

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

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

"Commissioning Budgets as Proposed Kerslake Report"

Question:

Could the Leader update the Council on progress in providing districts with "commissioning budgets", as proposed in the Kerslake Report, setting out the current thinking on how these will work?

Answer:

Provision has been made in the 2016/17 budget for a Local Innovation Fund of an annual £2m budget.

It is critical that the criteria for this fund are fit for purpose with appropriate procedures and development in place. Cabinet will approve the criteria and guidelines following consultation with executive members in March with the programme going live from Period 6 in September 2016.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“Rip it up and start again”

Question:

Last month the Leader told the Chamber the proposed boundary changes should be ripped up. He also promised that he would meet the local Government Boundary Commission for England, inviting the Leaders of the other groups as well, why has this meeting not taken place?

Answer:

The Boundary Commission has politely declined to meet during the consultation period as, in its view, to do so would potentially be seen to compromise its ability to assess the full range of consultation responses independently.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMISSIONING,
CONTRACTING AND IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

"Care Workers - Living Wage 2"

Question:

In a written response to me at the last Council meeting the Cabinet Member appeared to indicate that no care workers are in receipt of the living wage. Could he set out the timescale for introducing the living wage or even the proposed National Living Wage to the care sector, specifying whether he thinks this is achievable?

Answer:

The City Council is committed to working with care providers to deliver quality services in Birmingham. As you are aware the City Council faces a set of challenging financial decisions and we will outline our proposals at Cabinet on 16th February 2016. The Birmingham Living Wage and the National Living Wage are issues which will be considered at that time.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN“Properties”**Question:**

Listed by year how many houses does the council expect to be built a year, across Birmingham, for the next 20 years, broken down by the expected Council Tax Bands of the new properties?

Answer:

It is expected that 2,500 homes will be built in each of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. Between 2018/19 and 2030/31 it is expected that 2,850 homes will be built each year. There are no estimates beyond 2031.

Table: Expected dwelling completions by year.

Year	Expected Completions (Dwellings)		Year	Expected Completions (Dwellings)
2015/16	2,500		2023/24	2,850
2016/17	2,500		2024/25	2,850
2017/18	2,500		2025/26	2,850
2018/19	2,850		2026/27	2,850
2019/20	2,850		2027/28	2,850
2020/21	2,850		2028/29	2,850
2021/22	2,850		2029/30	2,850
2022/23	2,850		2030/31	2,850

It is not possible to determine the Council Tax bands which new homes will fall into. Council Tax banding is based on the value of the property and this can only be determined following completion.

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

“Brownfield Sites”

Question:

There are numerous (derelict) brownfield sites in Stirchley. To help regenerate those sites, would the Cabinet Member commit to promoting one of these sites as an extension to the proposed Life Science Campus in Selly Oak.

Answer:

It is debatable that the term 'numerous' could be applied to the number brownfield sites in Stirchley. However, there are sites within Stirchley that are suitable for Life Sciences, for example, the former Arvin Meritor site, off Fordhouse Lane. The Stirchley Supplementary Planning Document, which is due to come to Cabinet, proposes that this site will be suitable for Life Sciences and other uses.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

"Bus Lane Fine Money for local highway improvements"

Question:

Will the Cabinet Member allocate a significant portion of the unspent Bus Lane Fine money to Constituencies to spend on local highway improvement projects?

Answer:

You will have to wait for the Transportation and Highways Capital Funding Strategy scheduled for February Cabinet for details.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

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

“Budget Consultation”

Question:

In the Budget Consultation 2016+ factsheets SN2 (Sustainable Neighbourhoods – Clean and Green) (d) road user demand management states and I quote

“The proposal is to charge vehicles that enter the zone at particular times (to be determined, but potentially the ring road). This will be in addition to the charge some vehicles may need to pay for entering the Clean Air Zone”.

Could the Cabinet Member provide a detailed summary of the responses to this specific proposal put forward by this (Labour) administration as part of their budget consultation?

Answer:

The budget consultation survey response to SN2 in its entirety is set out below.

Proposal SN2	% of respondents who:					Balance of agreeing minus those disagreeing
	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	
Design and develop a modern transport network for the city, promote greener forms of transport and improve the environment.						
65 respondents	49	26	9	9	6	+60

The details of the response to the corporate budget consultation will set out in in the Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

“Come Fly (tip) with Me”

Question:

Listed on a monthly basis since 2011, how many incidents of fly tipping had been reported, including the comparison of how much the Council has collected?

Answer:

The two measures are the number reports of fly-tipping and the number of incidents that were cleared by the service. The difference in the two sets of figures is mainly due to the fact that individual incidents of fly-tipping are reported more than once by different people.

Table 1 shows the number of reports of dumped rubbish (fly-tipping) received by the service. These are the requests for service that have been mainly raised by members of the public.

Number of reports of fly-tipping raised with the service					
Financial Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Apr	1039	581	834	1408	2727
May	1200	724	890	1587	2546
Jun	1290	756	997	1931	4316
Jul	1348	920	1482	2107	5422
Aug	1163	885	1074	1554	3063
Sep	979	881	1187	1463	3011
Oct	877	936	911	1057	3222
Nov	926	771	1060	1038	3145
Dec	910	723	961	1201	3663
Jan	954	968	1082	1586	0
Feb	711	935	867	1451	0
Mar	857	733	1186	3410	0
TOTAL	12,254	9,813	12,531	19,793	31,115

Table 2 shows the number of incidents of fly-tipping reported as cleared by the service. Please note that the figures for October, November and December 2015 are not complete.

Total Number of FlyTip Incidents (NOTE: 2015-16 Data NOT Complete)					
Financial Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Apr	1334	835	1040	1313	1075
May	1354	983	1260	1231	1059
Jun	1432	968	1477	1456	1192
Jul	1527	1148	2055	1281	1201
Aug	1377	1482	1114	1561	916
Sep	1341	1133	1435	1190	834
Oct	1201	1418	1220	1065	653
Nov	1287	1601	1397	865	719
Dec	1259	884	1233	1064	695
Jan	1257	1330	1334	1159	0
Feb	1038	1140	1164	1016	0
Mar	1257	1121	1457	1002	0
TOTAL	15,664	14,043	16,186	14,203	8,344

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

“Where the Streets Have No Cleaners”

Question:

Listed on a Ward basis, how many street cleaners does each Ward have per year since 2011?

Answer:

Prior to 2011, and up to the introduction of wheelie bins at each depot, the street cleansing team were allocated to each ward. The standard pattern across the city was 4.5 street cleansers dedicated to the ward. This team consisted of a crew, a mini sweeper and a shared large mechanical sweeper

Since the introduction of wheelie bin collections, where the waste collection service works zonally, each street cleansing team now works in 3 or 4 wards per week on different days.

In addition, in some areas with high density housing, high footfall or along the main shopping precinct, high streets outside of the city centre, the ward cleansing service was supplemented with 40 sole workers (Beatsweepers). These start and finish in a defined neighbourhood and provide additional frequency to these areas of high demand.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

“My Favourite Waste of Time”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm if there are any plans to scrap wheelie bins in certain Wards or streets within the City after February?

Answer:

There are no plans to scrap wheelie bins in certain wards or streets within the city after February.

CITY COUNCIL - 2 FEBRUARY 2016

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

"Missed Collections - monthly figures"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member give monthly figures for missed collections over the last two years?

Answer:

NOTE: The DEPOT is based on the Service Address WARD	Total
Total	76131
January 2014	4,433
February 2014	1,454
March 2014	2,693
April 2014	2,553
May 2014	3,451
June 2014	2,930
July 2014	3,764
August 2014	2,423
September 2014	2,354
October 2014	1,988
November 2014	2,689
December 2014	4,305
January 2015	3,571
February 2015	2,088
March 2015	2,749
April 2015	1,862
May 2015	1,314
June 2015	5,387
July 2015	4,917
August 2015	2,639
September 2015	2,912
October 2015	3,108
November 2015	5,088
December 2015	5,459

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Mash it Up”

Question:

Listed by quarter since 2011, how many routes have had recycling and household waste combined within refuse vehicles when collected by the crews?

Answer:

This is not a figure we keep because it is not standard practice. This would only happen in extreme circumstances where there may be a specific problem that prevented separate collections, such as a vehicle breakdown.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

“Vehicles”

Question:

Listed by quarter since 2011, how many vehicles have the Council had available for household waste/recycling collections listed separately?

Answer:

2011

Period	Residual	Recycling	Hired
Jan - Mar	83	22	Approx. 70
Apr - Jun	83	22	Approx. 70
Jul - Sept	89	22	Approx. 70
Oct - Dec	89	22	Approx. 70

Average 175

2012

Period	Residual	Recycling	Hired
Jan - Mar	89	22	Approx. 57
Apr - Jun	93	22	Approx. 57
Jul - Sept	93	22	Approx. 57
Oct - Dec	93	22	Approx. 55

Average 165

2013

Period	Residual	Recycling	Hired
Jan - Mar	93	22	Approx. 48
Apr - Jun	105	22	Approx. 48
Jul - Sept	105	22	Average 46
Oct - Dec	105	22	Average 40

Average 170

2014

Period	Residual	Recycling	Hired
Jan - Mar	118	22	Average 30
Apr - Jun	118	22	Average 30
Jul - Sept	118	22	Average 30
Oct - Dec	118	27	Average 30

Average 150

2015

Period	Residual	Recycling	Hired
Jan - Mar	93	27	Average 10
Apr - Jun	93	33	Average 10
Jul - Sept	93	33	Average 10
Oct - Dec	93	45	Average 21

Average 138

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR JERRY EVANS**

"Flytipping - monthly figures last 6 months"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member update the Council on the extent of flytipping, giving the monthly figures for the last six months for both measurements - reports and logged incidents?

Answer:

The two measures are the number of reports of fly-tipping and the number of incidents that were cleared by the service. The difference in the two sets of figures is mainly due to the fact that individual incidents of fly-tipping are reported more than once by different people.

Table 1 shows the number of reports of dumped rubbish (fly-tipping) received by the service. These are the requests for service that have been mainly raised by members of the public.

Table 1 : Dumped rubbish reports received by Waste Management	Total
Total	21526
July 2015	5422
August 2015	3063
September 2015	3011
October 2015	3222
November 2015	3145
December 2015	3663

Table 2 shows the number of incidents of fly-tipping reported as cleared by the service. Please note that the figures for October, November and December 2015 are not complete.

Table 2 : Dumped rubbish reports received by Waste Management	Total
Total	5018
July 2015	1201
August 2015	916
September 2015	834
October 2015	653
November 2015	719
December 2015	695

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

“Roll out the Wheelie Bin”

Question:

Listed by depot, including the Pilots listed separately, how much money did the Council budget for the roll out of wheelie bins, broken down by staffing, collections, vehicles, additional cleaning etc?

Answer:

Expenditure	Total Budget £'000	Total Actuals/Forecast £'000
Vehicles	22,200	17,908
Wheeled Bins	17,405	15,805
Depots	9,652	8,397
Sub Total Capital	49,257	42,110
IT Investment	4,180	4,527
Project Mobilisation / Transition	4,479	4,502
Project Management	4,541	3,414
Other Transition Costs	0	7,904
Sub Total Revenue	13,200	20,347
<u>Total spend</u>	62,456	62,456

There is no analysis of Wheelie Bin roll-out costs by Depot. The expenditure has been measured against the main themes and activities required to deliver the scheme, as defined by the Project Managers. There is also no separate analysis of the pilot scheme and these costs are included in the figures provided.

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

“Roll out the Wheelie Bin 2”

Question:

Listed by depot, including the Pilots listed separately, how much money did the Council actually spend for the roll out of wheelie bins, broken down by staffing, collections, vehicles additional cleaning etc?

Answer:

Expenditure	Total Budget £'000	Total Actuals/Forecast £'000
Vehicles	22,200	17,908
Wheeled Bins	17,405	15,805
Depots	9,652	8,397
Sub Total Capital	49,257	42,110
IT Investment	4,180	4,527
Project Mobilisation / Transition	4,479	4,502
Project Management	4,541	3,414
Other Transition Costs	0	7,904
Sub Total Revenue	13,200	20,347
<u>Total spend</u>	62,456	62,456

There is no analysis of Wheelie Bin roll-out costs by Depot. The expenditure has been measured against the main themes and activities required to deliver the scheme, as defined by the Project Managers. There is also no separate analysis of the pilot scheme and these costs are included in the figures provided.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE“I missed again”**Question:**

Listed by depot and broken down by quarter, how many missed collections have each depot had since 2011?

Answer:

QUARTER STARTING	TOTAL	LIFFORD	MONTAGUE ST.	PERRY BARR	REDFERN RD.	WARD NOT RECORDED
Apr-11	8,237	2,436	1,101	2,526	2046	128
Jul-11	9,094	2,361	1,327	2,395	2732	279
Oct-11	11,034	2,782	1,442	3,463	3184	163
Jan-12	13,222	4,427	1,523	4,125	3072	75
Apr-12	6,723	2,283	361	1,714	2331	34
Jul-12	8,189	1,875	476	4,203	1557	78
Oct-12	5,112	1,786	492	1,516	1264	54
Jan-13	5,166	1,768	278	2,223	851	46
Apr-13	4,429	2,030	283	1,124	945	47
Jul-13	5,897	3,056	300	1,309	1182	50
Oct-13	4,619	1,967	278	1,265	1,045	64
Jan-14	8,580	3,326	192	2,322	2,687	53
Apr-14	8,934	3,614	812	2,266	2,198	44
Jul-14	8,541	2,765	1,736	1,950	2,048	42
Oct-14	8,982	1,684	563	1,158	5,544	33
Jan-15	8,408	1,612	599	1,087	5,086	24
Apr-15	8,563	1,129	413	5,241	1,769	11
Jul-15	10,468	1,469	490	7,287	1,199	23
Oct-15	13,655	7,593	471	4,244	1,275	72

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

“Incomplete Rounds”

Question:

Listed by depot and broken down by quarter, how many incomplete rounds on day of collection have each depot had since 2011?

Answer:

This information is only available from January 2014 when the Council changed its software system. It is not available by Depot

NOTE: The DEPOT is based on the Service Address WARD	Total
Total	76131
January 2014	4,433
February 2014	1,454
March 2014	2,693
April 2014	2,553
May 2014	3,451
June 2014	2,930
July 2014	3,764
August 2014	2,423
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WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

“Big Ol Truck”

Question:

Broken down by each Ward (including costs) what size and quantity of refuse vehicles has the Council bought for each new round since 2012?

Answer:

New vehicles were purchased from October 2013 following the RCV Strategy Report that was approved by Cabinet.

Since the introduction of wheelie bins, collections are now zonal-based which covers all 40 wards, and therefore information of vehicles by wards is not available.

Container vehicles have been included, as some of these service domestic properties such as flats. The older vehicles have not been included, as these were purchased prior to 2012.

Lifford	
Green 3 x 26ton	£ 382,922.10
Green 1 x 18ton	£ 124,855.00
Residual 2 x 18ton	£ 249,710.00
Residual 18 x 26ton	£ 2,385,559.50
Container 4 x 26ton	£ 461,173.04
Recycling 1 x 18ton	£ 149,773.00
Recycling 9 x 26ton	£ 1,566,367.74

Montague Street	
Residual 2 x 18ton	£ 124,855.00
Residual 5 x 26ton	£ 651,618.00
Container 8 x 26ton	£ 922,346.08
Container 1 x 22ton	£ 22,000.00
Recycling 2 x 26ton	£ 348,081.16

Perry Barr			
Green 3 x 26ton	£ 410,520.00		
Green 2 x 18ton	£ 249,710.00		
Residual 2 x 18ton	£ 274,628.00		
Residual 18 x 26ton	£ 2,239,011.20	(incl 1 x FOC)	
Container 4 x 26ton	£ 461,173.04		
Recycling 1 x 18ton	£ 149,773.00		
Recycling 9 x 26ton	£ 1,392,324.64	(incl 1 x FOC)	

Redfern	
Green 2 x 26ton	£ 255,281.40
Green 1 x 18ton	£ 124,855.00
Residual 2 x 18ton	£ 249,710.00
Residual 20 x 26ton	£ 2,654,076.25
Recycling 1 x 18ton	£ 146,938.00
Recycling 10 x 26ton	£ 1,740,408.74

Suport	
Residual 2 x 18ton	£ 249,710.00

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

“We Rode in Trucks”

Question:

What is the vehicle specification and sizes for each route the Council has bought, for example recycling, refuse collection and alleycat routes?

Answer:

Collections are now zonal-based since the introduction of wheelie bins, and the vehicles mentioned below service all 40 wards.

61 x 26ton split lifts residual vehicles

9 x 18ton split lifts residual vehicles (alley cats)

2 x 26ton open backs residual collection

41 x 26ton split body recycling vehicles

7 x 18ton split body recycling vehicles (1 still to be ordered) (alley cats)

8 x 26ton split lift green waste vehicles

4 x 18ton split lift green waste vehicles (alley cats)

27 x 26ton container vehicles

1 x 22ton container vehicle

2 x 18ton container vehicle

1 x 18ton hired container vehicle

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY FROM
COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY**

“Call me Maybe”

Question:

By Depot, how many telephone calls (by month) has the Council had in relation to missed collections since 2012?

Answer:

There is no first response/public call handling resource at the depots, all calls are via the Contact Centre. The Council does not record this information by Depot.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

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

“Health and Social Care”

Question:

What in your opinion is the most important area of work that needs to be improved in Health and Social Care for the people of Birmingham in 2016?

Answer:

I would like to thank Councillor Collin for giving me the opportunity to share one of my key ambitions and priorities for adult social care in Birmingham.

With the challenges that local authorities are finding themselves in both regionally and nationally we know that we need to fundamentally shift the way in which we provide health and social care services to those in our community that have assessed needs. We also need to be more clear and transparent on what services we can provide and who is in the best place to deliver those services with our citizens.

We are looking for the Sustainability and Transformation Plan to support us in accessing transformation funding to help us focus on the systems change needed to help us deliver on our ambition for health and social care across the City. The Policy Guidance for 2016/17 Better Care Fund was released recently ahead of the anticipated technical guidance.

The framework requires CCGs and local authorities to pool budgets and agree an integrated spending plan for their allocation. The Better Care Fund is one of a number of policies which support the integration of health and social care services e.g. New Models of Care, and these need to be locally aligned.

There are a number of key changes to the 2015/16 policy, the most significant of these being the removal of the non-elective admissions payment for performance element, to be replaced by two new national conditions, requiring local areas to:

- Fund NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services which may include social care.
- Develop a clear focused action plan to reduce DTOCs to an agreed local target.

As a city we have a shared challenge to reinvent the health and social care system in Birmingham to deliver improved lives for residents and reduced costs for taxpayers. We have good relationships, some high quality assets and a solid but narrow base of real cooperation. We need to move to a position where we act collectively on a much bigger scale to generate greater shared benefits and improved outcomes.

In line with Future Council, we are even clearer about the need for major transformation across a range of services. We have committed to full integration across health and social care, without having a pre-determined view about the final shape or governance of the system. The below principles were agreed informally by the Cabinet in November 2015 as part of the budget setting process:

5 design principles for Health and Social Care integration in Birmingham

1. We need an approach to integration which is about people, not structures. We must shift the system to better match with the public expectation of support at home and in the community. Our commitment is to design integration around the person; within the boundaries of the city.
2. We need to develop the community care system fit for the 21st century with medicine (and care services) in reserve. Residential care will not exist at current levels in a future integrated model.
3. We need a health care system that retains and develops the world class features of UHB and the economic, research and linked advantages.
4. We need to address the health of the population in the East of the city, with particular reference to health inequality and the high use of hospital.
5. We need to see the right balance of hospital care in the North and in the West and Central areas, with particular reference to Good Hope and the replacement city centre capacity needed.

We believe there is a shared view amongst key partners about the need for increased levels of integration to reduce cost pressures and deliver better outcomes. However we also recognise that delivering this step-up at the pace required is hard in the real world of huge demand pressures, operational challenges and short term performance issues.

The scale of transformation required

1. We believe that all parts of the system need to change; primary, acute and social care. This change cannot be restricted to one or two key elements.
2. The Council is assuming that all our directly and commissioned services and staff are in the pot for transformation, including the complete pooling / delegation of budgets, mergers of staff teams and services, and asset transfer.
3. We envisage a shared benefits model being set up for the investing partners.

In this context it is important that as a City Council both Elected Members and Officers act in a supportive and consistent way and support our Birmingham footprint.

Moving forward

- We need an approach to integration which is about people, not structures.
- We must shift the system to better match with the public expectation of support at home and in the community.
- Our commitment is to design integration around the person; within the boundaries of the city.
- We need to develop the community care system fit for the 21st century with medicine (and care services) in reserve. Residential care will not exist at current levels in a future integrated model.
- We need a health care system that retains and develops the world class features of UHB and the economic, research and linked advantages.
- We need to address the health of the population across the city, with particular reference to health inequality and the high use of hospital.
- With this in mind, I am keen to see our citizens, partners and staff support us to increase considerably the proportion of people eligible to receive direct payments – compared to the proportion of some 20% or so that we have achieved in recent years.

CITY COUNCIL - 2 FEBRUARY 2016

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

"Rough Sleepers"

Question:

A few weeks ago the Cabinet Member briefed members on work underway to address the problem of rough sleepers. Could he update the Council on what steps have been taken since to tackle this growing problem?

Answer:

Councillor Tilsley's question is extremely timely. Early last Friday morning I joined other elected Members, representatives of partner organisations and the council's street outreach team to see for myself the scale of the problem and the complexity of the issues faced by street sleepers in Birmingham city centre. During the time we were out we encountered and engaged with 25 individuals. This is a little lower than the 36 street sleepers registered during the official annual count in November 2015, but it is still wholly unacceptable. That is why, in addition to sustaining investment in outreach services, supported housing and emergency provision, the Council is firmly focused upon developing further initiatives that seek to tackle the underlying causes of street sleeping.

Council officers, Members and partners have been undertaking a root cause analysis of the issues driving the increase in street sleeping, which will inform a review of all current services and of the role that all agencies need to play in responding to this serious social challenge. As part of this review, we will be using the knowledge of our "experts by experience" – people who have found themselves sleeping on the street and who have first-hand knowledge of our services. They will be engaging directly with street sleepers, so that we can ensure that services continue to reflect the real needs and wishes of service users.

A further training session is also taking place with voluntary agencies to coordinate services and ensure that our street sleepers are protected and given every offer of assistance.

There is also an ongoing dialogue with the police and business districts to consider

how we can make the most efficient use of resources and deal with broader issues such as begging and street drinking.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD,
MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES**

“Housing”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member give the total spend on Council home repairs, maintenance and improvement?

Answer:

For 2015/16 we are anticipating a total spend of £66.5 million on repairs and maintenance, together with a further £60.6 million on property improvements.

CITY COUNCIL – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD,
MANAGEMENT AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“Housing 2”

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the total spend on debt repayment from the ring fenced HRA between 2011 to the present day?

Answer:

A total of £22.8 million has been spent on debt repayment between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2015. A further repayment of £18 million is anticipated for 2015/16.