



CITY COUNCIL
13 June 2023

WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO
CABINET MEMBERS

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A To the Leader of the Council

1. Sickness Absence

From Councillor David Barrie

2. Richard Parker

From Councillor Bruce Lines

3. Oracle Apology to schools

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

4. Wheels Site sale

Councillor Robert Alden

5. DBS Checking

From Councillor Alex Yip

6. DBC Checks

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

7. Overpayments

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

8. Wheels Site funding

From Councillor Adam Higgs

9. Perry Barr

From Councillor Jon Hunt

10. Perry Barr

From Councillor Morriam Jan

11. Democratic Scrutiny – Future of Birmingham

From Councillor Roger Harmer

12. Planning Permission – BHMT housing developments

From Councillor Julien Pritchard

13. Paul Farm Estate/Shannon Road Development

From Councillor Rob Grant

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

None submitted

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

1. Early Years Block Funding

From Councillor Adam Higgs

2. Transport Appeals

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

3. SENDIST Appeals

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

4. Children without a placement

From Councillor Ron Storer

5. Children without a placement

From Councillor Kerry Brewer

6. Transport Appeals

Councillor Alex Yip

7. Home to school transport letter

From Councillor Debbie Clancy

8. Interims

From Councillor Bruce Lines

9. Disabled childrens services eligibility criteria

From Councillor Deborah Harries

10. Child protection conferences

From Councillor Izzy Knowles

11. Childrens disability services - complaints

From Councillor Morriam Jan

12. Support from disabled childrens services

From Councillor Ayoub Khan

13. Families who do not qualify for disabled childrens services

From Councillor Colin Green

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

1. Library Attendance

From Councillor Robert Alden

2. Library Staffing

From Councillor Gareth Moore

3. Birmingham Library

From Councillor Morriam Jan

E To the Cabinet Member for Environment

1. Replacement Bins

From Councillor Adam Higgs

2. No Mow May - Litter

From Councillor Rick Payne

3. No Mow May – allergy study

From Councillor Robert Alden

4. Street cleaning fleet

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

5. Asbestos

From Councillor Morriam Jan

6. Deykin Avenue

From Councillor Mumtaz Hussain

7. Malcolm House

From Councillor Izzy Knowles

8. Yew Tree Road, Aston

From Councillor Ayoub Khan

9. **Assisted Collections**

From Councillor Baber Baz

10. **Graffiti cleaning kits**

From Councillor Paul Tilsley

11. **Perry Park**

From Councillor Jon Hunt

12. **Perry Park**

From Councillor Deborah Harries

13. **Collection of Grass Cuttings**

From Councillor Rob Grant

F To the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

1. **Oracle issues raised by staff**

From Councillor Debbie Clancy

2. **Oracle issues raised by staff**

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

3. **Oracle issues raised by staff**

From Councillor Robert Alden

4. **West Midlands Forum**

From Councillor Bruce Lines

5. **Global Property**

From Councillor Ron Storer

6. **Version 1 Oracle Support**

From Councillor David Pears

7. **1B Programme Risk Register**

From Councillor David Barrie

8. **GreenSquareAccord**

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

9. **Oracle payroll**

From Councillor Jon Hunt

10. **Exempt accommodation weekly housing benefit**

From Councillor Adam Higgs

11. **Exempt accommodation housing benefit claims**

From Councillor Ken Wood

G To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Small Heath Leisure Centre

From Councillor Baber Baz

H To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

1. **Central Heating**

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

2. **Moved to F10**

3. **Moved to F11**

4. **RSH action plan**

From Councillor Ken Wood

5. **KPIs and service standards**

From Councillor David Barrie

6. **Fire Risk Assessments**

From Councillor Robert Alden

7. **Fire Safety Low rise block profiles**

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

8. **Decent Homes target date**

From Councillor Debbie Clancy

9. **RSH correspondence**

From Councillor Rick Payne

10. Overdue tests and assessments

From Councillor Matt Bennett

11. Fire incidents

From Councillor Richard Parkin

12. Housing Providers in Exempt

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

13. Council Houses

From Councillor Adam Higgs

14. Landlord licences – impact on tenant

From Councillor Paul Tilsley

15. Landlord licences - benefits

From Councillor Roger Harmer

16. Temporary accommodation

From Councillor Morriam Jan

17. Council Housing Repairs Reporting

From Councillor Rob Grant

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

Public Art Review

From Councillor Rick Payne

J To the Cabinet Member for Transport

1. Street lights

From Councillor Kerry Brewer

2. Blocked drains

From Councillor Jon Hunt

3. School Crossing Patrols

From Councillor Izzy Knowles

4. Ladypool Road

From Councillor Colin Green

5. **Aston Villa match day parking**

From Councillor Ayoub Khan

6. **Bus lane at six ways island**

From Councillor Mumtaz Hussain

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Sickness Absence”

Question:

For each year since 2012, please provide the total number of days lost to sickness absence and days per FTE, broken down by reason

Answer:

Please see attached table for sickness absence.



Sickness stats.xlsx

A2

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Richard Parker”

Question:

Please list all occasions Richard Parker (Labour mayoral candidate) worked on projects for Birmingham City Council since 2012, either independently, or via RP Strategy Ltd, PWC, or another organisation, including the total cost for each?

Answer:

We have no record of Richard Parker or RP Strategy Ltd either in Oracle or Voyager so it would appear we have never paid for any services from either. It would be impossible to identify whether Richard has been paid via any other supplier from our records.

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CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Oracle Apology to schools”

Question:

Please provide a (dated) copy of the apology sent to schools for the issues with Oracle implementation that you stated had been made 'unreservedly' in media interviews.



Answer: Letter regarding
Oracle 22.05.23.pdf

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Wheels Site sale”

Question:

What is the latest position of the proposed sale of the council's freehold interest in the Wheels site, including any change from the valuation reported to Cabinet last year?

Answer:

Unfortunately, the negotiations with the proposed developer did not reach a satisfactory conclusion, in part due to recent market challenges and national economic uncertainties which inevitably led to a change in the valuation of the site. The Council's property advisors have advised that given the prevailing market uncertainties, any options which require immediate engagement with the market and exposure to risk are going to be heavily discounted. During a period of such turbulent market conditions, time and worthwhile expenditure would therefore be best channelled into remediating the site to an appropriate level. This would then enable a progression to the market – via an option to be agreed – with more certainty and an improved site.

As such officers are continuing to progress the remediation of the site using the Levelling Up Fund. The extensive Japanese Knotweed present on the site was addressed last year (with on-going monitoring) and remediation contractors are due to commence work on Phase 1 (land in Venetia Road and Bordesley Green Road) in early July.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“DBS checking”

Question:

Can you confirm that since the roll out of Oracle in April 2022 the Council has been able to fully monitor compliance with DBS checks for all staff?

Answer:

Since April 2022, we have not been able to fully monitor compliance. However, we are urgently working to address this. The Oracle system has fields which record the date of a DBS check, the level, and the date an update is due under City Council policy.

We are in the process of conducting a verification exercise to ensure we have up to date centralised records to ensure compliance across the whole Council. For instance, in our Children and Young People’s Travel Service assurance is undertaken in-house and a workaround is in place to ensure there is comprehensive oversight of DBS records for this service as this cannot currently be done through Oracle.

A6

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“DBS checks”

Question:

By month, since April 2022, how many DBS checks were due for staff (split between new checks and renewals) and how many of these were completed?

Answer:

In order to do provide this breakdown, we need to complete the verification exercise.

A full breakdown will be provided once the verification exercise referenced in the answer to written question A5 is completed.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Overpayments”

Question:

In each of the last 4 years how many overpayments (and at what total value) have been made through payroll and what proportion of these have been recovered?

Answer:

Year	Total Number of Overpayments	Total Value of Overpayments	Total Value Under Repayment Plans	Total Value Passed for Invoice
2019/20	529	£534,868.56	£266,058.84	£14,166.12
2020/21	387	£534,874.52	£174,861.32	£57,439.50
2021/22	334	£402,160.17	£151,510.75	£8,107.22
2022/23	284	£635,987.41	£168,863.00	£124,074.41
Total	1534	£2,107,890.66	£761,293.91	£203,787.25

In total since over the last four financial years there have been 1,534 incidents of employees being overpaid.

In the main these again relate to late notification of employment changes such as leavers or change of hours.

Those cases that are shown under repayment plans remain within employment of the Council and are subject to payroll deductions.

Those cases that are shown as passed for invoice relates to employees that have left the Council and a repayment plan through payroll deduction cannot be put in place. Information on repayment is not currently available.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Wheels Site funding”

Question:

Has the Council had to return any grant fundings (including levelling up) and/or commit any additional council resources to the Wheels site as a result of any changes to the valuation of the site since the business case?

Answer:

The Council has not returned any Levelling Up Fund (LUF) grant as a result of changes in land valuations. The grant was specifically for the remediation and addition of infrastructure / services to the site at a forecast cost of £19.050m (funded from £17.145m LUF capital grant and £1.905m from the Council (the required 10% local contribution)) consistent with the original LUF application. The LUF grant conditions require that expenditure is completed by 31 March 2025. To date the remediation programme is progressing to plan and officers continue to seek best value in awarding contracts and consultancy advice and secure savings where possible.

Therefore, to date no additional resources have been required nor has any grant funding been returned.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Perry Park”

Question:

“Your predecessor’s response to the very large petition calling for Perry Park to be reopened following the Commonwealth Games was disappointing to say the least. As he grew up in the neighbourhood, will he do his best endeavours to ensure the park is open to the public for the summer holidays and that a children’s playground is reinstated for the summer holidays?”

Answer:

We recognise the importance of Perry Park to the local community, and would like to reassure you that colleagues at Birmingham City Council are committed to reopening an enhanced Perry Park at the earliest opportunity.

There has however been a need to undertake works to reinstate the Park to its former condition following the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. These works are known as the ‘reinstatement works’, which are well underway and being undertaken in several packages.

Temporary fencing has been installed in the Park to ensure the safety of the public whilst the reinstatement works are undertaken. As some of the reinstatement works are now complete, we are pleased to have been able to open additional sections of the park recently, including the car park, the areas to the east of the Walsall Road Allotments and to the east of the Athletes’ Route. The hoarding line has also been adjusted to enable pedestrians to access Perry Reservoir from the Alexander Stadium, to create a circular route. At the time of compiling this answer, emails to stakeholders were scheduled to be sent on 9 June and posters erected on 12 June to provide notice of this.

The Stadium Project Team will continue to explore opportunities to open other areas of the Park as the reinstatement works progress, where it is feasible and safe to do so.

As set out in our response to the recent petition, the reinstatement works are the first step in a programme of works that will be undertaken to restore and enhance the Park. The Stadium design team are preparing proposals for enhancement works at the Alexander Stadium and Perry Park, which will be subject to public consultation between 26 June and 23 July 2023. The consultation will be an opportunity for the local community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposals, including in relation to key facilities and access. Feedback will be considered in the ongoing development of the design, prior to a planning application being submitted to Birmingham City Council for consideration in late summer 2023.

A10

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Perry Park”

Question:

“The leader may be aware that Perry Park – which I am sure he knows well – is not only closed to the public but is being subject to a secret master planning exercise. Will he ensure that planning for its future and investment involves the local community at every stage, in particular the Friends of Perry Park, the 3Bs Neighbourhood Forum and the ward forum?”

Answer:

Following the first stage of the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment, and the success of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, additional funding has been secured to deliver further enhancements at the Stadium and Perry Park.

We are developing proposals which support the aspirations of the Perry Barr 2040 Masterplan and seek to deliver an enhanced Park, and a multi-purpose Stadium for use by the community and to host sporting, leisure and cultural events. It is intended that a planning application for the proposed enhancements will be submitted to Birmingham City Council for consideration in late summer 2023.

A public consultation will be held between 26 June and 23 July 2023 which will be open to the entire community, and anybody who would like to be involved. At the time of compiling this answer, invitations to participate in the public consultation were scheduled to be issued 08 June, with posters erected on 09 June to inform stakeholders, residents and businesses in the area surrounding the Alexander Stadium and Perry Park. This includes the Friends of Perry Park, 3Bs Planning Forum, yourself and Councillor Hunt.

Your question references the ward forum, and we are mindful that no meeting of the forum is scheduled during this period. However, this is sufficiently offset by the two planned public consultation drop-in events will be held as an opportunity for stakeholders to meet the project team, view the proposals and share their feedback. The drop-in event details are provided below:

Event	Date	Time	Location
1	Monday 26 June 2023	6pm-9pm	South Lounge, West Stand, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, B42 2LR
2	Sunday 2 July 2023	10am-3pm	North Lounge, West Stand, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, B42 2LR

Anybody unable to attend the events will be able to view the materials and share their feedback online, or at Tower Hill Library and the Library of Birmingham from 26 June 2023.

Feedback will be considered in the ongoing development of the design, prior to the planning application being submitted.

Once the planning application has been submitted it will be published on Birmingham City Council's planning online website where stakeholders can review the full details of the application and provide feedback to the Council directly. The application will include a Statement of Community Involvement report which will set out how feedback has been considered in developing the proposals.

A11

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Democratic scrutiny – future of Birmingham”

Question:

“On Thursday 25 May at Highbury Hall, the plans for the future of Birmingham were showcased for the first time. At what point will these plans be scrutinised by the relevant departments?”

Answer:

The “Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040 (Draft CBF)” was launched for an 8-week period of public consultation on 25th May 2023. The Draft CBF has been 2 years in the making starting with the launch of “Our Future City Plan – Shaping Our City Together” vision document in 2021. Engagement with relevant departments and service areas has been undertaken throughout the development of the document.

Prior to the launch of the Draft CBF, the council’s Extended Corporate Leadership Team received presentations with opportunities to comment and the expectation that the document would be taken back to BCC departments, service areas and appropriate external stakeholders for their detailed consideration and input to the proposals. Feedback will be considered in shaping the final document, alongside comments from the public consultation, any changes will be highlighted to the Cabinet where the final CBF 2040 will be taken to seek approval.

The Draft CBF has proposals that cross many service areas and forms a high-level strategy to work from. Looking ahead to delivery of the proposals, this is the start of many years of ongoing detailed engagement, consultation and partnership working both within BCC and with our communities and many external stakeholders

A12

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
JULIEN PRITCHARD

“Planning Permission – BHMT housing developments”

Question:

How many Council BMHT housing development projects have both planning permission and executive approval but have not been started? How many homes does this represent (please provide the total and breakdown by social housing/private sale)?

And how many of these developments are late? And how many homes are on in these late developments (again please provide the total and breakdown between social housing and private sale)? And finally please break all this down by specific development?

Answer:

The table attached captures the individual BMHT developments which have planning consent and executive approval but have not started on site. Where known, the total number of new homes broken down across rent and sale is also shown. Indicative start on site timescales are provided, with schemes currently experiencing a delay highlighted in yellow.



A12 table.docx

A13

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ROB GRANT**

“Paul Farm Estate/Shannon Road Development”

Question:

In February 2021 The Council Cabinet approved the building of 267 (163 for social rent 104 for sale) new homes on Pool Farm estate and Shannon Road. The Council was due to start on site in April 2022. However despite the having planning permission, and large parts of already cleared land in this development, no building has started. What is the reason for the delay? When will building of new homes for this development start? And what are the new timelines for this scheme?

Answer:

Planning permission having been secured in February 2021 a procurement exercise was undertaken which due to the combined factors of build cost inflation, impact of the new Part L Building Regulations and cost of living pressures, produced total scheme costs which were more than the previously approved budget and did not represent value for money for the Council.

The decision was taken to conduct a scheme review sponsored by Homes England to re-assess the development capacity of the various sites and whether a range of affordable tenures could be produced in lieu of homes for sale, due to the increasing mortgage rates and pressures on the affordability of home ownership.

The Council engaged the services of Arcadis, BM3 architecture and JLL to review the various sites using a range of house sizes which are delivered by Registered Providers. In addition, financial modelling has been completed for a range of scenarios from policy compliant through to 100% affordable housing provision.

That exercise has recently been completed and draft scheme proposals show that an additional 50 homes have the potential to be delivered. It is the intention to shortly seek Expressions of Interest from developers and Registered Provider and to

consider a range of procurement options to select a partner or partners, who will develop detailed proposals which would be subject to a new planning application. There are significant topography issues to be addressed, together with completion of the demolition process. It is hoped however that a commencement on site in early Summer 2024 could be achieved. Subject of course to the necessary Cabinet approvals, planning permission etc.

B

PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Early Years Block Funding”

Question:

A report from the National Day Nurseries association showed that, according to data provided under FOI, Birmingham underspent on its Early Years block funding by £1.4m in 21/22. This is money they say was earmarked to support providers in the sector. Please provide details of the under or overspend in each year since 2018, plus what happened to any overspend in each of those years (including which budget it was reallocated to if this occurred, or if some or all of it was returned to the DfE)

Answer:

As part of the conditions of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), any underspends are not clawed back by the Department of Education. The conditions of grant allow local authorities to roll forward any underspends on the Early Years Block as part of the total Dedicated Schools Grants reserves, this can then be utilised in future years to support the sector.

All underspends within the Early Years DSG block have been retained within the Early Years DSG block and fully utilised to support the Early Years sector. The breakdown since 2018 is as follows:-

Fin Year	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Narrative
2018/19	90,150,000	87,450,000	-2,700,000	Allocated to EY SEND Projects as part of the Invest to Save approach. This supported projects such as the Childminder Inclusion Network, the rollout of the WellComm project across all settings and schools and the Castle Approach which was a pilot programme in 2 of the 27 maintained nursery schools.
2019/20	89,209,000	87,409,000	-1,800,000	The underspend generated in year was allocated and paid as an additional lump sum in 2020/21 based on the number of 3 and 4 years within each school/setting for the last 3 terms headcounts (actual numbers). The actual amount was confirmed following the conclusion of the closure of 19/20 final accounts and passported the funding in full directly to settings/schools.
2020/21	87,533,751	88,460,761	927,010	The underspend was not confirmed until much later in the year due to the change in DfE process during COVID. The underspend is currently being held in the EY DSG reserves and will be allocated/considered within the outturn position for the 2021/22 financial year.
2021/22	82,441,401	81,012,401	-1,429,000	There has been an issue with schools budgets allocations and payments during 2021/22 that are currently being resolved and have been subject to an external review commissioned by the Council. The underspend in year is being held in EY DSG reserves and will be considered once the funding queries have been resolved. It will be used to support the EY sector in full.
2022/23	86,708,647	86,708,647	0	The outturn figure is not yet available as we are currently awaiting confirmation of the final adjusted allocation from the DfE based on actual participation over the year which we will not receive until July 2023. We are assuming this has spent to budget in-year.

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

“Transport Appeals”

Question:

In each month since January 2023, what was the total number, and the average time taken to deal with, both stage one and stage two transport appeals within the home to school transport service?

Answer:

MONTH	Number of stage 1 appeals received	Number of stage 2 appeals received	Average time to process stage 1 appeals	Average time to process stage 2 appeals
January 2023	0	0	N/A	N/A
February 2023	14	0	20 – 30 days	N/A
March 2023	39	14	20 – 30 days	20 – 40 days
April 2023	19	13	20 – 30 days	20 – 40 days
May 2023	45	17	20 – 30 days	20 – 40 days

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU

“SENDIST Appeals”

Question:

For the period September 2018 - present please provide the following data, all broken down by type (Refusal to Assess, Refusal to Issue, Section B,F,I):

- **The number of appeals against the Council registered by SENDIST**
- **The number of appeals conceded by the local authority prior to hearings**
- **The number that went to hearing where the appeal was dismissed (i.e. the local authority’s decision was deemed to be correct)**
- **The number of resulting tribunal orders which have not yet been complied with by the Council**

Answer:

Please see breakdown of SEND Tribunal appeals received from September 2018 to May 2023:

Month	Total appeals received	Refusal to assess	Refusal to issue	Sections B, F &/or I	Cease to maintain
Sep-18	25	11	3	11	0
Oct-18	30	6	1	23	0
Nov-18	18	6	0	12	0
Dec-18	14	5	6	3	0
Jan-19	16	11	0	5	0
Feb-19	25	9	1	15	0
Mar-19	31	11	0	20	0
Apr-19	30	11	1	18	0
May-19	43	10	2	31	0
Jun-19	34	7	5	19	3
Jul-19	26	7	4	13	2
Aug-19	21	13	1	7	0
Sep-19	22	5	4	13	0
Oct-19	22	6	3	13	0
Nov-19	12	4	3	5	0
Dec-19	9	2	3	4	0

Month	Total appeals received	Refusal to assess	Refusal to issue	Sections B, F &/or I	Cease to maintain
Jan-20	21	4	7	10	0
Feb-20	18	3	3	12	0
Mar-20	19	5	2	12	0
Apr-20	18	4	1	13	0
May-20	20	2	0	18	0
Jun-20	28	5	5	18	0
Jul-20	40	3	0	37	0
Aug-20	25	2	2	21	0
Sep-20	19	2	1	15	1
Oct-20	12	2	1	9	0
Nov-20	15	4	3	8	0
Dec-20	14	8	4	2	0
Jan-21	10	7	0	3	0
Feb-21	18	7	3	8	0
Mar-21	9	2	1	6	0
Apr-21	24	3	2	19	0
May-21	25	0	2	23	0
Jun-21	27	0	3	24	0
Jul-21	46	0	9	37	0
Aug-21	56	6	5	45	0
Sep-21	52	10	8	34	0
Oct-21	42	8	5	29	0
Nov-21	25	7	3	15	0
Dec-21	30	6	10	14	0
Jan-22	59	20	14	24	1
Feb-22	30	9	2	19	0
Mar-22	44	5	2	37	0
Apr-22	40	11	6	22	1
May-22	68	19	2	46	1
Jun-22	39	6	1	32	0
Jul-22	40	4	3	33	0
Aug-22	59	8	2	49	0
Sept-22	68	9	3	53	3
Oct-22	59	10	0	49	0
Nov-22	48	6	3	38	1
Dec-22	37	5	5	26	1
Jan-23	37	8	5	24	0
Feb-23	33	9	1	23	0
Mar-23	27	3	1	24	1
Apr-23	31	5	2	24	0
May-23	30	2	0	27	1

Based on the data for appeals received in between January 2022 and May 2023 which have been concluded (502 appeals):

- 100 appeals were not opposed by the LA
- 46 appeals were withdrawn by parent/YP
- 7 appeals were struck out (due to parental/YP not complying with orders)
- 222 resolved by consent (without a final hearing)
- 127 final decisions were made by the Tribunal:
 - 21 were dismissed
 - 78 were upheld
 - 6 were made mainly in LA favour
 - 4 decisions were equally in favour of LA and parents
 - 18 were mainly in in parent/YP's favour

The LA has complied with 126 final decisions outlined above. There is 1 final decision which the LA has not complied with as the LA has applied for permission to appeal this decision and for the effect of the decision to be suspended. This matter is being considered by First-Tier Tribunal which is considering reviewing its decision due to an error in law. The family have also made an application for judicial review.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Children without a placement”

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:

- Without a school place

Need/ Year Group	Reception Not Compulsory School Age	Reception Compulsory School Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)	1	4	6	6	5	7	1	7	6	1	4	4	4	56
Moderate learning difficulty (MLD)	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	11
Physical disability (PD)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3

Profound and multiple learning difficulty (PMLD)	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH)	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	3	5	2	6	9	10	40
Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)	10	7	3	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	25
Severe learning difficulty (SLD)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Specific learning difficulties (SpLD)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Not Recorded	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	7
Total	13	14	13	7	11	10	3	13	13	5	16	16	18	152

58 of the children and young people listed above have a named placement secured for September 2023.

- In a mainstream school but awaiting a special school placement

Need/ Year Group	Reception – Not Compulsory School Age	Reception – Compulsory School Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
ASD	3	5	20	8	16	9	5	1	3	2	2	0	2	76
SLCN	9	11	22	11	1	5	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	64
SEMH	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	20
SpLD	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	8
MLD	0	0	2	4	0		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
PD	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
SLD	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
MSI	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Not Recorded	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PMLD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	13	19	50	27	22	16	9	4	6	5	6	2	6	185

76 of the children and young people listed above have a named placement secured for September 2023.

- **Having Section F provision met through the Home Bridging Team**

The Home Bridging Service does not deliver provision detailed in Section F of EHCPs for children and young people. The Service supports the child/family via the arrangement of interim provision and/or a bridging service to assist with transition to an appropriate placement. The Home Bridging Service is currently working with 147 children and young people.

Referrals to the Service may still be in progress for some of the children that are identified as out of school as listed above) in cases where they have recently moved into authority or received a newly finalised EHCP.

Need/ Year Group	ASD	MLD	PD	PMLD	SEMH	SLCN	SLD	SPLD	TBC	Total
0	3	1	0	0	0	10	1	1	1	17
1	5	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	11
2	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	8
3	4	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	10
4	6	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	10
5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
6	7	1	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	15
7	6	0	1	1	7	0	1	1	0	17
8	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	6
9	4	2	2	0	6	1	0	0	1	16
10	3	1	0	0	8	0	0	2	1	15
11	5	1	0	0	6	1	1	0	4	18
Total	52	8	4	4	39	19	5	5	11	147

- **Having Section F provision met by other home- based providers please define who is providing this and the cost)**

There are 94 children and young people in year groups between reception and Year 11 receiving interim education via a home tuition provider – the majority of these are awaiting a placement at a setting. Home Based providers for children and young people with an EHCP awaiting a school placement do not fully deliver the education detailed in Section F but offer interim education in the form of 1:1 tuition until a suitable setting can be identified and named in the EHCP. The tutors concerned specialise in working with children and young people with additional needs and tailor the provision to suit individual needs.

Need/ Year Group	ASD	MLD	PD	PMLD	SEMH	SLCN	SLD	SPLD	TBC	Total
0	2	1	0	0	0	7	1	1	0	12
1	5	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	9
2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
3	4	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	8
4	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
6	5	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	10
7	3	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	10
8	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
9	3	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	9
10	3	1	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	12
11	4	1	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	13
Total	36	4	2	4	30	12	4	1	1	94

There are two home tuition providers (SMART Education and Connex Education) currently being used, delivering between 15 to 25 hours per week of education.

The spend for the last financial year was approximately £1.3 million for CYP in reception to Year 11 who received tuition. The hours delivered to each CYP will vary subject to individual circumstances and levels of engagement.

The spend for the last financial year was approximately £1.3 million for children and young people in reception to Year 11 who received tuition. The hours delivered to each child or young person will vary subject to individual circumstances and levels of engagement.

In addition to the cohort set out above, 19 other children and young people have a home programme in place as per their EHCPs:

Year Group / Need	ASD	MLD	PD	PMLD	SEMH	SPLD	Total
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
4	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
6	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
7	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
8	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
9	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	8	1	2	2	5	1	19

These 19 packages are delivered via several different providers dependent on the nature of provision required. The total annual forecast for this type of provision amounts to £541,562.

- **Have annual reviews recommending change of placement that have not yet been actioned**

This data is not recorded or held. It is not for Annual Review meetings to recommend changes of placement. Any comments on, or proposed changes to, a child's needs or provision in Sections B and F of the EHCP are considered by the allocated SENAR Officer. Where appropriate, the SEN Panel will determine whether a change of placement is required to make the provision specified to meet the needs of children and young people. All children and young people where the need for a change of placement to a special school has been determined through this process are captured in the data above.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Children without a placement”

Question:

How many new or ongoing SENDIST appeals against the Council had a SENDIASS officer as their representative as of the following dates:

- **1 Jan 23**
- **1 March 23**
- **1 June 23**

Answer:

- **1 January 23**

205 Tribunals listed with SENDIASS hearing representation.

In January, February and March 2023 all parents who were listed as having SENDIASS representation were contacted to confirm that information, advice and support would be provided by SENDIASS to help them navigate their appeals, and representation would be provided if required.

- **1 March 23**

5 Tribunals listed with SENDIASS hearing representation.

SENDIASS providing information advice and support to parents for pending SENDIST Tribunals = 146

- **1 June 23**

0 Cases with SENDIASS hearing representation.

SENDIASS providing information advice and support to parents for pending SENDIST Tribunals = 78

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Transport Appeals”

Question:

In each of the last 4 years, how many transport appeals have there been at each stage and how many of these were successful?

Answer:

Data is available from January 2023 and is below:

MONTH	Number of stage 1 appeals received	Number of upheld stage 1 appeals	Number of stage 2 appeals received	Number of upheld stage 2 appeals
January 2023	0	0	0	0
February 2023	14	10	0	0
March 2023	39	24	14	10
April 2023	19	10	13	7
May 2023	45	28	17	2

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Home to school transport letter”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the standard letters used for informing parents\carers of the outcome of an application for home to school transport, and stage one and stage two appeal outcomes (successful and unsuccessful)

Answer:

Letters as requested are below for reference. These have been in use since May 2023.



Stage 2 MASTER BPA Dismissed no change
Stage 2 MASTER TRA Dismissed no change
Stage 2 MASTER TRA Agreed-Upheld; Overt
Stage 1 MASTER BPA Agreed-Upheld; Overt
Stage 1 MASTER TRA Dismissed no change



Stage 1 MASTER TRA Agreed-Upheld; Overt
Stage 1 MASTER BPA Appeal Dismissed no

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES

“Interims”

Question:

For each month since September 2021, please provide the number of posts with SEND services currently held by interims/consultants, by grade, including the day rate charged* and the notional monthly cost if these were all permanent positions.

***If it is not possible to provide exact figures due to personal or commercial confidentiality then please provide this as a range (e.g., less than £250 per day, £250-£500, £500-£750, £750-£1000, more than £1000 etc.**

Answer:

In the light of the challenges in introducing Oracle, this information can currently only be provided as at the end of the financial year 2022/23 for the SENAR service. Please see summary below:

As at 31st March 2023 there were 113 Interim FTEs within the SENAR service.

Interim Fte	Daily Rate (£)
3	600-700
3	500-600
26	400-500
63	300-400
13	200-300
5	100-200
113	

The total forecast agency cost for the financial year 2022/23 is £11,292,466. The number of FTEs have fluctuated throughout the year, and this is the total agency cost accounting for leavers and part year starters

Based on the number of FTEs on 31st March 2023 and the average daily rate, an interim within the service is costing approx. £99,000 per annum. This is compared to the average cost of a permanent staffing budget of £74,000 per annum.

A redesign of the SENAR service has started and the service will be moving to a permanent staffing structure within the next six months. This is set out in the Children and Families Directorate Improving Services for Children and Families Plan and monitored by an independent Board.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Disabled children’s services eligibility criteria”

Question:

“What is the threshold of assessment or the eligibility criteria for support by disabled children’s services?”

Answer

Many services for disabled children and their families can be accessed without assessment, through universal services and the City Council’s SEND offer. This includes some services set out in the Short Breaks Statement in particular community-based play and leisure activities commissioned through voluntary sector providers.

The Early Help, Front Door and Safeguarding Teams also carry out assessments for children with disabilities and their families and provide or signpost to services.

The Children with Disabilities Service is a specialist service which carries out assessments, provides services and also refers to specialist commissioned services, for children with more complex needs and their families.

Thresholds and eligibility for these specialist commissioned services are currently under review in line with the review of short breaks policies and the Short Breaks Statement and Right Help, Right Time, due to be completed by September.

In the interim period statutory criteria informs decision making about specialist help and support from the Children with Disabilities Service and access to these specialist commissioned services for new referrals, which includes:

Section 6 Equality Act 2010

Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act

Section 17 Children Act 1989 including sections 17ZD & ZE

Schedule 2 Paragraph (6)(C) Children Act 1989

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011

Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Departmental Advice 2011

Statutory Guidance on Short Breaks 2010

C10

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Child protection conferences”

Question:

“For initial child protection conferences how, many are held outside of the 15 working days from the initial strategy meeting or section 47 assessment being initiated?”

Answer:

The Trust reports on this issue monthly to Operational Commissioning Group as part of our contractual key performance indicators. Over the last 12 months 85% of conferences have been held within required timescales. This is well above both national and statistical neighbours.

Although our performance can vary month on month, we constantly remain within tolerance.

May 2023

Performance Indicator 5	% of ICPCs held within 15 days Good = High/Increasing	Target 23/24 85%	Tolerance 75-95%
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	Apr-22 82%	Prev. 12 months average	Apr-23
Number of ICPCs held within 15 working days		121	97
Number of ICPCs		143	124
% of ICPCs held within 15 working days		85%	78%

Commentary
This month 78% of initial child protection conferences were held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion, compared with 80% last month. Overall, 85% of conferences have taken place within timescale over the last 12 months.

We continue to closely monitor the reason why a small number of conferences are outside of timescales.

We are performing significantly better than our stat neighbours and are just below the national average for England.



National average	79%
Statistical neighbour average	74%



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST



C11

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Childrens disability services - complaints”

Question:

“How many complaints did the children's disability service receive in the past 3 years, separated by year and broken down by each step of the complaints process?”

Answer:

Children’s services providers are required by law to operate a three-stage procedure to manage complaints about specified functions relating to children’s social care. The current legal framework was established in 2006. Any complaint that does not qualify for consideration under the statutory procedure may be considered under the Trust’s two-stage non-statutory complaints procedure.

The tables attached set out the number of statutory and non- statutory complaints at each stage for the past three years that relate to the Children with Disabilities Service. Most complaints are complex and have a number of elements within them. The information includes the frequency at which elements of complaints are upheld, not upheld or are partially upheld as this is more indicative of quality of experience of children and their families.



C11 table.docx

C12

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Support from disabled childrens services”

Question:

“How many families in Birmingham are receiving support (rather than assessment) from the disabled children's services?”

Answer:

The table below demonstrates that a total of 213 children are receiving ongoing help and support through a defined plan and delivered by the Trust Children with Disabilities Service. The number of children with each plan type is: 70 children in our care, 25 children with a child protection plan and 118 children receiving support through a child in need plan.

In addition, 445 children receive a short breaks package, which can be a combination of direct payments for families to purchase their own package of support, home support or overnight residential support. Some of these children will be reflected in those children as set out below.

Count of Child Unique ID				
Row Labels	a) Looked after child	b) Child Protection plan	c) Child in need plan	Grand Total
DCSC - Complex & Enduring Mental Health	2		18	20
DCSC - East	34	5	35	74
DCSC - NWC	24	9	33	66
DCSC - South	10	11	32	53
Grand Total	70	25	118	213

C13

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR COLIN GREEN

“Families who do not qualify for disabled childrens services”

Question:

“How many families are assessed by the disabled children's team and are found not to meet the threshold for the service each year?”

Answer:

Our electronic recording system does not capture this exact information. We do know that over the last six months of all new and re-assessments completed within the Children with Disabilities Service 20% resulted in no ongoing help and support from that specialist service (from the point of the completion of the assessment/re-assessment). The ‘no further action’ rate at 20% in the Children with Disabilities Service is lower than Birmingham average and below statistical, regional and national benchmarking.

Benchmarking Data – No further action following assessment

	2021-22
	%
Birmingham	29.0
Statistical Neighbours	27.1
West Midlands	25.4
England	27.4

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Library Attendance”

Question:

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

Answer:

Community Libraries average monthly visitor numbers per site 2017 to 2021. Please note as Community Libraries do not have electronic door counters, this is a manual count, for these years, only annual figures are available.

**BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY
LIBRARIES
Annual visitors per site 2017 to
2021**

	2017	2018	2019	2021
Acocks Green	92,600	79,150	86,950	32,450
Aston	9,200	4,500	5,750	-
Balsall Heath	53,650	27,450	65,150	29,750
Bartley Green	6,000	1,550	4,000	3,350
Birchfield	37,500	32,250	31,750	14,900
Bloomsbury	4,400	1,050	3,550	2,300
Boldmere	21,050	17,450	25,400	14,000
Druids Heath	19,100	18,450	11,300	5,250
Erdington	86,000	77,550	81,450	38,600
Frankley	11,750	7,150	12,900	9,500
Glebe Farm	26,200	10,750	21,950	13,050

Hall Green	99,450	55,550	91,550	40,800
Handsworth	124,750	83,750	116,000	31,600
Harborne	81,800	58,600	-	36,500
Kings Heath	92,450	78,150	93,900	44,750
Kings Norton	51,300	39,400	49,700	33,250
Kingstanding	27,300	16,150	20,200	7,650
Mere Green	76,700	71,900	80,800	35,950
Northfield	62,350	53,350	67,200	33,750
Perry Common	27,050	17,100	21,500	15,950
Quinton	61,450	40,900	52,050	27,900
Selly Oak	-	2,400	7,650	-
Shard End	37,800	29,850	55,000	23,350
Sheldon	16,400	14,050	14,600	9,000
Small Heath	72,050	81,350	117,550	51,600
South Yardley	138,450	99,700	161,550	58,000
Sparkhill	75,750	49,350	89,950	23,700
Spring Hill	21,550	18,650	29,850	7,100
Stirchley	16,350	12,550	24,350	15,000
Sutton Coldfield	78,050	66,550	89,350	23,600
Tower Hill	26,250	21,650	27,800	23,150
Walmley	32,800	29,300	37,050	19,900
Ward End	51,200	38,250	79,850	22,750
Weoley Castle	72,350	68,050	64,350	31,200
Yardley Wood	95,350	58,800	86,700	24,000
TOTAL	92,600	1,382,650	1,860,450	803,600

Community Libraries visits per month and by site for January to December 2022. Libraries are now recording visitors monthly however, these remain manual counts.

Sep-22	Monthly total
Acocks Green	3,344
Aston	348
Balsall Heath	1,812
Bartley Green	504
Birchfield	2,452
Bloomsbury	296
Boldmere	1,412
Castle Vale	536
Druids Heath	600
Erdington	3,320
Frankley	412
Glebe Farm	876
Hall Green	3,712
Handsworth	3,512
Harborne	4,392
Kings Heath	3,960
Kings Norton	1,672
Kingstanding	1,088
Mere Green	7,052
Northfield	2,876

Perry Common	1,212
Quinton	3,380
Selly Oak Tbase	624
Shard End	2,020
Sheldon	744
Small Heath	3,500
South Yardley	7,060
Sparkhill	2,340
Spring Hill	1,108
Stirchley	1,272
Sutton Coldfield	6,160
Tower Hill	1,900
Walmley	2,480
Ward End	2,556
Weoley Castle	2,408
Yardley Wood	3,360
TOTAL	86,300

Oct-22	monthly total
Acocks Green	4,024
Aston	580
Balsall Heath	2,448
Bartley Green	544
Birchfield	2,532

Bloomsbury	364
Boldmere	1,648
Castle Vale	612
Druids Heath	644
Erdington	3,632
Frankley	672
Glebe Farm	1,040
Hall Green	4,904
Handsworth	3,272
Harborne	4,328
Kings Heath	5,548
Kings Norton	2,740
Kingstanding	1,080
Mere Green	5,240
Northfield	3,820
Perry Common	1,124
Quinton	3,912
Selly Oak Tbase	756
Shard End	2,472
Sheldon	720
Small Heath	4,072
South Yardley	8,576
Sparkhill	4,628
Spring Hill	1,324
Stirchley	1,780
Sutton Coldfield	6,976
Tower Hill	2,936

Walmley	2,488
Ward End	2,640
Weoley Castle	3,252
Yardley Wood	3,580
TOTAL	100,900

Nov-22	Monthly total
Acocks Green	3,260
Aston	476
Balsall Heath	2,660
Bartley Green	508
Birchfield	2,144
Bloomsbury	264
Boldmere	1,340
Castle Vale	680
Druids Heath	728
Erdington	3,320
Frankley	660
Glebe Farm	1,040
Hall Green	3,796
Handsworth	3,144
Harborne	3,740
Kings Heath	3,852
Kings Norton	1,888

Kingstanding	1,012
Mere Green	4,064
Northfield	2,760
Perry Common	1,956
Quinton	3,752
Selly Oak Tbase	308
Shard End	1,332
Sheldon	700
Small Heath	3,392
South Yardley	8,116
Sparkhill	2,900
Spring Hill	1,044
Stirchley	1,236
Sutton Coldfield	5,040
Tower Hill	1,876
Walmley	2,068
Ward End	2,080
Weoley Castle	2,668
Yardley Wood	3,376
TOTAL	82,280

Dec-22	Monthly total
Acocks Green	3,204
Aston	336
Balsall Heath	2,296
Bartley Green	436
Birchfield	1,336
Bloomsbury	240
Boldmere	240

Castle Vale	616
Druids Heath	724
Erdington	2,924
Frankley	368
Glebe Farm	1,056
Hall Green	3,320
Handsworth	3,124
Harborne	4,140
Kings Heath	4,032
Kings Norton	1,640
Kingstanding	836
Mere Green	3,132
Northfield	2,300
Perry Common	644
Quinton	2,584
Selly Oak Tbase	1,692
Shard End	1,936
Sheldon	648
Small Heath	2,500
South Yardley	6,904
Sparkhill	3,648
Spring Hill	
Stirchley	992
Sutton Coldfield	3,072
Tower Hill	1,600
Walmley	1,880
Ward End	2,464
Weoley Castle	1,892
Yardley Wood	3,040
TOTAL	70,668

Library of Birmingham weekly footfall figures 2018 – 2023. These are collected by electronic footfall counters and capture all visitors to the building.

Week	2023-24 (w/c)	Totals
1	03-Apr-23	22,588
2	10-Apr-23	22,766
3	17-Apr-23	20,516
4	24-Apr-23	22,871
5	01-May-23	17,807
6	08-May-23	17,898

7	15-May-23	24,672
8	22-May-23	23,248



D2

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

“Library staffing”

Question:

As of 31 March, in each year for the last 5 years, what was the total number of staff employed at each library?

Answer:

Library staffing levels have remained constant since figures were established by the Future Operating Model that was agreed by Cabinet in 2017. For the Library of Birmingham, numbers were established by the 2015 restructure. See attached breakdown for site-by-site figures.

Library	Proposed Staffing
Kings Heath	4 FTE
Ward End	3.5 FTE
Small Heath	3.5 FTE

Acocks Green	3.5 FTE
Northfield	4 FTE
South Yardley	3.5 FTE
Sparkhill	3.5 FTE
Erdington	4 FTE
Balsall Heath	3.5 FTE
Hall Green	3.5 FTE
Harborne	4 FTE
Mere Green	4 FTE
Kings Norton	3.2 FTE
Handsworth	4 FTE
Quinton	3.2 FTE
Shard End	3.2 FTE
Sutton Coldfield	3.2 FTE
Weoley Castle	3.2 FTE
Yardley Wood	3.2 FTE

.....Column	Proposed Staffing
Break..... Library	
Birchfield	2 FTE
Walmley	2 FTE
Kingstanding	1.4 FTE
Perry Common	2 FTE
Boldmere	1.4 FTE
Frankley	1.2 FTE
Druids Heath	2 FTE
Spring Hill	2 FTE
Tower Hill	1.4 FTE
Sheldon	1.4 FTE

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Stirchley	2 FTE
Glebe Farm	1.4 FTE
Bartley Green	0.41 FTE
Bloomsbury	0.41 FTE
Selly Oak	0.41 FTE
Aston	0.82 FTE

Library of Birmingham	<p>29 staff (Gr1 to Gr5) for full building opening (M-S) (7 Floors)</p> <p>7 staff for extended partial opening (M-F) (Mornings and evenings 2 floors)</p>
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D3

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE,
HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

“Birmingham Library”

Question:

“When is the lift at Birmingham Library that takes you directly to the Shakespeare room going to get fixed?”

Answer:

The scenic lift, when in service, operates between the 4th and 7th Floors only and does not travel as far as the Shakespeare Room. However, other lifts in the building are operating normally and customers can directly access the Shakespeare Memorial Room using the lifts operating at the front of the building.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Replacement Bins”

Question:

By year since 2014 what has been the average waiting time for a replacement bin?

Answer:

Please find below the mean average number of days for each different type of bin replacement between the date received and the date the worksheet was closed. Please be aware that the date the worksheet was closed may not necessarily be the date that the bin was delivered, for example if a business support officer was on leave, the worksheet may have been closed down several days after the bin was delivered, hence it could skew these figures.

This data excludes any worksheets which have been closed as ‘not justified’ (which are usually duplicate requests) and any requests that have not been completed and remain outstanding.

Requests received in 2014	
Replacement request type	Mean number of days between date received and date closed
Damaged POD	22
Damaged Recycle Box(Multi-mat)	13
Damaged Recycling (Multi-mat)	50
Damaged Recycling Bin (Paper)	16
Damaged Recycling Bin with POD	17
Damaged Recycling Box - Paper	13
Damaged Residual Bin	18

GWB - Missing Bin	22
Large Refuse Bin Clin Wst Cust	43
Large Refuse Bin(6-8 in House)	9
Missed Recycling Bin	10
Missed Recycling Box	10
Missing POD	12
Missing Recycle Box(Multi-mat)	13
Missing Recycling (Multi-mat)	19
Missing Recycling Bin (Paper)	46
Missing Recycling Bin with POD	18
Missing Recycling Box - Paper	13
Missing Residual Bin	14
Smaller Ref Bin-240/360L Cust	61
large Refuse Bin(9+ in House)	12

Requests received in 2015	
Replacement request type	Mean number of days between date received and date closed
Damaged POD	11
Damaged Recycle Box(Multi-mat)	16
Damaged Recycling (Multi-mat)	28
Damaged Recycling Bin (Paper)	26
Damaged Recycling Bin with POD	13
Damaged Recycling Box - Paper	16
Damaged Residual Bin	16
GWB - Missing Bin	17
Large Refuse Bin Clin Wst Cust	12

Large Refuse Bin(6-8 in House)	6
Missed Recycling Bin	6
Missed Recycling Box	6
Missing POD	10
Missing Recycle Box(Multi-mat)	16
Missing Recycling (Multi-mat)	58
Missing Recycling Bin (Paper)	23
Missing Recycling Bin with POD	13
Missing Recycling Box - Paper	17
Missing Residual Bin	13
Replace Residual Bin - DBC	24
Smaller Ref Bin-240/360L Cust	8
large Refuse Bin(9+ in House)	11

Requests received in 2016	
Replacement request type	Mean number of days between date received and date closed
Damaged POD	12
Damaged Recycle Box(Multi-mat)	17
Damaged Recycling (Multi-mat)	25
Damaged Recycling Bin (Paper)	21
Damaged Recycling Bin with POD	11
Damaged Recycling Box - Paper	15
Damaged Residual Bin	12
GWB - Missing Bin	12
Large Refuse Bin Clin Wst Cust	17
Large Refuse Bin(6-8 in House)	16

Missed Recycling Bin	8
Missed Recycling Box	9
Missing POD	12
Missing Recycle Box(Multi-mat)	14
Missing Recycling (Multi-mat)	9

E2

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

“No Mow May- litter”

Question:

Please provide dates of all litter picks carried out in all areas of 'no Mow May' before, during and after the trial along with the date of the first post-trial mow.

Answer:

The existing litter picking regimes were kept at the same frequency throughout the pilot. These dates and frequencies are different for each asset ie park, housing land and highways.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“No Mow May- allergy study”

Question:

Has any assessment been made of the impact of the No Mow May pilot on individuals for allergies, including hay fever and asthma? If so please provide copies of these assessments.

Answer:

The No Mow May pilot was implemented in 4 wards this year for the first time this year. No assessments around the impact of individuals with allergies were made before the pilot was introduced.

An assessment of the impact and issues of the pilot will be undertaken before any further trials will be undertaken.

E4

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Street cleaning fleet”

Question:

How many street sweeping vehicles are in the council’s fleet, broken down by owned, leased or rented?

Answer:

The details for mechanical sweeper vehicles are as follows

Leased	10
Hired	40
Fleet owned	2

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Asbestos”

Question:

“When asbestos has been found by the council, what duties does the council have, and what timescales must the council adhere to, in order to resolve the issue? Please give a response for all types of land ownership in the city.”

Answer:

Removal of asbestos reported to or by BCC on public land is dealt with by a third-party contractor who are requested to attend the site; this is usually within 36 hours of the request.

The Council provides a free collection service of Asbestos to residents and will collect up to 6 bags of wrapped asbestos from the home. If the resident has more than this, they will need to contact an independent licensed asbestos disposal company.

Asbestos cement will be collected as long as:

- it is wrapped and sealed in heavy duty plastic sheeting
- it is stacked in quantities that two people can handle easily
- any asbestos cement debris is sealed in double plastic sacks

This service can only be requested once in a 6-month period. Residents are not able to book a specific day for collection. The advice is to leave the wrapped asbestos at the front of the property but on the premises where it is accessible and it will be collected it within 2 weeks, but this is usually within 3 working days.

Asbestos on private land is the responsibility of the landowner and action can only be taken by the Council where a request is made by the landowner or following an enforcement notice being served and no action taken by the landowner for clearance.

Asbestos on land belonging to a commercial premises is the responsibility of the landowner and they will need to contact an independent licensed asbestos disposal company to arrange removal.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Deykin Avenue”

Question:

“The clear up on Deykin Avenue, planned for 6 April, was suspended because the team found asbestos. To date, no clear up of the asbestos has been booked, without which, the wider site cannot be cleared. In the meantime, the site continues to be a health hazard to everyone. Can you please book for the asbestos to be cleared and get back to me as soon as possible?”

Answer:

Enquiries are being made of the land registry but it is proving very difficult to pinpoint the actual owners – as opposed to developers and other interested parties associated with the land. It is recognised that some time has elapsed since the original request was made, but it is equally recognised that this can be a lengthy process. The council will normally deal with up to 6 bags of asbestos for removal: there is significantly more than that on this site. Originally the plan was to clear the land in partnership with a community environmental clean up, however when the site was assessed before this could take place, it was identified that there was too much asbestos to remove via this method, so it needs to be undertaken by a contractor. In order to ensure that the Council does not end up funding the clearance, ownership of the land must be established in order that they (the owners) are given the chance to clear up their site. At that point BCC can go in, do the work and recharge, but to do the work without establishing this leaves the Council at risk. As well as that, asbestos on private land is the responsibility of the landowner and action can only be taken by the Council where a request is made by the landowner or following an enforcement notice being served and no action taken by the landowner for clearance.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Malcolm House”

Question:

“Since the fencing was removed from the car park and forecourt of Malcolm House, 582, Moseley Road it has become a hot spot for drug taking and dealing, parking of unroadworthy vehicles and dumping. Why is this not being regularly patrolled, and litter picked and what is the council's long-term intention for this land?”

Answer:

The Waste Enforcement Unit have been unable to find any reports of flytipping on the specified land. The Unit is predominantly a reactive team, without reports of tipping there would be no active monitoring of the area. If reports are received officers will investigate.

The road does form part of the scheduled street cleansing activities in the Ward with a Beatsweeper in the area daily, Ward Crew weekly and a sweeper vehicle fortnightly.

Reports of flytipping can be made to flytipping@birmingham.gov.uk and reports of antisocial behaviour can be made via the Birmingham City Council website.

There has previously been some dispute over the ownership of this carpark area. However, this was deemed by a court to be HMPE (Highways Maintained at Public Expense) land. HMPE can be sold and the person who wants to purchase the land has to apply for it, at a cost to them. There has been some interest to purchase the land and the process has been explained. Whilst this land remains as HMPE it is available for public use for no charge.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Yew Tree Road, Aston”

Question:

“A petition for Yew Tree Road, Aston to install wheelie bins was recently denied, meaning that residents still have to use plastic bags. As well as being environmentally unsound, these bags are difficult to carry through the alleyways, get eaten by rats and are an historic way to manage waste. If you won’t install bins, what other suggestions to do you have to resolve the issues on this road of littering and fly tipping that are exacerbated by the lack of bins?”

Answer:

The request for wheelie bins was turned down in line with agreed City policy because these properties do not have adequate storage for wheelie bins. The policy remains that residents should store their waste on their own property and is advanced no earlier than the evening before collections are due.

We do understand the issues residents are facing and the particular problems around the school so additional resources have been allocated for extra services for the removal of sacks placed out in advance of collection.

Waste Prevention Teams and the Waste Enforcement Unit have been asked to carry out education with residents on better storage of sacks to minimise attack by vermin and discourage illegal littering and fly tipping and to tackle early advancement and any illegal littering and fly tipping activities.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the specifications and policies regarding waste bins. This review aims to ensure that we have the most effective and efficient systems in place.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Assisted Collections”

Question:

“Following the announcement that those residents on Assisted Collections would be entitled to a free bulky waste collection, Can you tell me ward by ward how many residents are down for assisted collections and what has the uptake been to date per ward?”

Answer:

Please find the number of assisted collections and free bulky collections in the table below. At present citizens can request a free bulky collection by calling the contact centre only. DTS are currently working to develop the online form so that citizens can book their free collection online. This work will be completed very shortly and then we will be contacting all eligible citizens to make them aware of the free bulky service. We have updated the Birmingham City Council website to advertise this free service, however we have refrained from sending any communication until the development work has been completed. This will ensure our colleagues within the contact centre do not become overwhelmed with a large number of telephone calls, given citizen have a full year to make use of the free service.

We apologise for the oversight in our systems, which resulted in the failure to process refunds for those who have made bookings. Rest assured, we have rectified the issue, and we will now be offering refunds to all affected individuals.

Ward	Number of assisted collections @ 7 June 2023	Number of free bulky collections @ 7 June 2023
Acocks Green	184	1
Allens Cross	182	2
Alum Rock	54	
Aston	75	
Balsall Heath West	63	
Bartley Green	381	
Billesley	235	
Birchfield	53	
Bordesley & Highgate	26	
Bordesley Green	50	1
Bournbrook & Selly Park	62	
Bournville & Cotteridge	215	
Brandwood & Kings Heath	192	2
Bromford & Hodge Hill	170	

Castle Vale	108	
Druids Heath & Monyhull	219	1
Egbaston	103	
Erdington	190	1
Frankley Great Park	212	
Garretts Green	138	
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	220	
Gravelly Hill	93	
Hall Green North	148	
Hall Green South	89	
Handsworth	46	
Handsworth Wood	188	1
Harborne	264	
Heartlands	49	
Highters Heath	119	
Holyhead	73	
Kings Norton North	159	
Kings Norton South	176	
Kingstanding	281	

Ladywood	38	
Longbridge & West Heath	361	1
Lozells	35	
Moseley	93	
Nechells	78	
Newtown	31	
North Edgbaston	72	
Northfield	153	
Oscott	294	1
Perry Barr	254	
Perry Common	174	1
Pype Hayes	137	
Quinton	319	
Rubery & Rednal	150	
Shard End	199	
Sheldon	289	
Small Heath	56	
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	91	
South Yardley	79	
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	66	
Sparkhill	52	
Stirchley	101	
Stockland Green	215	
Sutton Four Oaks	105	
Sutton Mere Green	130	
Sutton Reddicap	144	
Sutton Roughley	110	
Sutton Trinity	96	
Sutton Vesey	188	
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	179	
Sutton Wyde Green	113	
Tyseley & Hay Mills	104	
Ward End	48	
Weoley & Selly Oak	356	
Yardley East	160	
Yardley West & Stechford	103	

E10

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Graffiti cleaning kits”

Question:

“In February, Councillor Izzy Knowles asked when graffiti cleaning kits were to be made available once more to community groups. The answer was a training programme for their use was being prepared and this was anticipated to be delivered in May. Please can you update on progress with this.”

Answer:

BCC is vicariously responsible for the actions of the community volunteers we support and as a result we therefore have a duty to provide training, P.P.E. etc to these volunteers.

Suitable and sufficient train the trainer training can be provided by local BCC Street Scene Managers to the community volunteers to enable them to use Graffiti Wipes. It should be noted that issue of these wipes must be in line with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2015 (COSHH 15). These regulations are very specific that all substances under this legislation MUST be transported in a locked cupboard with a suitable bunding to contain any spillage. If it can be demonstrated that these legal requirements can be adhered to, then the wipes can be issued. If this cannot be demonstrated, then we will not be able to issue the wipes.

Following review, it was decided that the use of Graffiti Liquid or Gel by community volunteers would no longer be supported. To use liquid or Gel there is a need to formally barrier off an area from the general public. P.P.E. to include Wellington Boots to BSEN 344, Safety Gauntlets to BSEN 388, Eye Protection and a high pressure power wash to neutralise and wash away the graffiti is a specialist operation that needs to be undertaken by fully trained staff. As well as the requirement of suitable and sufficient storage of the Gel/Liquid makes made the use of these products by community volunteers not viable

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Perry Park”

Question:

“Thank you for visiting Perry Park recently. Will the cabinet member update council on plans to reopen the park and restore its facilities in time for the summer holidays following the large petition that has been collected by the local community?”

Answer:

We recognise the importance of Perry Park to the local community, and would like to reassure you that colleagues at Birmingham City Council are committed to reopening an enhanced Perry Park at the earliest opportunity.

There has however been a need to undertake works to reinstate the Park to its former condition following the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. These works are known as the ‘reinstatement works’, which are well underway and being undertaken in several packages.

Temporary fencing has been installed in the Park to ensure the safety of the public whilst the reinstatement works are undertaken. As some of the reinstatement works are now complete, we are pleased to have been able to open additional sections of the park recently, including the car park, the areas to the east of the Walsall Road Allotments and to the east of the Athletes’ Route. The hoarding line has also been adjusted to enable pedestrians to access Perry Reservoir from the Alexander Stadium, to create a circular route. At the time of compiling this answer, emails to stakeholders were scheduled to be sent on 9 June and posters erected on 12 June to provide notice of this.

The Stadium Project Team will continue to explore opportunities to open other areas of the Park as the reinstatement works progress, where it is feasible and safe to do so.

As set out in our response to the recent petition, the reinstatement works are the first step in a programme of works that will be undertaken to restore and enhance the Park. The Stadium design team are preparing proposals for enhancement works at the Alexander Stadium and Perry Park, which will be subject to public consultation between 26 June and 23 July 2023. The consultation will be an opportunity for the local community and stakeholders to

provide feedback on the proposals, including in relation to key facilities and access. Feedback will be considered in the ongoing development of the design, prior to a planning application being submitted to Birmingham City Council for consideration in late summer 2023.

E12

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Perry Park”

Question:

“How much involvement has the parks department had in the “master planning” process which I understand is currently taking place on the future of Perry Park?”

Answer:

We recognise the importance of Perry Park to the local community, and would like to reassure you that colleagues at Birmingham City Council are committed to reopening an enhanced Perry Park at the earliest opportunity.

There has however been a need to undertake works to reinstate the Park to its former condition following the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. These works are known as the ‘reinstatement works’, which are well underway and being undertaken in several packages.

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local community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposals, including in relation to key facilities and access. Feedback will be considered in the ongoing development of the design, prior to a planning application being submitted to Birmingham City Council for consideration in late summer 2023.

The project team delivering the Alexander Stadium and Perry Park legacy development is a multidisciplinary cross directorate team supported by all relevant sections of the council.

The Parks Service were involved in the preparation and delivery of the Commonwealth Games activities at Alexander Stadium and Perry Park and continue to have full involvement in the reinstatement of the park and legacy development which is embedded in to the 2040 masterplan for Perry Barr.

E13

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR ROB GRANT

“Collection of Grass Cuttings”

Question:

Why does the City Council not collect grass cuttings from the grass cuts on council land? And has the Council considered collecting council grass cuttings for use in anaerobic digestion to create green gas and energy to power homes and businesses?

Answer:

All grass is cut to specification which does not require grass to be collected the grass arising are blown back onto the area with 24 hours of being mown.

The collection of cuttings was looked at any change in contract unfortunately the cost of collecting the cuttings after each grass cut was not sustainable

The only areas where cut and collect applies is conservation areas for environmental reasons

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Oracle issues raised by staff”

Question:

By month since April 2022, how many complaints, concerns or issues were raised by staff regarding Oracle, including which area of the system this related to.

Answer:

The Council does not currently hold this information. An Independent Management Review is due to be undertaken which will look to address a range of issues including the looking at the concerns raised by staff since Oracle went ‘live’ in April 2022.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Oracle issues raised by staff”

Question:

Has the Council allowed Grant Thornton, as external auditors, to run their security check software on Oracle (as requested by them on numerous occasions since last autumn)? If so, what were the results of these?

Answer:

Grant Thornton have been granted access to the system to run their security check software on Oracle.

We are awaiting formal feedback from Grant Thornton on this.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Oracle issues raised by staff”

Question:

Please list all bespoke changes requested to the Oracle system, including the date requested, the department reporting it, and the reason for the change request?

Answer:

Included within the answer to this question are the following:

1. A schedules of PAS Extensions (Platform As a Service) – which were custom built modules for use with Oracle
2. Smaller Customisations approved the Business Design Authority

A full list of all customisations will be prepared as part of the Independent Management Review but in the meantime the information referred to above provides details of the vast majority of changes



Decision log and
PaaS extension list for

F4

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“West Midlands Forum”

Question:

Please list of payments made to West Midlands Forum or to any board member (excluding councillor allowances to bcc councillors on the board) For clarity, currently listed Board Members are

**Councillor Ian Ward (Birmingham)
Liam Byrne MP
Richard Parker
Councillor Waseem Zaffar (Birmingham)
Baron Peter Snape
Councillor Sharon Thompson (Birmingham)
Councillor Brigid Jones (Birmingham)
Valerie Vaz MP, Walsall South
Councillor Jim O’Boyle (Coventry)
Councillor Beverley Momedadi (Wolverhampton)
Colleen Fletcher MP, Coventry North East
Pat Mcfadden MP, Wolverhampton South East**

Answer:

BCC have no record of any payments for WMF or any of its board members.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Global Property

Question:

In answer to my question F3 to April Council, your predecessor stated that the reason Global Property Management Services were not listed on the Council’ Contract Register was that the contract they operated under had expired in June 2022, despite people still being placed in their properties post contract expiry. Perhaps you could explain, that being the case, why Global Property Management Services do not appear on the contract register for Quarter 1 of 22/23 or Quarter 4 of 21/22, despite them being under contract at this point and why all the companies listed in answer to question F4 as currently being under contract are not listed on the most up-to-date contract register?

Answer:

Global Property Services are no longer under any contract with the Council for the provision of temporary accommodation, however, we do currently still have a number of properties occupied from the former contractual arrangements, each property under their management that is occupied by a homeless family has a move-on plan, however, this does time take to arrange due to the limited stock that is available to us.

The Council is working closely with Global to ensure that homeless families are not placed under any risk and are working with them to move them on as soon as suitable properties become available under the new contractual arrangement.

During a complete review of our contracts register it was noted that the temporary Accommodation Solution contract had been omitted from the Register. This has now been addressed and an updated version has been added to the City Observatory.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Version 1 Oracle Support”

Question:

On what date did the contract for the Provision of an Oracle Fusion Managed Service Provider (MSP) (contract ID 7012 on the register) awarded to Version 1 at an original contract value of £2.3m appear on the Planned Procurement Activities to Cabinet and what date did it then appear on the quarterly award schedule also reported to Cabinet?

Answer:

The original Planned Procurement Activity Report for the Provision of an Oracle Fusion Managed Service Provider was taken to September 2021 Cabinet with specific “Chief Officer delegations up to the value of £10m”. Subsequently, the Award report was signed on 10th May 2022 and the award included as an award report in the October 2022 Cabinet

F7

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“1B Programme Risk Register”

Question:

On what date was the risk register for the 1B programme (Oracle) last formally reviewed and on what date was it last discussed with you either in your current or previous role (which also held cabinet level responsibility for the programme)?

Answer:

The 1B programme risk register has never formally been shared with me.

The last time the 1B risk register was updated was 29/11/2022 by the 1B Programme Management Office (PMO) Lead. The process of how the risk register is being reviewed during this programme will be addressed in the independent Management review.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“GreenSquareAccord”

Question:

By month, for each of the last 3 years, how much has the City Council paid to GreenSquareAccord?

Answer:

A breakdown of spend from the Council's Finance System for years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 to GreenSquareAccord is as follows:

Month	Total Spend
Apr-20	£420,597
May-20	£420,087
Jun-20	£408,663
Jul-20	£412,481
Aug-20	£403,460
Sep-20	£413,738
Oct-20	£404,957
Nov-20	£400,356
Dec-20	£771,821
Jan-21	£393,254
Feb-21	£387,129
Mar-21	£413,004
Apr-21	£382,147
May-21	£374,319
Jun-21	£364,987

Jul-21	£368,137
Aug-21	£365,423
Sep-21	£366,217
Oct-21	£353,117
Nov-21	£343,917
Dec-21	£674,014
Jan-22	£329,556
Feb-22	£329,922
Mar-22	£334,891
Apr-22	£0
May-22	£653
Jun-22	£76
Jul-22	£1,634
Aug-22	£707
Sep-22	£70
Oct-22	£1,806
Nov-22	£2,312
Dec-22	£0
Jan-23	£1,313
Feb-23	£0
Mar-23	£0
	<u>£9,844,765</u>

F9

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Oracle payroll”

Question:

“How many city council employees have not been paid on time? Please break this down by month since the implementation of Oracle?”

Answer:

Combined Corporate and Schools Late/Manual Payments

Month	Total Number of Manual Payments Made	Total Number Related to Underpayments	Total Number Related to None Payment
Apr-22	51	40	11
May-22	494	401	93
Jun-22	476	390	86
Jul-22	172	101	71
Aug-22	168	133	35
Sep-22	207	176	31
Oct-22	317	216	101
Nov-22	137	105	32
Dec-22	136	116	20
Jan-23	109	94	15
Feb-23	113	87	26
Mar-23	133	107	26
Apr-23	109	94	15
May-23	164	133	31
Total	2786	2,193	593

F10

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Exempt accommodation weekly housing benefit”

Question:

**What is the total current weekly housing benefit entitlement in respect of
claims for supported exempt accommodation?**

Answer:

£5,840,637.949 as at 05/06/2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

“Exempt accommodation housing benefit claims”

Question:

What is the total number of active housing benefit claims in respect of supported exempt accommodation, by month, for the current and last 4 financial years?

Answer:

Please note the caseload will fluctuate on a daily basis, the figures provided are taken at a particular moment within that corresponding month. Please see the breakdown on the attached SEA Caseload spreadsheet.



SEA%20Caseload%20-%20Last%204%20y

G

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Small Heath Leisure Centre”

Question:

“Do we have timeframe as to when the Swimming Pool at Small Heath Leisure Centre will be repaired? As I am sure you would agree 7 years without Swimming Pool facility in a deprived area is only adding to health inequalities.”

Answer:

Work has continued in liaison with Acivico to develop an Outline Business Case for the necessary work to reopen the swimming pool, and a report for the detailed design and pre-construction phase will be presented to Cabinet for approval in July.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Central Heating”

Question:

What is the total number and percentage of council properties with no central heating, broken down by ward?

Answer:

The total number of properties across the city with no central heating i.e. a gas fire or single heat source only is 288.

The ward breakdown is as follows within repairs contract area.

East	63
Acocks Green	3
Alum Rock	1
Billesley	1
Bordesley & Highgate	2
Bordesley Green	1
Bromford & Hodge Hill	4
Garretts Green	7
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	12
Hall Green North	1
Hall Green South	1
Heartlands	3
Moseley	1
North Edgbaston	1
Shard End	5
Sheldon	2

Small Heath	2
South Yardley	2
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	5
Sparkhill	1
Tyseley & Hay Mills	5
Ward End	2
Yardley West & Stechford	1

North 42

Erdington	1
Gravelly Hill	1
Kingstanding	13
Perry Common	12
Pype Hayes	5
Stockland Green	4
Sutton Mere Green	1
Sutton Reddicap	3
Sutton Trinity	1
Sutton Vesey	1

South 153

Allens Cross	10
Bartley Green	15
Billesley	16
Bournbrook & Selly Park	1
Brandwood & King's Heath	7
Harborne	11
Highter's Heath	7
King's Norton North	29
King's Norton South	3
Longbridge & West Heath	9
North Edgbaston	1
Northfield	3
Quinton	10
Rubery & Rednal	8
Stirchley	4
Weoley & Selly Oak	19

West & Central 30

Aston	4
Birchfield	3
Bordesley & Highgate	3

Bordesley Green	1
Handsworth	2
Moseley	1
Nechells	3
Newtown	1
North Edgbaston	2
Oscott	3
Perry Barr	2
Small Heath	1
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	4
Grand Total	288

The council has communicated with the customers in these homes offering to install central heating as part of our capital programmes. In each case all have refused the offer due to either disruption or customer's age.

Should the customer reconsider or the property becomes vacant, we will install the heating system.

All these properties are included in the ECO4 scheme where we aim to have first time heating installed. If customers permit these works to proceed then their homes will improve thermal efficiency by a minimum of 2 EPC bands, for example from a Band E to C.

H2

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION H2 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO
QUESTION F10

H3

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION H3 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO
QUESTION F11

H4

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“RSH action plan”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the 'robust' action plan produced to fix issues identified in the recent report from the Regulator of Social Housing

Answer:

Please find attached the compliance action plan that is reported to the Compliance Board who are responsible for tracking progress against these actions.

[230607 v2.1 Regulatory Compliance - Action Plan](#)

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

“KPIs and service standards”

Question:

Please provide details of KPIs and service standards on electrical safety testing and asbestos surveys within the repairs and maintenance contracts for council housing, including performance against these for the last 4 years

Answer:

Our contractual KPI measures electrical tests completed within timescales. The current performance is 81.9% as of May 2023 for 2023/4.

% Electrical Tests Completed Within Timescale	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
NORTH	90.9%	86.3%	80.5%	79.2%
ERDINGTON	89.6%	79.9%	79.7%	77.8%
SUTTON	94.3%	79.1%	84.2%	83.3%
EAST	96.4%	100.0%	100.0%	99.7%
HALL_GREEN	98.2%	100.0%	100.0%	99.4%
HODGE_HILL	97.6%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%
YARDLEY	94.7%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%
WEST/CENTRAL	98.9%	99.9%	100.0%	99.8%
LADYWOOD	98.8%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%
PERRY_BARR	99.1%	99.7%	100.0%	100.0%
SOUTH	96.0%	98.1%	99.6%	99.3%
EDGBASTON	96.8%	98.3%	99.6%	99.6%
NORTHFIELD	95.3%	97.6%	99.7%	99.1%
SELLY_OAK	96.6%	98.3%	99.2%	99.4%
Grand Total	96.1%	97.0%	95.8%	96.5%

NB: This KPI shows where contractors were issued with electrical test works and they completed on time.

Asbestos

There is no KPI for asbestos surveys with the repairs contractors as they do not carry out that work. Our asbestos programme is carried out by Birmingham City Laboratories (BCL).

28.77% of BCC properties have completed management surveys. However, we are working to increase the levels of data accuracy as we are aware that more surveys have been carried out. We have an agreed programme in place to complete the remaining surveys within the next 12 months.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Fire Risk Assessments”

Question:

On 28 June 22, your predecessor presented a report to cabinet providing an update on building and fire safety. Within that a risk labelled as ‘Failure to undertake Fire Risk Assessments and action works identified’ was rated as ‘low’ for both likelihood and impact. It claimed that FRA programmes were monitored weekly. Given the Regulator Social Housing has now found that there are over 1000 fire risk assessments overdue, do you believe that the information presented by your predecessor gave a dangerously misleading view of the current situation that contributed to the failings found? If not, in what way was that statement justified at the time it was made?

Answer:

Having reviewed the report, it relates to High Rise Residential Buildings (HRRB's). Specifically, the need to prioritise safety in HRRB's and the risks relating to those buildings. It also refers to the up-and-coming safety bill and the need for building safety cases for each of our HRRB's that must comply with the Building Safety Regulations.

Regarding the specific points I'd comment as follows.

- 1. Monitoring of FRA programme;** Our review of historical FRA related information indicates that the FRA programme has not been managed/monitored as effectively as the data showed. The statement/misunderstanding may have arisen because of previous systems and processes which were in place at the time where some data needed cleansing and reconciling. Our records and programme have now been fully updated.

2. **1000 overdue FRAs;** As part of our data cleansing exercise, we have identified some assessments that were not handed over through the demobilisation of the previous Wates contract. In addition, lower levels of completions across the city in the required period resulted in the overdue position on low-rise buildings only. This has been addressed with the engagement of additional capacity in the supply chain and a programme collated to ensure programme compliance within 12 months.
3. **Misleading;** There was no intention to present any misleading statements, reports were made based on the data and knowledge at the time. Expert resources, knowledge and systems were not in place historically, officers have since carried out in-depth analysis of the data quality and are now able to be confident of the validity of the information as well as more accurate and robust monitoring.

H7

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY

“Fire Safety Low rise block profiles”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the fire safety low rise block profiles for all low-rise buildings with communal entrances (NB for clarify these are the profiles that the June 22 cabinet report stated were in the process of being developed)

Answer:

Part of understanding the Fire Risk Assessment programme associated to low-risk properties required a complete review of the stock profile. This has been conducted and completed.

To ensure we are complying with the requirements and improved data quality, our initial focus was on high and medium rise block profiles which will then be used as a template for the low-rise blocks.

We are continuing to cleanse data and will have profiles based on risk when this is fully completed.

We aim to have completed the programme by June 2024.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

“Decent Homes target date”

Question:

Your predecessor, supported by labour councillors in a vote at full council, previously refused requests from the Conservative Group to set a target of achieving Decent Homes Standards for all properties by 2026, by what date do you believe you will achieve this standard?

Answer:

To accurately assess meeting the current Decent Homes Standard, extensive stock data is required.

We have low levels of stock data which is outdated. We are now accelerating stock condition surveys and cleansing our data. It will take 5 years to provide an accurate position as we intend to survey 20% of our homes each year. We are currently utilising Ark consultancy to collate data from different sources to establish the level of decency we currently report.

Our current level of decency is reported at 61% and this reflects the lack of investment in homes historically. Future investment requirements are being prepared for approval in the new HRA business plan. This will be considered by Cabinet in October 2023. Subject to approval and further data cleansing then the earliest opportunity to meet decency standards will be 2029/2030.

This may change and take longer depending on when the new decency standard is implemented by the government.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE

“RSH correspondence”

Question:

Please provide copies of all correspondence with the Regulator of Social Housing since April 2022

Answer:

Please see below correspondence with the Regulator of Social Housing relating to the recently published regulatory notice.

Email from RSH to BCC 30th January 2023



Word%20copy%20o
f%20email%20from%



20230130 Regulator
Enquiry to Birmingham

Email from BCC to RSH 9th February 2023



DeborahCadman_09
0223_responsetoRSH

Email from RSH to BCC 16th February 2023



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f%20Email%20from%

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

“Overdue tests and assessments”

Question:

Of the 17000 overdue Asbestos surveys, 15500, electrical safety checks and 1000 fire risk assessments identified by the RSH report, how many of each have now been completed and by what date do you expect to have cleared the backlog?

Answer:

Asbestos: Our statutory requirement is to conduct the following asbestos surveys across all applicable communal areas.

East	North	South	West/Central	(TBC)	Total
677	218	961	381	220	2457

The reported volume of 17000 includes domestic properties which do not need an asbestos survey. We'll be clarifying this with the regulator at our monitoring meeting in July.

A schedule is now in place to conduct all surveys within 12 months for the communal areas which is a regulatory requirement.

Electrical: There are currently 10600 electrical certificates in this year's programme due to be completed by the end of 2023-24 which will bring us to a fully compliant position of 100%. Our current compliance level is 81.9%. This has improved by 7% following data cleansing and updates. We have also now changed our approach to complete all Code 1&2 repairs on the first visit which reduces the need for repeat visits and increases the level of satisfactory certificates at the first visit.

FRAs: As part of our data cleansing exercise, we have identified some assessments that were not handed over through the demobilisation of the previous Wates contract. In addition, lower levels of completions across the city in the required period resulted in the overdue position on low-rise buildings only. This has been addressed with the engagement of additional capacity in the supply chain and a programme collated to ensure programme compliance within 12 months.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD PARKIN

“Fire incidents”

Question:

Since 2012 how many fire incidents have there been at Council properties, in which an up to date fire risk assessment was not in place?

Answer:

In the last five years, there were 383 recorded fire incidents across our properties, 10 in tower blocks and 373 in domestic properties.

Of the tower blocks, no incidents occurred in any block without an up-to-date fire risk assessment.

The recent external fire we experienced recently affecting one of our low-rise homes did have an FRA in place.

We are not aware of any incidents in low rise blocks without FRA's. Risk is mitigated by regular inspections of the estate by our caretaking teams.

H12

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY

“Housing Providers in Exempt”

Question:

Please list all housing providers the council has used to place people in exempt accommodation

Answer:

The below list of housing providers is not an exhaustive one. We are in the process of implementing a ‘preferred provider list’ of registered providers and managing agents that have either received a Supported Exempt Accommodation Quality Standard Award or are awaiting assessment. Providers have until 13 June 2023 to pay the Quality Standard Accreditation fee and complete the application form.

- Alphapark Limited
- Ash-Shahada Housing Association Ltd
- Amber Supported Housing CIC
- Big Mommas Housing
- Birmingham Supported Housing Limited
- Concept Housing Association CIC
- Custodian Supported Housing Cic
- Easy Housing Association
- Enable Housing
- Future First Supported Living Limited
- Greensquare Accord Limited
- Harmony Housing
- HQH Group LTD
- Hyde Housing
- IG Housing
- Inspired Housing Limited
- KD Housing and Support Limited
- Living Well Supported Housing

- Mattys Place CIC
- Miracle Housing
- M D Supported Housing
- Non Violentiam CIC
- NACRO
- New Life Housing Limited
- Nexus Housing Ltd
- Oak Leaf Housing LTD
- Odara housing
- Pegasus Supported Housing Limited
- Reliance Social Housing CIC
- Saif Social & Healthcare Homes Limited
- Second City Housing
- Stepstone Housing Limited
- Sustain UK Ltd
- The Salvation Army
- Trident Housing Association Ltd
- Umbrella Housing Limited
- Vanguard Supported Housing C.I.C/Vanguard Direct Limited
- 3CHA

H13

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Council Houses”

Question:

In each year since 2012 what was the total number of Council Homes owned by the council?

Answer:

Year	Number of Residential Properties
2012	65448
2013	65121
2014	64522
2015	63779
2016	63652
2017	62904
2018	62321
2019	61673
2020	60763
2021	60300
2022	59720
2023	59189

H14

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

“Landlord licences – impact on tenant”

Question:

“What benefits, improvements and costs can tenants expect from their landlord as a result of the licensing, that are not covered by existing legislation?”

Answer:

Without a Selective Licensing designation being approved, powers under housing legislation do not provide a means of identifying privately rented property except for larger houses in multiple occupation (5 occupants or more) which require a mandatory licence.

Therefore, responding to poor property conditions and poor management in the majority of private rented properties is a largely reactive response. It relies heavily on complaints from tenants and neighbours to identify privately rented properties which are in poor condition, overcrowded and badly managed.

Birmingham’s Selective Licensing Scheme covers 25 wards in Birmingham with high levels of private rented sector properties and high levels of deprivation and/or crime.

It is likely that tenants within these wards are from deprived communities who may well be unwilling to make complaints for fear of losing their homes or indeed may not know their housing rights.

Indoor living environment is one of the domains within the Index for Multiple Deprivation which is used to establish deprivation. This indoor living environment is one of the issues that the Council seeks to address with the introduction of Selective Licensing.

Licensing a property will enable us to set and monitor standards of homes. The implementation of the scheme will promote access to services to tenants. Firstly, tenants will be aware that there is a service there to help them with the condition of their home. Secondly, if services are accessed, officers can signpost the tenant to other services that may benefit them such as welfare benefit advice and social services. Thirdly, by increasing trust in authority, it builds a relationship where those in need will ask for help to enable them to build independence and resilience.

It is expected that by addressing poor living conditions that wards within the designation will show improvements in their deprivation ranking when compared to other wards over the period of the scheme.

The Selective Licensing Scheme will dovetail with crime interventions driven by neighbourhood policing and our Community Safety Local Partnership Delivery Groups which seek to resolve local issues through a partnership approach.

Selective licensing encourages the development of effective intelligence gathering mechanisms to support compliance by identifying unlicensed properties and then targeting those problematic properties.

It promotes joint working within the Council and other agencies – fire and rescue services, police, border control/immigration, social services and HMRC. The scheme will ensure that the Council is aware of property management information that can be utilised to ensure a holistic and speedy response to any crime related issue emanating from, or impacting on, a particular property or neighbourhood.

The licence conditions will require landlords/managing agents to be proactive in managing antisocial behaviour related to the property. We believe this additional tool of licensing will enable crime to be tackled more effectively with positive outcomes for tenants and the community.

The Council will use enforcement powers to target the worst landlords, agents, properties and neighbourhoods, and introduce selective licensing in target areas and work with West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service on enforcing standards in the private rented sector.

Improving standards will hopefully lead to more stable communities, living in better accommodation that enables all tenants to reach their potential especially children.

In terms of costs, we do not expect an impact on tenants from the licence fee. The fee is £700 for a 5-year period. This amounts to £2.69 a week. An independent review of the use and effectiveness of selective licensing was commissioned by Government in 2019 and analysis of Valuation Office Agency data on private rent levels in licensed areas did not support the claim that licensing has had a demonstrable effect on rent levels.

H15

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Landlord licences – benefits”

Question:

“Dept to deliver selective licencing programme. Breakdown of staff being employed and how far we have got in recruiting them? How many staff have been recruited?”

Answer:

The staffing across the Selective Licensing Scheme is split into two main areas the administration of the scheme and its compliance. As the scheme became a legal requirement on the 5 June, the recruitment focus has been on the administration part of the workforce. Please see a breakdown below:

Position	Expected		Recruited	
	Admin	Compliance	Admin	Compliance
Head of Service		1		1
Service Manager	1	2	1	2
Team Leader	8	2	6	0
Licensing Officer	68	-	14	-
Enforcement Officer	-	8	-	0
Compliance Officer	-	12	-	0

The recruitment process is ongoing and will continue until the Service is sufficiently resourced.

The service is confident that the current number of licence officers are able to determine the number of licence applications being made.

Recruitment of compliance and enforcement officers is being dovetailed with the commencement of these activities which is scheduled to be in September 2023.

H16

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

“Temporary accommodation”

Question:

“Please provide full contact details of the management team who manage Bescot Court and Oscott Gardens in Perry Barr.”

Answer:

Oscott Gardens has staff on site 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.
Please email: oscottgardensenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk - this inbox is monitored daily, 7 days a week and responses are provided within 72 hours.
Bescot Court, is self-contained accommodation with no staff on site.
Temporary Accommodation support staff work alongside families that are placed there. For any enquiries, please email TAEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
We are happy to provide officer contact details separately.

H17

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ROB GRANT

“Council Housing Repairs Reporting”

Question:

How do council housing maintenance contractors report their progress and completion of their housing repair jobs? How do the contractors check the work they have done? And how are these audited by the Council itself to check that these have been done to a sufficient standard?

Answer:

Council housing maintenance contractors report their progress and completion of housing repair jobs on their own systems using hand-held devices by operative. These updates are then interfaced into our housing systems which our staff can view as well as our agents in the contact centre.

Work in progress and outstanding jobs are monitored daily through automated reports by officers in the asset management repairs teams to ensure jobs outstanding are effectively monitored and actions taken.

The contractors check the work they have done through their own audit regime which includes a combination of work in progress audits and completions audits. Our contract specifies the audit regime the contractor is to follow which includes set percentages.

These are audited by the Council to ensure jobs have been done to a sufficient standard through our own post inspection audit based upon a random sample. The percentage carried out will vary depending upon work type and resources, we currently carry out 10% sample on repairs and 100% on voids.

The scope of our repairs post inspections for example covers quality of workmanship, the necessity of the work undertaken and the accuracy of the Contractor's administration, customer satisfaction and data recording, including payments and performance indicators.

We are checking the root cause of complaints to understand the origin and issues so we can further develop solutions to reduce the level of repair complaints we receive.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Public Art Review”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the internal public art review, reportedly carried out in 2020 used to assess "what could be identified by protagonists as having links with the transatlantic slave trade or colonialism"

Answer:

There was an internal review carried out in 2020 which sought to identify any high risk statues and monuments due to their association with colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade. The information collated is attached.



BCC Public Art statue
review June 2020.xls

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Street lights”

Question:

What is the total energy usage of streetlights (kWh) in each year since 2004?

Answer:

The City’s records of energy usage of streetlights can be tracked back to 2012/13, and the total usage for each financial year is shown in the table below.

Please note that from the year 2017/18 there was a change in the reporting of energy usage to include all Highways electrical assets, including streetlights, traffic signals etc, which is the reason for an increase in recorded consumption.

The figures provided from 12/13 to 16/17 inclusive are for streetlighting only. The City is currently recording an average 2% reduction of energy usage year-on-year.

2022/23	Customer Total	kWh	47,326,509
2021/22	Customer Total	kWh	48,312,975
2020/21	Customer Total	kWh	48,699,416
2019/20	Customer Total	kWh	49,761,056
2018/19	Customer Total	kWh	50,833,239
2017/18	Customer Total	kWh	51,713,678
2016/17	Customer Total	kWh	45,041,555
2015/16	Customer Total	kWh	45,915,582
2014/15	Customer Total	kWh	46,408,079
2013/14	Customer Total	kWh	48,604,843
2012/13	Customer Total	kWh	49,864,756

J2

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Blocked drains”

Question:

“Kier used to commit to visiting drainage sites within 12 weeks. This now appears to have extended to 16 weeks as evidenced in recent written communications. Why the delay?”

Answer:

Under the current Interim Services Contract the Council’s sub-contractor, Kier, are required to attend all blocked gully enquiries/requests within 24 weeks. However, they are usually able to perform above this contractual timeframe and often attend earlier. Kier’s customer response will attempt to provide an approximate timescale for attendance based on the drainage team’s current workloads which is why different, varying timeframes will get quoted.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“School Crossing Patrols”

Question:

“With the expansion of the Car Free School Streets programme a recent request has been made for volunteer stewards to help manage the schemes. The aim of car-free school streets is to close the road outside the school to traffic at the beginning and end of the school day. Has any consideration been made to utilise or recruit school crossing patrol wardens for this role?

Please provide a job description for the school crossing patrol wardens.”

Answer:

Currently there is insufficient capacity within the school crossing patrol service to redeploy staff without adversely affecting existing provision.

At present we feel that volunteer stewards offers the most sustainable approach to supporting the physical closure aspect of Car Free School Streets, but will continue to consider other options as they arise including learning from other authorities.

Please find attached the Job Description for School Crossing Patrol Warden.



JD School Crossing
Patrol September 20

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Ladypool Road”

Question:

“Please list the times and dates when parking enforcement officers have visited Ladypool Road, Moseley in the past year, as well as the number of fixed penalties including the type of offence, issued during that period.”

Answer:

Civil Enforcement Officers patrolled Ladypool Road (entire length) a total of 740 times between 01/06/2022–31/05/2023, an average of 61 patrols per month in which they logged and observed 1790 vehicles in contravention, resulting in 512 Penalty Charge Notices being issued.

Whilst some contraventions can be immediately issued, others require a grace period of at least 5 minutes which sometimes results in the vehicle moving, avoiding receipt of a Penalty Charge Notice.

Contravention	PCNs Issued
01 - Parked on Yellow Lines	358
02 - Parked where loading restrictions apply (Yellow Lines)	11
25 - Parked in a Loading Bay	1
26 - Parked more than 50cms from kerb	1
27 - Parked on a dropped kerb	3
30F - Parked longer than permitted	4
46N - Parked on Red Route	63
47 - Parked in a Bus Stop	2
49 - Parked in a Cycle Lane	8
99 - Parked on Pedestrian Crossing	61
Total	512

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Aston Villa match day parking”

Question:

“Please provide a log of the streets that have been patrolled on Aston Villa match days over the past 12 months. Please include the roads covered on each outing, the number of penalties issued per session and any other useful information on trends in parking issues over that period.

Some feedback from the patrollers on issues they are seeing on the ground would be interesting.”

Answer:

The below shows the roads patrolled during each home match at Aston Villa. We have spoken with our Enforcement Contractor who have informed us that the Civil Enforcement Officers have encountered only general parking issues whilst enforcing, such as parking on double yellow lines, parking across pedestrian crossing dropped kerbs and parking in permit bays without displaying a permit etc.

CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2023

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

“Bus lane at six ways island”

Question:

**“How many fines have been issued at the junction of six ways island in
Lozells, from breaching the bus lane marked on the right of that junction.”**

Answer:

The bus lane on the A34 Birchfield Road/Mansfield Road is part of the A34 Sprint Bus Lanes Scheme – Walsall to Birmingham which is to be enforced by the City Council using cameras.

The camera in this location is due to be calibrated over the next four to six weeks, following which there will be an enforcement launch. In view of this, no Penalty Charge Notices have yet been issued in this location to date.