

CITY COUNCIL – 1 DECEMBER 2015

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A. To the Leader of the Council

1. Hit the Road.....

From Councillor Bob Beauchamp

2. London Bound

From Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn

3. Jumping the Gun.....

From Councillor Gary Sambrook

4.Can Cause Regret

From Councillor Ron Storer

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

1. Closures

From Councillor Ron Storer

3. How much for that school in the window

From Councillor John Alden

4. It takes a whole lot of money

From Councillor Robert Alden

C To the Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy

1. Heritage Vandalism

From Councillor Timothy Huxtable

2. Lighting

From Councillor Gareth Moore

3. Fix the Potholes

From Councillor Ron Storer

4. Cross Town Traffic

From Councillor Gary Sambrook

D To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

TB

From Councillor Lyn Collin

E To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes

1. Repairs

From Councillor Gary Sambrook

2. Void Management

From Councillor Robert Alden

3. In my Neighbourhood

From Councillor Timothy Huxtable

F To the Cabinet Member for Sustainability

1. Incidents of Flytipping Clearances

From Councillor Jon Hunt

2. My Old Man Recycles

From Councillor Timothy Huxtable

3. And Refuse under a Christmas Tree

From Councillor Robert Alden

4. The Long winding recycling road

From Councillor Gary Sambrook

5. Rubbish

From Councillor Ron Storer

6. Don't just leave it there

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

7. Sweep it Up

From Councillor Gareth Moore

8. Graffiti on the Walls

From Councillor Bob Beauchamp

G To the Cabinet Member for Skills, Learning and Culture
Libraries

From Councillor Gary Sambrook

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“Hit the Road”

Question:

When will the current Leader (as at 26th November 2015) of the Council be moving out of the Leader’s office?

Answer:

As soon as practicable, with an understanding with the Leader-elect of the Council – but not at the whimsical dictat of the Conservative Opposition Group.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

“London Bound”

Question:

The Leader elect spent 25th November 2015 in London. What meetings did he have in London?

Answer:

That is a matter for the Leader-elect.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

“Jumping the Gun.....”

Question:

Prior to 24th November 2015, how many meetings had the Leader’s Office arranged for the new Leader elect to attend, following the result of the Labour Leadership Election?

Answer:

None. All preparatory work for the Leader-elect has been arranged by officers within the Chief Executive’s office.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“....Can Cause Regret”

Question:

From 00:01 on 24th November 2015, how many meetings have the Leader's Office cancelled, which had been arranged for the new Leader to attend in the days and weeks post the Labour Group Elections?

Answer:

At the request of the Chief Executive, the Leader's office cancelled the introductory meetings pencilled in with the leaders of the two opposition groups that were scheduled for Wednesday 25th November due to the Leader-elect having arranged a meeting in London at the same time.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Closures”

Question:

How many swimming pools/leisure centres have closed per year since 1999?

Answer:

Harborne Pool was closed and replaced with a new facility in 2012, which has been very well received.

Sparkhill Pool was closed in 2008. A replacement has been procured through the Leisure Framework, the site has been cleared and the new build will begin in the new year with an opening date programme for May 2017.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

“How much for that school in the window”

Question:

Could the Deputy Leader advise what was the final sale price for Martineau Centre?

Answer:

The final land sale receipt for the Martineau Centre was £13,368,321.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

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

“It takes a whole lot of money”

Question:

How many staff have a ‘charge card’ including the total amount spent on those cards, listed for each financial year since 2011/12?

Answer:

The table below shows the number of procurement cards in issue and the total amount spent using those cards in each of the last 4 financial years. These cards are used for the payment of goods and services under £500.

Within the total, there are 12 cards designated travel expense cards. The total expenditure on these cards in 2014/15 was £9,693.59.

Directorate	Pcards	Spend	Transactions	Average Transaction value
2011/12	876	£2,056,502.85	25845	79.57
2012/13	904	£2,250,347.42	23012	97.79
2013/14	845	£3,885,847.59	23816	163.16
2014/15	738	£5,929,044.85	25491	232.59

Cardholders – the number of cards in issue has reduced from 876 in 2011/12 to 738 last year

The volume of transactions – the number of transactions has increased because we have encouraged directorates to use a procurement card to pay for goods and services under £500, in preference to requesting an invoice. Payment by card is more cost effective than processing a paper invoice.

The turnover through the cards – turnover through the cards increased in 2013/14 and 2014/15 when Local Welfare grants to vulnerable young adults, moving out of care and into the community, started to be administered by the Council. The Council eliminated delays in providing white goods to these service users, which was previously a barrier to them moving into accommodation, by paying the supplier by procurement card.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY
HUXTABLE**

“Heritage Vandalism”

Question:

On the pavement along Sycamore Road, Bournville (part of the Bournville Village Conservation Area) there used to be a ‘heritage’ school crossing sign, unique to Birmingham.

Amey Birmingham Highways Limited was asked to refurbish this sign, but instead replaced the sign with a standard modern school crossing sign and scrapped the heritage school crossing sign, which I can only describe as an act of ‘heritage vandalism’.

Councillor Rob Sealey and I have asked for a replica heritage school crossing sign to be commissioned and installed on Bournville Village Green with the permission of Bournville Village Trust. However, Amey Birmingham Highways Limited have refused to supply such a sign even though admitting their error and apologising for scrapping this unique, heritage school crossing sign.

Would the Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy agree with me that this is an act of heritage vandalism and instruct Amey Birmingham Highways Limited to install a replica heritage school crossing sign on Bournville Village Green?

Answer:

The sign in question could not be maintained on highway due to it failing to comply with regulations. Amey had intended to retain this old sign, but it was inadvertently discarded after its removal. Amey has apologised and is hopeful that an equivalent sign can be found which can be refurbished and presented to Bournville Village Trust. Amey wrote to you with regard to this matter in November saying:

“Following the removal and replacement of the old school children crossing sign and its replacement with a new compliant traffic sign, we have undertaken an extensive search to try to obtain a similar sign that Bournville Village Trust could keep as a heritage item. Regrettably, we have so far been unable to locate an equivalent sign anywhere in the UK. We have requests placed with colleagues in other highway contracts and with our sign supplier, and are hopeful that we will still be able to locate one and to obtain it for you. We have

considered manufacturing a replica but as there is no longer a pattern for such signs and the exact materials they were manufactured from are not readily available, a replica would only give a representation of the original sign and this would have little heritage value.”

It is pity that you did not raise this with me sooner, rather than waiting to raise this matter at Council. Earlier action may have saved the original sign.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE****“Lighting”****Question:**

What was the average time taken to repair a broken street light listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

Records are available from the commencement of the Highway Maintenance and Management PFI contract in June 2010.

The following street light repair times apply for calendar years 2010 (part year) - 2015 (end October).

Year	Average Repair Time (days)
June 2010 Onwards	3.68
2011	4.40
2012	3.40
2013	2.53
2014	2.26
2015 (up to Oct 15)	2.46

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Fix the Potholes”

Question:

What was the average time taken to fill potholes listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

Records are available from the commencement of the Highway Maintenance and Management PFI contract in June 2010.

The following pothole repair times apply for calendar years 2010 (part year) - 2015 (to date). Pothole repairs are grouped under two categories:

Category 1 Defects – requiring prompt attention because they represent an immediate or imminent hazard, or because there is a risk to short term structural deterioration.

Category 2 Defects – all other defects

Year	Category 1 Full repair (days)	Category 2 (days)
2010	27	48
2011	10	116
2012	2	31
2013	4	38
2014	22	71
2015	7	49

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

“Cross Town Traffic”

Question:

What was the average time lost to congestion listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

The City Council does not undertake annual monitoring of average time lost to congestion. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the Local Transport Plan morning peak journey speeds on the metropolitan wide local authority 'A' road network are monitored. Monitoring shows that since 2007/08 there has been a slight deterioration in traffic speeds. This is an aggregated figure for the metropolitan area.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

“TB”

Question:

How many newly diagnosed cases of TB were there in Birmingham in the last 18 months?

Answer:

01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014 = 319

01/01/2015 – 30/06/2015 = 136

Total = 455

Please note this figure is provisional and will possibly change after further notifications and denotifications are made early next year.

There is a difficulty in getting more up-to-date data as requested ('the last 18 mths'), because the more recent the data the more incomplete it may be. This is due to late notifications, and reporting of suspected cases that are then unconfirmed.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**“Repairs”****Question:****What is average length of time for repairs to be completed listed by year since 1999?****Answer:**

Data has been provided in relation to 2005 – 2015. Unfortunately, the IT system (Northgate) that the data is generated from did not go live until January 2005. To retrieve data prior to that date would require access to archived data in old IT systems which would be a complex task and take considerable resource and cannot be generated within the timescale to answer the question.

	City - average days taken to complete a repair
2005/06	Data not available(due to technical issue)
2006/07	9.7
2007/08	9.2
2008/09	7.0
2009/10	Data not available (due to technical issues)
2010/11	7.1
2011/12	9.2
2012/13	8.7
2013/14	11.1
2014/15	12.1
2015 to Oct 15	12.4

From 2012/13 the average time taken to complete a repair increased due to the introduction of an improved service to the customer by giving them the choice of booking a repair appointment outside of target timescale.

Response to repairs are now also measured in terms of emergency and routine repairs and the data over recent years has been made publically available.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

“Void Management”

Question:

What was the average time taken to fill void properties listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

Data has been provided in relation to 2005 – 2015. Unfortunately, the IT system (Northgate) that the data is generated from, did not go live until January 2005. To retrieve data prior to that date would require access to archived data in old IT systems which would be a complex task and take considerable resource and cannot be generated within the timescale to answer the question.

	City - average no of days taken to re-let a property
2005/06	54.1
2006/07	45.3
2007/08	35.0
2008/09	45.4
2009/10	47.0
2010/11	49.2
2011/12	40.4
2012/13	34.4
2013/14	37.9
2014/15	38.0
2015 to Oct 15	30.1

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

“In my neighbourhood”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes reproduce the Neighbourhood Management map, which mapped natural neighbourhoods within the Selly Oak Constituency and was adopted by the Selly Oak Constituency Committee?

Answer:

The mapping exercise to which Councillor Huxtable refers was undertaken around a decade ago and approved by the former Selly Oak Constituency Committee.

I understand that the present Selly Oak District Committee, established in 2012, has not considered these maps. It is a matter for Committee Members to decide whether they would like to reproduce the map to take account of the changes that have taken place in the District over the last ten years.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

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

"Incidents of Flytipping Clearances"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member set out how many incidents of flytipping clearances the Council has reported monthly, over the last three years, setting them alongside monthly reports of flytipping?

Answer:

Fly-tipping 2013	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reports	503	1258	972	1037	1053
Incidents	1114	1435	1220	1397	1233

Fly-tipping 2014	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reports	1158	939	1279	1490	1650	2020	2211	1629	1539	1126	1074	1271
Incidents	1334	1164	1457	1313	1231	1456	1281	1561	1190	1065	865	1064

Fly-tipping 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Reports	1667	1549	3510	2871	2718	4475	5666	3242	3169	3388
Incidents	1159	1016	1002	1075	1059	1192	1202			

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

“My Old Man Recycles”

Question:

In the Weekly Waste Collection Scheme (WWCS) (successful) application of 2012 for grant funding, Birmingham City Council committed to the introducing of both

- i) Weekly recycling collections for 100,000 properties within Birmingham which had the greatest propensity to recycle; and**
- ii) The roll out of a recycling incentivisation scheme, as piloted with great success in Bournville, Cotteridge and Kings Norton and Erdington.**

Could the Cabinet Member update me on progress to date with regard to the implementation of the above and whether it is still the Cabinet Member's intention to introduce these collection schemes?

Answer:

In September 2013 Cabinet agreed a phased plan for the roll-out of wheelie bins across the City; this has been completed on time with over 330,000 households now using wheelie bin services for refuse and recycling collection services.

Further considerations relating to recycling collection frequencies and recycling incentivisation are being dealt with as part of the Future Council Cases for Change.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

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

“And Refuse under a Christmas Tree”

Question:

What arrangements are being made for people to recycle their Christmas Trees, wrapping paper/boxes and extra household waste over the Christmas period?

Answer:

The Council recognises that during the festive period households tend to produce more waste and residents' support in helping to keep the streets of Birmingham litter and rubbish free over the busy holiday period is greatly appreciated. The arrangements being made by the Council to support this are:

As in previous years, real Christmas trees will be accepted until the end of January 2016 at Woodgate Country Park, Lickey Hills Country Park, Sheldon Country Park and Sutton Park.

They will also be accepted at each of the City's five Household Recycling Centres.

In addition, St Mary's Hospice will, for a small donation, be collecting Christmas trees on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th January in the following postcode areas in Birmingham: B13 Moseley, B14 Kings Heath, B15 Edgbaston, B17 Harborne, B28 Hall Green, B30 Bournville, B29 Selly Oak/Selly Park, B31 Northfield, B38 Kings Norton, B27 Acocks Green, B26 Yardley.

For details of this service please visit:

<https://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/appeal/treecycling>

For those residents with wheelie bins, reasonable amounts of extra household waste will be collected if presented in bags at the side of the rubbish bin.

Excess paper and cardboard recycling will be collected if bundled securely with string and presented alongside the recycling wheelie bin.

Birmingham's five Household Recycling Centres will be open over the festive period (with exception of from Christmas Day and Boxing 25 and 26 December) and there are over 400 on-street recycling bank sites around the City, together with recycling provision at a range of local supermarkets.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

“The long winding recycling road”

Question:

What is the annual recycling rate for the City refuse collection listed by year since 1998/99 to present day?

Answer:

Annual % Recycling rate	Year
5.35%	1998/1999
6.52%	1999/2000
7.43%	2000/2001
8.37%	2001/2002
12.16%	2002/2003
15.30%	2003/2004
17.68%	2004/2005
17.03%	2005/2006
18.39%	2006/2007
26.81%	2007/2008
30.59%	2008/2009
31.78%	2009/2010
31.43%	2010/2011
31.28%	2011/2012
32.31%	2012/2013
31.67%	2013/2014
29.40%	2014/2015

It is to be noted that NI indicators were introduced at the end of 2007 and so the reporting for this was carried out differently prior to this point.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

“Rubbish”

Question:

What is the amount of waste sent to landfill, listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

% waste sent to landfill	Year
38.26%	2000/2001
29.71%	2001/2002
16.47%	2002/2003
25.67%	2003/2004
19.83%	2004/2005
18.39%	2005/2006
21.32%	2006/2007
16.02%	2007/2008
14.30%	2008/2009
12.28%	2009/2010
10.38%	2010/2011
4.92%	2011/2012
7.48%	2012/2013
7.68%	2013/2014
5.59%	2014/2015

Due to the fact that the NI indicators were introduced at the end of 2007 and therefore the reporting was carried out differently, it has not been possible to provide the information prior to 2000/2001.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

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

“Don’t just leave it there”

Question:

What was the percentage of land and highways with unacceptable levels of litter listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

Unsatisfactory % Litter	Year
2.67	2008/09
1.61	2009/10
3.17	2010/11
3.67	2011/12
3.10	2012/13
4.57	2013/14
5.90	2014/15

Data prior to this is not currently available but will be provided separately as soon as possible.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

“Sweep it Up”

Question:

What was the percentage of land and highways with unacceptable levels of detritus listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

Unsatisfactory % Detritus	Year
8.50	2008/09
8.61	2009/10
7.90	2010/11
10.99	2011/12
10.04	2012/13
12.06	2013/14
11.04	2014/15

Data prior to this is not currently available but will be provided separately as soon as possible.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“Graffiti on the Walls”

Question:

What was the percentage of land and highways with unacceptable levels of graffiti listed by year since 1999?

Answer:

Unsatisfactory % Graffiti	Year
12.67	2008/09
8.78	2009/10
5.28	2010/11
6.95	2011/12
6.67	2012/13
5.19	2013/14
6.76	2014/15

Data prior to this is not currently available but will be provided separately as soon as possible.

CITY COUNCIL - 1 DECEMBER 2015

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SKILLS, LEARNING
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

“Libraries”

Question:

How many libraries have closed per year since 1999?

Answer:

Two community libraries have permanently closed since 1999; Hawthorn House in 2010 and Wylde Green in 2014. Bloomsbury and West Heath libraries also closed due to safety and premises issues and service re-provision for these remains under consideration.