcomes for those vulnerable children and young people and those with SEND

How the need for the project was identified

1. The DLP project is focussed on the national key priority areas for development identified by **OFSTED** and the **Department of Education** which are to:

- reduce the rapidly rising number of rapidly of EHCPs.
- support the development and improvement of provision and outcomes in mainstream schools and particularly for those pupils on SEN support which have been identified through inspection across the country .as needing improvement

2. The DLP is also designed to address the **three strategic priorities of Birmingham City Council**:

- Reduce reliance on high-cost specialist placements in out of City schools.
- Enable pupils to access high quality provision as close as possible to where they live.
- Enhance the capacity of mainstream schools and settings to work together to provide for pupils in their local area and to plan the provision that they need.

3. National (DfE) Comparative Benchmarking datasets also reflect that Birmingham has lower numbers of children and young people with SEND supported in mainstream settings than at a regional or national level and this is a downward trend overtime.

4. Schools in partnerships have set their own baseline and KPI's using locality contextual datasets and their own live data.

The impact of this project will be demonstrated through:

Increased performance against National and Birmingham City Council priorities

- Locality baseline data and comparative Network and Consortia data
- Progress towards Key Performance Indicators (measurable) for each consortia and network
- Improved outcomes for pupils with SEND in mainstream schools
- The views of Parents, Carers and Children & Young People
- Numbers of identified rising five pupils who have remained in current local school placement.
- Significantly reduced numbers of students not on a school roll and more of those pupils accessing school or alternative provision.

Progress of the Project towards outcomes

- The progress of the projected has been hampered by the 3 National lockdowns and extended regional restrictions, due to COVID-19 which have created many and significant pressures for headteachers, staff, pupils and their families, and schools have had to respond and address these as a priority.
- The lack of staff capacity and availability has limited opportunities for training and development for new approaches and strategies for meeting needs of vulnerable pupils and those with SEND and the lack of children actually in school has also not enabled projects or new strategies to be implemented.

However the following progress has been made:

- Some proposals have already been quality assured and approved, others are due to be submitted prior to February half term and a target date of April 1st has been set for all projects to have been approved and ready to implement.
- Proposals reflect effective partnership working of groups of schools and Headteachers, who have audited their needs, shared and analysed their data, researched evidence based strategies of what works and identified expertise and resources needed in their locality to support the delivery of their projects.
- All proposals have clear measurable KPI s identified that are related to their specific areas for development in their community of schools – in relation to improved pupil's performance, attendance exclusions etc, in relation to improved views of parent's carers and children and young people and staff knowledge and skills.
- Overall there is positive support for this work across mainstream school headteachers who are engaged.

Progress from January 2020

- Due to impact of Covid 19 and the third National lockdown on schools, at the request of and in consultation with mainstream Headteachers, the timeline for submission of these proposals has rightly been extended to ensure the quality and integrity of their work is maintained and there is capacity to do it,
- Therefore the official start of the roll out of this project has been re -scheduled to April 1st, 2021
- Every project will have a baseline established at the start of the project from which progress will be measured. The setting of these baselines has and will be support by the BEP data manager and their area lead Educational psychologist.

NB - It is important to understand and recognise the need for the investment of time in the start-up of this project to ensure the change of culture needed for schools to embrace these new ways of working, to develop sustainable solutions and for the integrity and quality of the project to be maintained.

Leaders of the project are working with finance and legal teams to agree a 'Conditions of Grant' agreement and an appropriate reporting structure to ensure the project has a robust governance structure. This work has been delayed through other pressure on legal teams. The project also has its own governance structure where progress and spend of the project reports into a Reference Group of senior officers and Headteachers half termly

Funding of the project was agreed at schools forum on the 23/01/2020 and highlighted in the Financial Plan 2020 to 2024 (pg 51) when council considered budget.

APENDIX A: Allocated Funding

DLP	£7,000,000
AREAS	£4,549,500.00
<i>East Total</i>	<i>£970,087</i>
East Network	£418,202
Eastwards	£213,148
Cole Heath A	£42,382
FAYS	£171,271
Saltley Plus	£125,085
<i>Central Total</i>	<i>£641,593</i>
Central	£249,696
Cole Heath B	£166,608
Sparklers	£225,289
<i>South Total</i>	<i>£639,770</i>
South	£322,301
Hall Green	£182,159
Kings Norton	£135,309
<i>South West Total</i>	<i>£640,568</i>
South West	£323,313
Senneleys Park	£84,363
Quinbourne	£93,003
Northfield	£139,889
<i>North Total</i>	<i>£793,260</i>
North	£374,578
Sutton Coldfield	£144,683
Erdington	£135,722
Perry Barr	£138,277
<i>North West Total</i>	<i>£864,223</i>
North West	£411,409
Handsworth	£212,135

Aston Nechells	£142,183
Ladywood Soho	£98,496
CENTRAL COSTS	£2,450,500
Central Costs & Contingency	£650,500
PVI & Nursery	£250,000
POST 16	£350,000
Panel - EY	£700,000
Panel - Secondary	£500,000

B7

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Schools High Needs Budget”

Question:

**Please provide a breakdown of expenditure for the last two years of the
schools High Needs Budget.**

Answer:

See Table below.

<u>High Needs Block Funding Analysis</u>		Original	Original
		Budget	Budget
Distribution of Resources			
		2019-20	2020-21
<u>Front Line & Support Services</u>		£	£
Access to Education		5,662,567	5,662,567
Looked After Children Services		1,612,840	1,612,840
SENAR		458,332	1,103,899
Contribution for travelling children		140,776	140,776
Early Years Inclusion Support		1,633,412	1,633,412
Brighter Futures			
Management and Support Costs		1,736,390	1,736,390
	Total	11,244,317	11,889,884
<u>Placements</u>		£	£
Special Schools Place and Top Up Funding (Inc. post16)		71,743,954	79,171,379
Resource Bases		5,908,271	6,984,737
FE Provision (Colleges)		10,099,318	12,345,711
Independent Non-maintained schools		18,848,692	16,302,888
Other Local Authority schools		2,878,622	2,842,505
City Of Birmingham School/ AP Initiatives		7,011,594	7,511,594
Pupil Connect - newly arrived pupils		1,126,689	1,126,689
EFA Place recoupment i.e. academies, hospital school.		25,384,303	26,597,515
Enteral tube feeding		366,735	366,735
	Total	143,368,178	153,249,753
<u>Top-up funding for Mainstream schools</u>		£	£
CRISP		5,865,768	7,015,360
Inclusion Support in Early Years		492,990	992,990
Schools with higher than average SEN		500,000	500,000
	Total	6,858,758	8,508,350
<i>Invest To Save Initiatives</i>		500,000	400,000
<i>Deficit Recovery</i>			5,000,000
<i>BCELS</i>			270,000
<i>Special School Redundancy Budget</i>			125,000
<i>Developing Provision Locally Fund & Contingency</i>			8,207,874
	Overall total	161,971,253	187,650,860

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

"Outsourcing SENDIASS Service"

Question:

A process is currently underway to outsource the SENDIASS service, which would appear to contradict your manifesto commitment to keep services in-house. The IASS Commissioning guidance (2018) states that "in many local authority areas Information, Advice & Support (IASS) have been built on existing Parent Partnership Services, as advised in the SEND Code [2.4]". Further it states that "approximately 32% of IASS are outsourced, 66% of IASS are in house and just two are delivered by a combination". Helpfully it clarifies that "there is no evidence that outsourcing an IASS makes it any more effective or impartial. The greatest factor in the impact of a service is the levels of staffing and resources provided by the LA". On what basis, and by whom was the decision made to seek expressions of interest on the potential outsourcing of this service and by whom? Please specify the evidence used to arrive at that decision.

Answer:

The SEND service is currently undergoing transformation and as part of this transformation we are reviewing all service areas, which includes the SENDIASS service and have been looking at best practice models across the Country.

This administration in line with its manifesto commitment is not seeking to outsource any of these services.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Cross Party Representation”

Question:

Under the previous political administration, the SENDIASS Board had cross party representation from the three main political groups. This ensured both cross party support for the service as well as appropriate challenge in relation to its requirements. Please can you confirm that this cross-party representation will be reinstated and this may assist you in your confidence in the current SENDIASS and avoid the need to outsource or collapse the current service model.

Answer:

As part of the review of the SENDIASS service area, I will ensure that we get advice on good practice around Board membership, as it is important that the SENDIASS board is constituted in such a way as to comply with the national guidance.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“JEQ Process”

Question:

Please provide the dates the posts in the Parent Link service and SEND Administration Team were approved through the JEQ process and details of the process undertaken to recruit to these teams.

Answer:

The SENAR service is subject to organisational restructure and any posts relating to that restructure (including the Link Service) are currently being evaluated by the Reward & Recognition Team.

Assimilation / Recruitment will commence once the structure is finalised, following the 45-day statutory consultation period.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“SEND2 DATA”

Question:

You will have complied this year's SEND2 data for the DfE February return. Please provide a copy for this and provide last year's SEND2 return as well.

Answer:

The SEN2 data return has not yet been compiled.

The SEN2 Return is usually based on data captured at the Spring Census Date, which this year falls on 21 January 2021. However, to reduce the overlap with data collections due on Census date, the DfE has this year set a date of 14 January 2021 for SEN2 data.

The window to submit the LA's SEN2 return, therefore, opened on 14 January 2021 and remains live until 4 March 2021.

Due to time lags in data recording and system updates (around two weeks), we begin to collate the data for the return two weeks after the census date to ensure accuracy. This year, therefore, our work on the return will commence on 28 January 2021 and will be completed within the timescale set by the DfE.

Due to the significant amounts of information required to be collated and validated, the SEN2 takes an average of 90 officer hours to complete.

Returns are published online each year but we will be happy to provide a copy of our 2021 return once it has been submitted.

A copy of the SEN2 return completed in 2020 is attached and the link to the published information is below:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Distinct Leadership”

Question:

At last Full council meeting you said “I have shown distinct leadership to the director which is going through a degree of churn and change.” Can you explain what you meant by this, preferably with clear examples and dates?

Answer:

I believe I have shown distinct leadership to the directorate by ensuring the identified failings in the Home to School transport service are being addressed. The SEND service is undergoing a programme of transformation and although over the past year there has been interim support this is now being stabilised as permanent roles are being recruited to which will strengthen the overall management of this service.

The Chief Executive and I receive weekly performance monitoring reports which enable me to ensure actions are being undertaken and, if not, appropriate management action is undertaken as a matter of urgency. The Leader and Chief Executive have set out in the recent Improving Home to School Transport Cabinet report a number of recommendations for improving the service which will be closely monitored.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Investigations – Home to School Transport”

Question:

At the last Full Council meeting you said, in relation to Home to School Transport “I am absolutely sure I have been completely exonerated in any investigations.” Can you please point us to the relevant investigation and passages in which you have been exonerated with the date?

Answer:

The outcomes of the investigations that were commissioned pursuant to the Council Motion dated 15 September 2020 will be presented to the Audit Committee in due course following the resolution of any internal disciplinary proceedings. I can confirm that I am not subject to any investigation.

What matters most to me is that the Council delivers an improved and sustainable service that best meets the needs of some of our most vulnerable children. I am under no illusion that there were failings in the service and that changes are needed. As a Council we are committed to delivering those changes.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Home to School Transport DBS checks”

Question:

On what date did you enquire with Senior Officers to confirm there were no DBS issues within the service, as stated in your answers to last month's written questions, and on what date did Officers provide this assurance?

Answer:

I can confirm that as of 12 January I have been assured that no drivers with a positive DBS are driving for the contractor. Further, I can confirm that negotiations are advancing to vary the contract to ensure every DBS check for a driver is signed off by the Council. We have interim arrangements in place by agreement that remove risk in the period up to the variation becoming agreed and sealed.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“High Needs Block transfers out”

Question:

Since April 2018, how much money from the High Needs Block of school funding has been spent on consultants?

Answer:

2018 / 19	Nil
2019 / 20	£30,603
2020 / 21	£26,750

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

“Mental Health”

Question:

With Children's Mental Health issues rising and more patients being referred to already stretched services with an increase of 20% from last year, professionals are widely concerned the Pandemic could result in a 'lost generation', could the Cabinet Member give full details of how Children's Services are addressing this situation in the City, stating what measures are being put forward for ongoing support?

Answer:

The increasing challenge of mental health issues for children and young people was a growing issue prior to the pandemic and has been exacerbated through the lockdown period. Increased isolation, school closures and growing financial hardship have all played a part in this. Forward Thinking Birmingham (FTB) who are on the front-line responding to these challenges have seen an 11% growth in demand over the lockdown period.

With the onset of lockdown Forward Thinking Birmingham rapidly established their telemedicine offer, a virtual means of consultation and support. 2/3 of young people using this service were positive about their experience. Face-to-face consultations have been preserved for children and young people with safeguarding concerns, poor history of engagement or heightened risk factors. This new approach has significantly reduced the numbers of missed appointments so has brought much greater efficiency. The waiting list has reduced from over 1700 in June 2020 to 401 in December 2020.

Through the children's partnership mental health has been prioritised and services are working together to respond to this challenge.

In April 2020 the children's partnership commissioned Kooth, an online counselling and support service for young people with approximately 5000 users at present. The service responds to issues of stress, anxiety, family relationships and suicidal thoughts. The take up has been well received and the service continues to be promoted across the city.

FTB's STICK Team (Screening, Training, Intervention, Consultation, Knowledge) works alongside parents, schools, and childcare professionals to support, with their knowledge, the response to issues of mental health. Over the lockdown period they have worked with over 350 schools through the #you'vebeenmissed campaign, to

support the growing prevalence of need. There is further investment planned to increase the scale of the team and to establish a dedicated offer across each of the 10 localities in the city.

The Pause service has continued to operate across the city – it offers a drop in wellbeing facility for every Birmingham resident up to the age of 25.

There are further initiatives underway to build a greater early intervention and prevention response in the city. The emerging NewStart model is a whole school approach to supporting the mental health needs of children and young people. It is set to train all staff of every kind within schools to work with pupils to understand the profile of vulnerability. A plan of action will be set for each school to improve the way they are able to respond, building wellbeing networks where schools can support each other.

Within the Children's Trust, the TESS (Therapeutic and Emotional Support Service) service has continued to offer direct therapy-based work, alongside consultations to social workers and carers. TESS is an emotional wellbeing service for Birmingham's children in care, children on the 'edge of care' and young people who have left care. The Trust is currently reviewing the service to consider the opportunities of better alignment with the wider mental health offer and pathways across the city.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

“Children in Care”

Question:

There have been reports that during the pandemic, children in care have been sent to unregulated care homes. Could the Cabinet Member provide full details of the impact of the pandemic on children in care, confirming if children have been sent to unregulated homes in the City and detailing how many children this has affected?

Answer:

The term unregulated placement refers to those residential settings that are not inspected by Ofsted. These providers will in the main offer supported accommodation to young people over the age of 16. It is lawful for young people over 16 to live within these settings and many providers across the city are well known to the Trust and offer high quality provision. St Basils for example is a reputable provider in the city of supported accommodation.

There is a supported accommodation framework in place that requires certain standards to quality assure all of the providers that are used.

The challenge many local authorities face, which this question refers to, is in relation to those young people who have not yet reached 16 where an Ofsted-regulated children's home cannot be found.

The Trust has very low numbers of this occurrence. At present there is 1 young person under 16 placed within supported accommodation this year and a total of 15 from April 2020. The average length of stay in these placements is 5 days.

The Trust has worked hard to ensure regulated placements are provided for all young people who require them. Supported accommodation for young people under the age of 16 are only used as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted. Typically, these arrangements are tailored in emergency circumstances for very challenging young people who have experienced a number of former placement breakdowns.

There is a robust decision-making process in place to agree these placements which sits at Assistant Director level or above. If the placement is agreed there is an

expectation that it is a very short-term arrangement and senior managers are updated daily on the search for suitable provision.

Where a young person under 16 is placed within supported accommodation, the Trust will use 2 trusted providers where the quality of provision has been robustly assured. Additionally, as required, the Trust will supplement the staffing quota to assist with meeting the young person's needs.

The pandemic has put pressures on providers who have had to meet the challenge of keeping young people to lockdown rules as well as controlling the spread of infection in the homes. The Trust has worked closely with providers to offer additional support and advice to ensure placement stability. This has included the facilitation of track and trace arrangements, support with business continuity and infection control and, more recently, access to vaccines. Placement stability in the Trust is very good, For example only 5% of children have had 2.5 placements or more in the last 12 months, which stands against the national average of 10%.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Compliance”

Question:

On Monday 18th January 2021 @ 4.00 p.m. the SEND Dept. hosted a Webinar by enlisting Tom Cross (Barrister 11KBW), the flyer outlines that: *he acts for and advises all parties and that his work includes both private and public law disputes. The flyer states “This presentation will outline the main duties on schools to avoid disability discrimination against pupils and will provide real life worked examples. This advice will support settings in undertaking reasonable adjustments as well as accessibility planning. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.”*

Part D of the Council Constitution states:

2.3 Compliance

- iii. Every contract made by the Council shall comply with these Rules and be carried out in a fair, open and transparent manner that treats all contractors, equally and without discrimination, provided that this does not include contracts for the appointment of barristers, or legal firm where in the opinion of the City Solicitor urgent advice is needed to protect the interests of the Council.
- iv. instruction of any legal firm or barrister must be approved by the City Solicitor.

Given the outlining in the flyer of the advice from Tom Cross, Barrister, and its intended application – please confirm details of the compliance with the above and also confirm:

- Who instructed this barrister to provide this advice?
- What cost and payments were involved?
- What process was undertaken to source this barrister?
- Has this barrister been instructed in Birmingham previously and by whom?
- What costs and payments were involved previously?
- Has this barrister undertaken work for individuals who hired him in any previous authority?

Answer:

Tom Cross is an experienced barrister who frequently represents parties in schools' disability discrimination cases.

As part of a series of webinars for schools on SEND matters, Tom recently led a webinar on Disability Discrimination and the link to SEND Code of Practice. Tom's presentation outlined the main duties on schools to avoid disability discrimination against pupils and provided real life worked examples to support settings in undertaking reasonable adjustments as well as accessibility planning. As a council we are keen to ensure that schools are fully aware of their duties and responsibilities.

Arrangements for Tom to provide this webinar for Birmingham schools were made by the Assistant Director for SEND and Inclusion without seeking approval from the City Solicitor. The Assistant Director has been made aware of their responsibility to abide by the Council's constitution. In accordance with the council's constitution, approval will be sought in advance of any future webinar or briefing.

The payment for this webinar (including VAT) was £2,160.00.

Tom presented on disability discrimination and schools' duties at a headteacher conference in November 2019 arranged by the then Director of Education and Skills. Approval was provided by Legal Services in advance of the conference. The payment (including travel and VAT) for this presentation was £1,966.20.

Tom is regarded as an expert in this area. He has worked across the UK and has provided advice for a number of local authorities to deliver similar webinars, including authorities where the Assistant Director for SEND and Inclusion previously worked.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

“COVID 19 Laptops and wi-fi provision”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm if laptops and wi-fi provision will be made available to any student who does not currently have access to such equipment to enable them to continue their studies at home and who will be funding the cost?

Answer:

Last year the government committed to providing devices and connectivity to support pupils access remote education. Since then schools in Birmingham have been receiving devices direct from the Department for Education and these have been a great support to children and families.

I am aware, however, that many schools in Birmingham are reporting a shortfall between the needs of their pupils and what has been received so far from the Department for Education, despite deliveries increasing since the start of the current period of national lockdown.

This means unfortunately that there are pupils in Birmingham who don't currently have the equipment they need to best access remote education. Unfortunately, it is not within the council's gift to provide the IT equipment and connectivity that families desperately need.

Birmingham Education Partnership, in conjunction with the council and other partners, has been supporting schools across Birmingham to ensure that all children, including the most vulnerable, are able to access remote education. Donations of money and devices have been received from businesses and the general public and it has been heartening to see the city rally round in support of our most vulnerable children. The council has repurposed approximately 300 devices to provide to schools.

However, IT poverty remains an issue in Birmingham and I will continue to lobby the government for additional support for pupils.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Adult Education”

Question:

It is well known there is has been a distinct decline in the national participation for adult learning across the UK with nine million adults lacking functional literacy and numeracy skills culminating in a fall of 3.8 million adult learners since 2001, which will have a detrimental effect on jobseekers post pandemic. Could the Cabinet Member share details of the initiatives that are being taken in the city to improve this position highlighting the measures that are being taken to engage with and encourage adult learning in all sectors of the community?

Answer:

1. Since September 2020, Birmingham Adult Education Service (BAES) has offered ca. 8,000 learning opportunities in English, Maths, Digital, Health and Social Care to upskills residents and bring them closer to job opportunities. September 2020 was also the launch of the ‘Route to Work’ programme in partnership with the Skills and Employability team at BCC
2. Additional learning opportunities in other areas such as floristry, business and languages bring the total of learning opportunities to 11,000 across the entire provision.
3. BAES had planned to deliver 20% of provision online at the start of the 20/21 academic year but in response to the 2nd wave of the pandemic and learners’ needs ‘switched’ to 85% online with 15% face to face in classrooms and blended delivery. In the current lockdown BAES is using remote learning and providing digital equipment (subject to supply) for learners who are digitally excluded
4. Developing a social media campaign (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok) aimed at residents on furlough to retrain, update skills and access better job opportunities – starting in Feb 21. This campaign is aimed at employers such as Boots, Debenhams and small to medium businesses.
5. Working in collaboration with Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP as a kickstart gateway to connect unemployed residents to learning opportunities
6. Community stakeholder forums are being held across the city to inform BAES course programme planning and to raise awareness of adult education amongst groups of residents who don’t usually access Adult Education Service

7. The team is working in collaboration with the council's corporate communications team to promote courses to the citizens of Birmingham and we have stepped up our social media campaign to reach all communities
8. BAES has significantly increased its presence on Social Media platforms that has increased the number of users in our Website. As a result, on the last 28 days up to 26 January 2021 our website has seen 10.5K unique users, our Facebook page has reached 38K distinct users and our Twitter feed has had 10K impressions.
9. Since the start of the first lockdown, BAES increased its support to the community with the launch of the Community Hub, which provides key information for residents and families such as contact details for foodbanks, community support networks, how to keep safe and debt advice.
10. Plans are in progress to provide a revamped and extended Term 3 in 2020/21 academic year to ensure learning opportunities meet demand as lockdown restrictions are eased over the coming months in accordance with Department for Education guidance and related directives.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“School Exclusions”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member give full details of school exclusions by ward for the last 5 years, providing full details on how excluded children are accessing education services during the current Lockdown?

Answer:

Data on school exclusions for the last five academic years by ward, separated into primary, secondary and special schools, is attached with this response (below).

All excluded pupils are referred to the City of Birmingham School (COBS) via the council's exclusions team or directly from schools. COBS provides education to pupils by the sixth day of their exclusion either directly or with support from commissioned alternative providers.

COBS offers a curriculum that is broad and balanced as well as is in line with the national curriculum. Pupils also have access to a range of wider curricular support. COBS has access, through statutory and purchased packages, to a range of therapeutic support and assessment agencies.

During the current lockdown COBS is open to pupils who have parents who are key workers and those who are considered vulnerable in line with the government guidance.

The curriculum offer for those pupils not accessing onsite provision has been designed to match the curriculum which pupils would be accessing if they were in school. Online lessons are being delivered in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- Live lessons via Microsoft teams
- Pre-recorded teaching or narrated PowerPoints

- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- 1:1 tutorials via Microsoft Teams or on the phone
- National Tutoring Programme or in house subject tutorial sessions

Considerable effort has taken place to provide laptops for pupils to enable them to access remote education during this period of lockdown. In addition to the school's allocation from the DfE, existing COBS devices have been provided to families and additional devices have been purchased by the school during the pandemic to support pupils.

For those pupils who currently have limited or no access to IT equipment, personalised work packs and other resources are being sent out to enable them to continue learning and progressing. The school arranges for these packs to be returned to school to enable teacher assessment and feedback to pupils.



PX by ward
280121.xlsx

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

“Food Parcels”

Question:

Given the recent adverse publicity regarding the truly abysmal quality of food parcels that have been provided to the poorest pupils in the country, could the Cabinet Member give reassurances eligible children in the City will receive a healthy and nutritious lunch , providing full details of the measures that are being taken to improve the quality and choice offered in food parcels?

Answer:

I was pleased that the government introduced a national voucher scheme for eligible families in this period of national lockdown. Schools in Birmingham have been encouraged to make use of these vouchers as the best way to support families.

Using Covid Winter Grant Scheme funding the council is providing a week of vouchers to support families during the February half-term break.

A very small number of schools are issuing food parcels at this time. When complaints are received about food parcels, the council supports schools with their conversations with catering providers to ensure the contents meet the DfE’s requirements.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

“Free School Meals”

Question:

The Government has announced that it won't be providing free school meals over February half-term and that councils should provide them using funding allocated under the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. Could the Cabinet Member provide details of the arrangements that have been made by Birmingham Council to ensure the City's most vulnerable children are supported through the February half term holiday?

Answer:

The council will be providing one week of vouchers for all pupils eligible for free school meals using Covid Winter Grant Scheme funding.

Schools will receive the vouchers before the February half-term break to make available to families.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

“Parking and Fixed Penalty Fines”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide full details of how much money has been generated in parking charges in the city either from car parks or fixed penalty fines from 26 March 2020?

Answer:

The total income generated from off-street car parks in the city since 26 March 2020 is £2,160,001.

The total income generated from Parking Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) in the city since 26 March 2020 is £2,821,316.

The total combined income generated is therefore £4,981,317

Note: the figures given are ‘gross’ and no adjustment has been made for the cost of collection

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Adult Social Care Precept”

Question:

How much has the Adult Social Care Precept raised each year, broken down by year since it was first introduced?

Answer:

The following shows the income generated by the Adult Social Care Precept:

Year	Precept %	£m
2016/17	2.00%	5.539
2017/18	3.00%	8.817
2018/19	1.00%	3.147
2019/20	2.00%	6.617
2020/21	2.00%	7.032
Total		31.152

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“New Staff Travel”

Question:

Since April 2020, what proportion of new employees (on either permanent, fixed term or temporary contracts) live outside the West Midlands metropolitan area and/or more than 30 miles from Birmingham Council House?

Answer:

336 new employees have been engaged since 1st April 2020. Of these staff, 315 live within 30 miles of the Birmingham Council House (263 within 10 miles and 249 with a 'B' postcode); 21 live more than 30 miles away based on the home address postcode recorded in the HR system.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**“Respite Care”****Question:****How many respite places are currently available, out of how many total places across the City broken down by constituency and type (high need \ low need)****Answer:**

The table below shows respite provision for working age adults with learning and / or physical disabilities registered with the CQC. Respite for children and young people under 18 is supported by the Children’s Trust and has not been included in the response. All respite provision is accessed by citizens with higher levels of need.

The Adult Social Care recording system (CareFirst) has identified 130+ providers with a payment for respite care coded against them. This includes 13 BCC Shared Lives carers who provide respite care. Initial review of the data has identified 19 providers who support working age adults with learning and/or physical disabilities. Some of these providers are also able to support individuals with behaviour that challenges.

The 19 providers offer respite support city wide, and most provide support to citizens from other local authorities. Several providers operate from multiple venues and each venue has been included in the constituency count for number of providers.

The total number of places currently available has been calculated as bed capacity for each provider (total beds) and is currently being verified and therefore shown as (tbc) in the total beds’ column below. Due to Covid 19 and requirement to enable social distancing, available bed capacity has been reduced across all the providers.

Constituency	No. providers	Total Beds	Available Beds	High need
Edgbaston	nil			
Erdington	2	5 (tbc)	2	2
Hall Green	3	20(tbc)	11	11
Hodge Hill	nil			
Ladywood	1	tbc	tbc	tbc
Northfield	1	8	0	0
Perry Barr	2	5(tbc)	3	3
Selly Oak	nil			

Sutton Coldfield	2	7(tbc)	1	1
Yardley	3	10(tbc)	0	0
Other LAs	9	18(tbc)	13	13
TOTAL	23	53	30	30

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Adult Social Care ”

Question:

The crisis we are facing within Adult Social Care, which includes a severe lack of funding despite more money being pledged by the Government, has been widely reported by organizations such as the LGA for some time and has now been picked up by the national press, we understand the Council has turned down a quarter of its 18,500 requests for social care. Could the Cabinet Member explain the rational for the rejection of such a high number of applications which has directly affected hard working families with caring responsibilities who now receive no support while detailing the wards affected by these decisions?

Answer:

Those who did not receive support were not necessarily ‘rejected’. This is not terminology used by the Council, and is not a category recorded in the case management system. There are many reasons for why a referral does not progress to a social care assessment and why an assessment does not result in the provision of advice/support. It may be because the request is for something not provided by the Council, or the client declines the Council's involvement, or there is a change in the client's circumstances.

Our refreshed Vision and strategy for ASC which was co-produced sets out that it is our belief that on the whole, people want to lead happy, fulfilled lives in touch with their families, friends and communities. They cherish their independence and prefer to live at home or in the community with support if necessary. The vast majority of people do not want to be dependent on others but will accept one-off support or ongoing support if it helps them to maintain their independence. For most people, this is achievable, and it is only those people with disabilities or who lose their physical or mental abilities with age that require interventions from Adult Social Care services. For some people, because of disability, placements in residential and nursing settings are the best way in which these people can lead good quality lives.

The directorate continues to implement our “Three Conversations” framework approach. This is a social work method which focuses on people's strength's and assets rather than want they can't do. It centres around the citizen as the expert in

their own lives and as part of a wider community. It moves away from the Social Worker giving a 'prescription' for traditional care but listening to what the citizen wants as their outcomes and exploring community alternatives to help keep the person as independent for as long as possible. This has been proven over the past few years to be a successful model of social care.

The below table shows the number of new requests for support received, as well as the number and percentage that did not go on to receive services. These figures are shown by Ward, excluding those that live in another local authority area.

Ward	Requests for Support	No Services Provided	% No Service
Acocks Green	445	122	27.4%
Allens Cross	184	38	20.7%
Alum Rock	285	71	24.9%
Aston	282	78	27.7%
Balsall Heath West	183	41	22.4%
Bartley Green	458	78	17.0%
Billesley	408	79	19.4%
Birchfield	192	53	27.6%
Bordesley & Highgate	138	34	24.6%
Bordesley Green	151	32	21.2%
Bournbrook & Selly Park	167	61	36.5%
Bournville & Cotteridge	324	69	21.3%
Brandwood & King's Heath	301	73	24.3%
Bromford & Hodge Hill	348	86	24.7%
Castle Vale	234	48	20.5%
Druids Heath & Monyhull	214	41	19.2%
Edgbaston	239	67	28.0%
Erdington	448	122	27.2%
Frankley Great Park	269	48	17.8%
Garretts Green	198	39	19.7%
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	400	95	23.8%
Gravelly Hill	212	62	29.2%
Hall Green North	380	76	20.0%
Hall Green South	144	21	14.6%
Handsworth	152	39	25.7%
Handsworth Wood	304	76	25.0%
Harborne	397	108	27.2%
Heartlands	180	58	32.2%
Highter's Heath	226	56	24.8%
Holyhead	163	44	27.0%

King's Norton North	216	41	19.0%
King's Norton South	253	75	29.6%
Kingstanding	401	85	21.2%
Ladywood	243	74	30.5%
Longbridge & West Heath	491	98	20.0%
Lozells	146	38	26.0%
Moseley	304	69	22.7%
Nechells	149	38	25.5%
Newtown	160	42	26.3%
North Edgbaston	294	85	28.9%
Northfield	219	40	18.3%
Oscott	374	68	18.2%
Perry Barr	305	50	16.4%
Perry Common	272	58	21.3%
Pype Hayes	232	48	20.7%
Quinton	382	77	20.2%
Rubery & Rednal	171	39	22.8%
Shard End	256	50	19.5%
Sheldon	376	80	21.3%
Small Heath	252	41	16.3%
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	292	81	27.7%
South Yardley	164	26	15.9%
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	337	75	22.3%
Sparkhill	288	56	19.4%
Stirchley	156	41	26.3%
Stockland Green	409	113	27.6%
Sutton Four Oaks	170	32	18.8%
Sutton Mere Green	227	52	22.9%
Sutton Reddicap	209	38	18.2%
Sutton Roughley	180	41	22.8%
Sutton Trinity	186	61	32.8%
Sutton Vesey	380	106	27.9%
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	329	84	25.5%
Sutton Wylde Green	174	48	27.6%
Tyseley & Hay Mills	179	44	24.6%
Ward End	167	46	27.5%
Weoley & Selly Oak	453	104	23.0%
Yardley East	234	64	27.4%
Yardley West & Stechford	209	47	22.5%

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Covid 19 - Vaccinations”

Question:

Currently Birmingham has over 300 care homes looking after the most vulnerable citizens in the City. However, it has been well documented throughout the COVID pandemic how the virus has affected this sector with Care Home Providers now voicing their concerns, in the national press, that the vaccine has not yet been made available to them. Could the Cabinet Member explain in detail how the vaccination programme is progressing in both Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes in the City, confirming when she expects this programme to be completed with all staff and residents inoculated?

Answer:

I have received the following update from NHS colleagues responsible for delivering the national Covid19 vaccination programme in Birmingham.

Priority Group 1 – Residents and staff in residential care and nursing homes for older adults.

The target for this group is for all staff and residents to be offered the first dose of the vaccination by 15th February 2021.

The vaccination programme commenced the week before Christmas and is now almost complete in line with national and local targets of 24 January. There are a handful of exceptions where homes have outbreaks and where vaccinations will be scheduled as soon as it is safe to do so. The remaining homes are due to receive vaccinations this week.

Priority Group 2 – Staff in residential care and nursing homes for younger adults

The target is for this group to be offered the first dose of the vaccination by 15th February 2021.

All care homes in this group were contacted last week and advised on how to access vaccinations for their staff.

Younger adults in residential care and nursing homes

These citizens currently fall into 2 different priority groups:

Priority Group 4 – Clinically extremely vulnerable, including those with Down's Syndrome. The target is for those that meet the definition of clinically extremely vulnerable to be offered the first dose of the vaccination by 15 February.

Priority Group 6 - younger adults in residential care and nursing homes who do not meet the definition of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable are currently included in a later phase (Priority Group 6) of the vaccination programme, with no target dates currently set for completion.

We are clear in Birmingham of the alignment of homes to PCN and GP practices and services are ready to commence in line with national direction.

My officers have requested that these citizens be considered for vaccination alongside staff in Priority Group 2, and I understand that this request is being escalated nationally by NHS colleagues.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

“Covid 19 – Hospital numbers”

Question:

Now that Covid is at a ‘critical’ stage with more people being diagnosed following positive test results and subsequently admitted to hospital in horrifying numbers, that are putting more burden on the NHS, could the Cabinet Member give full details of how she intends to step up the campaign to warn citizens of the ongoing dangers of COVID and encourage them to stay at home?

Answer:

Thank you for this pertinent question,

I signed up to be a Covid Community Champion - as I hope all our members in this Chamber have done so.

The Council launched the COVID-19 Community Champion network in September 2020 as a way of sharing the most up-to-date Public Health guidance across the city. We now have almost 600 Champions, and the results have been encouraging, with regular updates, webinars and social media interaction forming part of a growing conversation.

Through local knowledge, and by being part of the affected communities themselves, our Champions have been able to pass this information to areas and groups which can be difficult to reach using traditional campaigns. In this way, our Champions have helped to communicate all the most important topics throughout the pandemic, including testing, vaccination and following government guidelines.

We have seen our network expand across all 69 wards in the city – while also helping to dispel some of the more prevalent myths along the way. Anyone who lives or works in Birmingham can become a Champion. All they need is an email address, plus a willingness to use their contacts, groups or followings to help distribute important Covid-related information and keep their communities safe.

I would like to again urge all our councillors in this Chamber to sign up and ensure they share the information with their constituents and networks. Those who are interested in becoming a Champion can sign-up on the Birmingham City Council website.

(https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50231/coronavirus_covid-19/2256/covid-19_community_champions)

Throughout the pandemic I have shared information with all elected members and MPs and through my community networks as I hope we all are – which I intend to continue to do. I, our Director of Public Health and the Executive have been using any opportunity we can and will continue to do to urge our citizens on the key national lockdown messages which include:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading fast.
- Do not leave your home unless necessary.
- 1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms, so you could be spreading it without knowing it.

The Public Health Division have undertaken significant community engagement throughout the Covid pandemic, working with the Communications team, to ensure that citizens have accurate factual information about Covid and risk reduction. This has included:

- Commissioning 18 community partner organisations to undertake tailored deeper engagement with specific communities including our Central and Eastern European Communities, LGBT communities, specific faith communities and specific disabled communities.
- Commissioning partnerships with six local community radio stations focusing on local ethnic communities and communities where English is not the first language
- Conducting over 60 different media interviews including a weekly live Q&A on WM BBC radio and regular live facebook Q&A sessions with Birmingham Live
- Facilitating over 36 interfaith meetings and participating in monthly regional interfaith meetings alongside the WMCA mayor, facilitating over 18 dedicated engagement sessions with Birmingham masjids and separate ones with ministers and pastors from black churches.
- Attending over 108 ward meetings, including short notice emergency ward meetings, to support local elected members engaging with local communities.

The Public Health Division has adapted the public health campaign HealthyBrum to provide a trusted source of information and advice on covid issues for the general public. Since July, the HealthyBrum account of twitter has engaged with over 1200 people and 1200 people through facebook, this social media engagement has driven over 8000 people to further information on the Council website as direct click through. Specific campaigns focused on increasing people's awareness of the NHS App reached over 51000 people living in Birmingham through targeted facebook advertising which was tailored to the highest prevalence areas of the city.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

“Incorrect Information Re: Acivico”

Question:

In response to written question F3 regarding costs to the Council of security company opening cemeteries on Christmas Day, you advised that the information wasn't available at the time as it was handled by Acivico.

**I am reliably informed that Acivico have not had responsibility for this service since 2017 when responsibility was handed back to the Council.
Can you please re investigate and provide an updated answer here?**

Answer:

Thank you for your question and apologise for the confusion caused. I have reinvestigated this matter and it is correct that the previous response contained an erroneous reference to Acivico in respect of this matter, which referred to a previous working arrangement.

The previous answer stated *“The contract with the security company is arranged through Acivico. To date there has been no recharge made by Acivico for this work, so this question cannot be answered at this time.”*

I can confirm that a representative of the external recruitment agency in relation to the incident on Christmas Day has apologised for the inconvenience this caused.

For the avoidance of doubt the answer should have read:-

The contracted arrangement did not invoice the City Council by the time of preparing the answer for this meeting. The contractor subsequently has confirmed that due to the human error no charge would be made for the service on Christmas Day.

I hope this clarifies the matter and apologise to Acivico for citing them in the original response.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“COVID 19 – Bereavement services”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm how bereavement services are coping with the significant rise in deaths due to COVID 19, advising if there are any additional costs the City has to bear as a result?

Answer:

The City Council's Bereavement Services are being stretched due to the significant rise in deaths. The Coroner's Service has seen a doubling of cases and there has been a need to employ additional staff. The Mortuary service is coping at present, although there have been some delays in processing digital autopsies due to the demand.

The Register Office has a similar increase in workload and whilst additional deaths have caused a short delay of up to a day and a half in registering deaths, the staff are coping well with the additional demand. Where deaths require early burials for religious reasons, the service has been able to process registration in under half a day.

The processing of burials and cremations is also coping with the increased demand. Additional burial and cremation slots are being provided as necessary and there has been an increase in the demand for concrete liners at Sutton New Hall Cemetery which is being dealt with.

Where necessary, staff have been working overtime to manage the demands, which represents an additional cost.

The whole service is being monitored daily to ensure there is no requirement for additional measures to be taken or staffing resources provided.

I am sure Council will agree the staff in the Bereavement Service are a credit to the City.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

“Temporary Accommodation”

Question:

For any family having to live in temporary accommodation during the pandemic is disruptive and challenging for children especially with the pressures of lockdown and that some children are unable to attend school. Could the Cabinet Member give details on how many children are currently being affected by their families having to live in temporary accommodation, providing a full overview of the measures that are being taken to ensure these children are not forgotten?

Answer:

There are 6865 children living in temporary accommodation; 5618 are in self-contained accommodation which are generally flats, maisonettes and houses. As this is self-contained accommodation there are no major concerns about the detrimental impact of the accommodation. It is the same as a standard tenancy.

These families are supported by Temporary Accommodation (TA) officers who will address any welfare issues, referring to specialist services where needed.

There are 172 children in our homeless centres and as this is supported accommodation there are officers on site 7 days a week. There are facilities available to provide space for children to study and provide support to those families who have requested it, or it has been identified that there is a need for assistance or specialist support.

There are 1075 children in B&B accommodation. Living in this type of accommodation, even on a short-term basis, can be detrimental to child development, so this is where we are focussing resources at present, recognising that this group are the most disadvantaged by the lockdown.

We are working with Early Help, Education, NHS and Birmingham Children's Trust to raise awareness of the support that is available to families and children and we are bringing the support into the hotels to make the services more accessible. We are providing telephone support to families and also have a dedicated team that keeps in contact with residents, again making referrals to specialist agencies when needed.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

“Homelessness”

Question:

The Secretary of State, in a letter dated 8 January 2021, set out his request to councils that they redouble efforts to accommodate people sleeping rough during the new period of national restrictions and also requested councils should also use this period as an opportunity to get those sleeping rough in their areas registered with GP services, to enable rough sleepers, many of whom are clinically extremely vulnerable weaved into local vaccination programmes. Could the Cabinet Member give full details of how the City will ensure people experiencing homelessness do not experience barriers to register with key services which will result in them not receiving their vital coronavirus inoculation?

Answer:

Birmingham has been very successful in responding to the government's initial call for 'everyone-in' and subsequently in working to protect vulnerable homeless people. Throughout, this has included providing accommodation in which people can be safe, maintain social distancing, and self-isolate if necessary. Welfare provision has been made available as necessary, and GP registration has been a consistently promoted theme.

Birmingham benefits from a dedicated homeless primary care service – the HealthxChange. This includes GP services, specialist nursing including outreach, substance misuse and mental health services. The team works closely with rough sleeper outreach, emergency accommodation, day-centre, and other frontline services to promote GP access, registration, assessment and treatment. In addition, many homeless services have built up relationships with their local GP practices, and across the sector, and the rights of homeless people to register with a GP are promoted.

Officers from Birmingham City Council are currently working with colleagues from the NHS and the voluntary sector to devise an effective vaccination programme for homeless people. This reflects the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance, the local vaccination programme rollout, and the nature of vulnerable homeless people. This multi-pronged approach of keeping people safe, GP registration and a tailored approach to vaccination is hoped to protect and to remove barriers to their receiving the coronavirus inoculation.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

“Street Cleaners”

Question:

What was the total number of street cleaners employed by the council each year from 2011 onwards? If it is possible to break this down by ward then please do so, otherwise total for the city.

Answer:

The total number of Street Cleansing staff employed by the City Council is shown below. It is not possible to break this information down by ward.

These numbers only include direct employees of the City Council. The service has also always used a significant number of agency staff. For the past four years, the total number of street cleansers, including agency, has been around 330-340 FTE. To calculate the FTEs beyond this would require a manual analysis of time recording data for which the service does not have the resource.

Additional to the base numbers above agency cleaners are also brought into the service for specific tasks, such as events like the Christmas Market and activities such as leaf clearing.

Year	No. of Street Cleansing Staff
2020	202
2019	209
2018	224
2017	202
2016	205
2015	214
2014	247
2013	233
2012	114
2011	127

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“Street Cleaners 2”

Question:

What is the assumed number of street cleaners for the next 4 years in the medium term financial plan broken down by Ward?

Answer:

The information below provides the assumed number for the next 4 years, by depot as it is not possible by Ward. Ward resource is regularly reviewed and reallocated from within the Depot total to ensure that it meets the changing requirements of the Ward.

Redfern Depot	84 staff
Lifford Depot	82 staff
Perry Barr Depot	88 staff
Montague Street Depot	70 staff

These base numbers will be lifted with specific projects such as leaf clearing and Love Your Streets.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“Street Cleaners 3”

Question:

What is the assumed number of street cleaners being used for the Commonwealth Games and from which Wards?

Answer:

Plans for cleaning the city and the areas around the games' sites are still in development and the intention is that any additional requirements will be funded from other resources.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Winter Gritting Plan”

Question:

What changes were made to the winter gritting plan this year compared to last?

Answer:

The current winter season runs from 1st October 2020 to 15 May 2021. The updated Winter Maintenance Service Operational Plan for this season included the following changes:

1. Coronavirus pandemic arrangements added, detailing increased resilience with respect to the management of workforce, plant and salt resources particularly for any lockdown situations
2. Two specific service improvements:
 - i. Trial of the latest spreader (bulk gritter) technology with automated salt spread control system and live treatment route tracking.
 - ii. Installation of 20 road surface temperature sensors in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, using infrared technology to give dynamic monitoring of ground temperature changes across the network.
3. Treatment route adjustments in response to traffic restrictions implemented under the Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan

In addition, in response to the growing provision of Covid testing and vaccination sites across the city, we have also adapted our winter maintenance services to respond to ad hoc requests for assistance to access those locations.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN

“Clean Air Zone Mitigations Application and Case Management System”

Question:

What was the difference in cost between the system intended to be procured under the Executive decision to pursue single contractor negotiations for the above system, and the one eventually developed to meet this need following the call-in?

Answer:

The question refers to the decision proposed for implementation on 27th January 2020 which was subsequently called in and discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 17th March 2020. It was at that meeting that the relevant Executive report was withdrawn.

Indicative costs were provided in the exempt appendix to the Executive report referenced. Actual costs to the Council were never determined because negotiations were not authorised.

The Council has since developed a means of applying for the CAZ mitigation grants (now referred to as financial incentives) using web forms developed by the Council's Information, Technology & Digital (IT&D) service.

The information captured through these web forms is then incorporated into a database, which has been developed by a member of the Clean Air Zone team, for review and processing. Or, in the case of another of the financial incentives, the information captured through the webform is forwarded directly to the relevant members of the Clean Air Zone team for review and processing. The cost of developing these approaches has been absorbed by the Clean Air Zone team and IT&D in their operating costs i.e. at no additional expense to the Council.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA

“Clean Air Zone Mitigations Application and Case Management System - Jadu”

Question:

Did JADU, Spacecraft or any other subsidiary of JADU have any involvement in the system developed to cover the need for a CAZ mitigations application and case management system?

Answer:

Neither JADU, Spacecraft, nor a subsidiary of JADU has been involved in the development of the Clean Air Zone mitigation grants application system.

The current approach to managing applications to these grant schemes has been developed by the Council's Information Technology & Digital (IT&D) and Clean Air Zone teams. As such it makes use of the platform and software tools which were originally developed by JADU for the Council, and which are supported as part of the existing support and maintenance agreement with the Council for the whole platform. The support agreement has been in place for several years and pre-dates the Clean Air Zone application system requirements.

The platform and software tools provided by JADU also underpin the Council's main website (www.birmingham.gov.uk) and a number of associated websites, including www.brumbreathes.co.uk.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Clean Air Zone Mitigations Application and Case Management System – Maintenance”

Question:

How is the system developed for CAZ mitigations and case management being maintained? In house or externally, and if externally by whom and under what contract?

Answer:

The system is being maintained internally by the Council's Information Technology & Digital (IT&D) and Clean Air Zone teams.

The current approach to managing applications for mitigation grants makes use of the platform and software tools which were originally developed by JADU for the Council, and which are supported as part of the existing support and maintenance agreement with the Council for the whole. The support agreement has been in place for several years and pre-dates the Clean Air Zone application system requirements.

The platform and software tools provided by JADU also underpin the Council's main website (www.birmingham.gov.uk) and a number of associated websites, including www.brumbreathes.co.uk.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Staff Travel”

Question:

According to the latest Staff Travel Survey, what proportion of Council employees live outside the West Midlands metropolitan area and/or more than 30 miles from Birmingham Council House?

Answer:

The most recent staff travel survey was conducted between 22 March and 26 April 2019 (pre COVID-19), and invited responses from people working for BCC, Acivico, Capita and the Children’s Trust.

2,220 responses were received, of which 2,084 gave an identifiable home postcode. Of these 2,084 home postcodes:

- 57.2% (1,193) are within the Birmingham LA boundary,
- 85.2% (1,775) are within one of the seven West Midlands metropolitan authorities,
- 97.3% (2,028) are within a 30 mile radius of Birmingham Council House.

These figures do not take into account where people said they usually work; overall, only 6.5% of respondents said the Council House was their usual place of work.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“City Centre Parking”

Question:

How many parking spaces within the ring road were there in 2012 and as of today and how many do you expect there to be in 2024?

Answer:

2012 Parking Levels

The statistics from 2012 have been difficult to confirm, and estimates are only available for City Council Owned Car Parks and on Street Managed (generally Pay and Display) Parking Spaces. The estimates indicate that there were a total of 7280 spaces in Birmingham city centre car parks and a total of 2,803 on street parking spaces in the Inner Zone, Gun Quarter, Outer Zone and Jewellery Quarter. In addition, the City Council owned 11 industrial car parks with a total of 426 spaces.

2016 Parking Levels

The most comprehensive information is available from the 2016 City Centre Parking Survey which estimates that there were 59,732 car parking spaces available in the city centre. This includes off street publicly available spaces, BCC managed (on and off street) parking spaces, and private non-residential spaces (PNR).

2019 Parking Levels

[An annual parking report](#) is issued each year covering all BCC managed parking bays. The draft 2019/2020 report has the most up to date figures available and indicates a total of 4729 BCC City Centre Car Park spaces and 2929 managed on street (P&D) bays. One industrial car park remains in council ownership with 54 spaces. It should be noted that whilst BCC has not retained ownership of a number of car parks, some of this parking will still remain within the private market.

2024 Parking Predictions

Within the inner ring road by 2023 the number of parking spaces will reduce in line with the principles of Birmingham Connected and the draft Birmingham Transport Plan which includes the big moves of transforming and de-trafficking the city centre and managing demand for car travel through parking availability and pricing. The reduction in parking will be as a result of reduced demand as people switch to more sustainable modes but also because reduced parking provision in itself influences mode choice away from private car.

A number of central Birmingham City Council car parks are being closed and the land made available for other purposes, these include: Pershore Street, Paradise Circus, Markets, and Ludgate Hill. There are development schemes for which we can already identify a reduction in car parking spaces, at present it is predicted these will include the removal of at least 93 on street parking bays. There are also potential schemes in formative stages, which may receive approval before 2024 that could significantly impact the number of parking spaces. Once adopted, the more stringent parking standards set out in the draft Parking Supplementary Planning Document will further restrict the provision of new parking in the city centre given its high level of accessibility for public transport.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Parking Survey”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the parking survey that was supposedly showed an excess of parking spaces within the city centre

Answer:

See below a copy of the City Centre Parking Report, which includes a comprehensive analysis of city centre parking.

There is also a separate appendices document which is too large to share via this format, but can be made available to you separately if required.



20160915 BCC City
Centre Parking Stud

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“The Sustrans”

Question:

What grants or payments does the Council/Transport West Midlands make to Sustrans?

Answer:

Sustrans is a cycling and walking charity, maintains the national cycling network and in addition to donations generates funding by providing/selling consultancy services, including to transport and local authorities and the Department for Transport. Any payments made to Sustrans by the Council or Transport for West Midlands are where they have been commissioned to provide a service / project delivery in line with standing orders.

Payments / Commitments as per the tables below.

Neither the Council nor Transport for West Midlands makes any form of donation or payment to Sustrans not in connection with services rendered.

NB: The Council does not keep a record of expenditure made by Transport for West Midlands to third parties, they have supplied this information in line with this request.

Birmingham City Council		
2016-2017		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Harborne Scheme Development and Appraisal	45,067	07.04.2016
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Delivery of School Activities & ModeShift STARS Travel Planning	25,000	12.05.2016
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Birmingham Cycle Revolution Infrastructure Promotion Activities	300	28.06.2016
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Green Travel District Support	4,200	28.10.2016
Development / Delivery of Bham Connected Behaviour Change Programme	16,750	28.12.2016
Total	91,317	

2017-2018		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Development / Delivery of Bham Connected Behaviour Change Programme	46,750.00	27.04.2017
Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phase 3 Scheme Development	15,000.00	03.05.2017
Development / Delivery of Bham Connected Behaviour Change Programme	17,980.00	28.11.2017
Total	79,730.00	
2018-2019		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phase 3 Scheme Development	15,000	27.07.2018
Total	15,000	
2019-2020		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
No expenditure to Sustrans this financial year	0	
Total	0	
2020-2021		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Seldom Heard Physically Active Conversations/Engagement	2,000	26.11.2020
Total	2,000	
Total Expenditure to Date	188,046.75	
2020-2021 (Forecast - commitments not yet invoiced)		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Brum Breathes Champions (Clean Air Zone Community Engagement)	50,000	tbc
Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche One - support with Places for People schemes	19,425	tbc
Total	69,425	
GRAND TOTAL (Forecast + Actual) 2016-2017 to 2020-2021	257,471.75	

<u>Transport for West Midlands</u>		
2016-2017		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Better By Design – Course	1,200	11/05/2016
Better by Design Course	1,200	11/05/2016
Total	2,400	
2017-2018		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
No expenditure to Sustrans this financial year	0	
Total	0	

2018-2019		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Year 1 Bike Life West Midlands Programme	15,000	17.1.19
Activities for the Promotion of Managing Short Trips (MST) October 2019-March 2019	10,220	25.2.19
Total	25,220	
2019-2020		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Cycle Summit event (22 May 2019) – community Engagement	430	29.4.19
Cycle Counters Feasibility Study	19,950	30.11.19
Year 2 Bike Life West Midlands Programme	15,000	17.12.19
Promotional Activities to promote MST in the Black Country (July)	13,760	26.7.19
Total	49,140	
Total Expenditure to Date	76,760.00	
2020-2021 – (Forecast - commitments not yet invoiced)		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Year 3 of Bike Life West Midlands Programme	15,000	
Total	15,000	
GRAND TOTAL (Forecast + Actual) 2016-2017 to 2020-2021	91,760.00	

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

“Birmingham Transport Plan”

Question:

When will the findings of the consultation on the draft Birmingham Transport Plan be published, bearing in mind the consultation took place a year ago?

Answer:

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

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

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

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

“Domestic Abuse”

Question:

With the recent second reading of the Domestic Abuse Bill and subsequent research carried out by the LGA, could the Cabinet Member detail what provisions are being made for victims of domestic abuse, especially during the three lockdowns, setting out how the service is coping in such difficult circumstances.

Answer:

Tackling and preventing domestic abuse is a key priority for the Council, as detailed in the comprehensive Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2018. It has remained so throughout the period of the pandemic.

There has been a nationwide increase in domestic abuse cases during the lockdowns, and this has been echoed locally, with both the West Midlands Police and the Birmingham City Council commissioned Domestic Abuse Hub reporting up to a 70% increase in calls.

The City Council has worked closely with partners to ensure that robust and comprehensive action has been taken to support victims throughout this period. The Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Board, chaired by Councillor Brennan and attended by myself as the lead Cabinet Member has met regularly to ensure a coordinated partnership support offer to victims. The Board is comprised of partners from key agencies, including West Midlands Police, Birmingham Children’s Trust, relevant Council directorates, voluntary sector specialist agencies and Birmingham and Solihull CCG.

Key actions taken forward and supported by the Board include the following:

- Ensuring that the domestic abuse services commissioned by BCC Adult Social Care remained open and were able to adapt their services to the circumstances of the pandemic. These include refuges, long term dispersed accommodation and the lead worker services. Support to both victims and children is also being provided via telephone and online channels.
- The Domestic Abuse Hub – which the City Council opened in partnership with Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid (BSWAID) in March 2019 – remained

open to those who are at risk of being made homeless as a result of domestic abuse during the pandemic. The service connects across to the commissioned services through Trident and Cranstoun who also deliver support to male victims of domestic abuse.

- The Community Safety Partnership Team, alongside Housing colleagues, secured resources from the emergency Covid19 fund to support the additional capacity needed to deal with increases in domestic abuse enquiries. These funds also strengthened domestic abuse support capacity within Birmingham City Council's housing teams, increased resources for the Domestic Abuse Helpline and enhanced the capacity of the sanctuary scheme. Two additional officers within the Community Safety Team were funded to work within the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process to support high risk victims and ensure that action is taken against preparators.
- During the summer Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid (BSWAID) extended their helpline opening hours to cover weekends and bank holidays ensuring that those seeking help had the maximum opportunity to do so. For those unable to speak safely to operators, the charity also piloted a local webchat service through www.bswaid.org, where victims were able to use a confidential web chat between 10am and 2pm initially on weekdays. This service was then extended to 4pm on weekdays.
- The Council's Neighbourhoods Directorate has responded to an increase in domestic abuse cases reported by tenants of council properties by recruiting an additional 6 domestic abuse officers to provide support to victims. The Council has also embarked upon the Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation programme (DAHA), which will take a whole system review of housing approach to tackling domestic abuse and establishing minimum standards.

All of the above have been widely communicated via social media and other channels to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and all relevant agencies are aware of the scale of support available and how to access it easily and safely. The Council and its partners have also supported the regional #NoExcuseForAbuse and the global 16 Days of Action campaigns against domestic abuse.

The Council is also working with the Local Government Association and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to prepare for the implementation of the new Domestic Abuse Act. I'm pleased to confirm that Birmingham is leading the way nationally, having established our Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Board well ahead of the Act coming into force. Work to prepare for the other duties created by the Act is also well underway, having continued throughout the pandemic.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEAD MEMBER, WEST MIDLANDS
TRANSPORT DELIVERY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

“The Sustrans”

Question:

What grants or payments does the Council/Transport West Midlands make to Sustrans?

Answer:

Sustrans is a cycling and walking charity, maintains the national cycling network and in addition to donations generates funding by providing/selling consultancy services, including to transport and local authorities and the Department for Transport. Any payments made to Sustrans by the Council or Transport for West Midlands are where they have been commissioned to provide a service / project delivery in line with standing orders.

Payments / Commitments as per the tables below.

Neither the Council nor Transport for West Midlands makes any form of donation or payment to Sustrans not in connection with services rendered.

NB: The Council does not keep a record of expenditure made by Transport for West Midlands to third parties, they have supplied this information in line with this request.

<u>Birmingham City Council</u>		
2016-2017		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Harborne Scheme Development and Appraisal	45,067	07.04.2016
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Delivery of School Activities & ModeShift STARS Travel Planning	25,000	12.05.2016
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Birmingham Cycle Revolution Infrastructure Promotion Activities	300	28.06.2016
Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Green Travel District Support	4,200	28.10.2016
Development / Delivery of Bham Connected Behaviour Change Programme	16,750	28.12.2016
Total	91,317	

2017-2018		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Development / Delivery of Bham Connected Behaviour Change Programme	46,750.00	27.04.2017
Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phase 3 Scheme Development	15,000.00	03.05.2017
Development / Delivery of Bham Connected Behaviour Change Programme	17,980.00	28.11.2017
Total	79,730.00	
2018-2019		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phase 3 Scheme Development	15,000	27.07.2018
Total	15,000	
2019-2020		
Service/Project	Cost (£)	Date
No expenditure to Sustrans this financial year	0	
Total	0	
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