



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2020 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:-** Lord Mayor (Councillor Mohammed Azim) in the Chair until the break.

Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Yvonne Mosquito) in the Chair from the break.

**Councillors**

Muhammad Afzal	Peter Fowler	Mary Locke
Akhlaq Ahmed	Jayne Francis	Ewan Mackey
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Eddie Freeman	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Peter Griffiths	Zhor Malik
Safia Akhtar	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Deirdre Alden	Paulette Hamilton	Saddak Miah
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Gareth Moore
Tahir Ali	Adam Higgs	Simon Morrall
Olly Armstrong	Charlotte Hodivala	Yvonne Mosquito
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Jon Hunt	John O'Shea
David Barrie	Mahmood Hussain	David Pears
Baber Baz	Shabrana Hussain	Robert Pocock
Bob Beauchamp	Timothy Huxtable	Julien Pritchard
Matt Bennett	Mohammed Idrees	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Zafar Iqbal	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Nicky Brennan	Morriam Jan	Kath Scott
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Mick Brown	Meirion Jenkins	Shafique Shah
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Mike Sharpe
Debbie Clancy	Brigid Jones	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Paul Tilsley
Maureen Cornish	Mariam Khan	Ian Ward
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Mike Ward
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Suzanne Webb
Adrian Delaney	Mike Leddy	Ken Wood
Diane Donaldson	Bruce Lines	Alex Yip
Barbara Dring	John Lines	Waseem Zaffar
Neil Eustace		

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 19288 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they did not enjoy Parliamentary Privilege in relation to debates in the Chamber and Members should be careful in what they say during all debates that afternoon.

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**APOLOGY**

Councillor Simon Morrell apologised for walking out of the previous meeting of the City Council and thus disrespecting the Chair. He noted that his action was not directed personally at the Chair. He also noted that he had not sign the attendance book at the last meeting and requested that his name be included in the list of attendees in the Minutes if it had been omitted.

(NB Councillor Morrell had been recorded in the Minutes as having been in attendance.)

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

- 19289 The Lord Mayor reminded members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.
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**MINUTES**

The Lord Mayor advised that on page 8 of 226 relating to the minutes of the last meeting and the appointment to Warwickshire County Cricket Club Safety Advisory Group, there was an error in that Councillor Robert Alden should be Conservative and Councillor Neil Eustace should be Liberal Democrat. He noted that the error had been corrected in the Minutes that he would be signing.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 19290 **RESOLVED:-**

That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2019 having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

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**LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1 Death of former Councillor and Honorary Alderman William Gray JP**

The Lord Mayor indicated his first announcement related former Councillor and Honorary Alderman William Gray JP, known to us all of course as Bill, who passed away 29 July last year. Bill served on the City Council from 1982 to 1995 as a Councillor for Nechells Ward and leaves behind his wife, Barbara, 2 sons, a daughter and 10 grandchildren.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

19291 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor and Honorary Alderman Bill Gray and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to members of Bill's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a number of tributes were made by Members.

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**2 New Years Honours**

19292 The Lord Mayor inticated that it was his pleasure to congratulate those mentioned in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to Birmingham or who live in Birmingham.

**Made a Knight Bachelor**

Sir David Julian Bintley

**OBE**

Dr Debra Helen Adams

Helga Edstrom

Alastair Gibbons

**MBE**

Parveen Hassan

Mumtaz Ali

Melrose Fraser

Azizia Chaudry

Paulette Veronica Bolton

Razia Butt

Yvonne Ann Millard

Elizabeth Ann Hughes

Councillor Philip Michael Davis

Kelly Jade Sotherton

Roy Christopher Lewis

Mindu Margaret Hornick

**BEM**

James Yule K Reid  
Heidi Murphy  
Kenneth Harry Forrest  
Elspeth Martin  
Stefen Wells  
Keith Cook

The Lord Mayor asked those in the Chamber to join him in congratulating them all on those marvelous achievements.

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**PETITIONS**

**Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting**

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 1)

In accordance with the proposals by the Members presenting the petitions, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19293 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer(s) to examine and report as appropriate.

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**Petitions Update**

The following Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

(See document No. 2)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19294 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Petitions Update be noted and those petitions for which a satisfactory response has been received, be discharged.

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**QUESTION TIME**

19295 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

Details of the questions asked are available for public inspection via the Webcast.

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**APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Councillors Shabrana Hussain and Gareth Moore proposed nominations and it was-

19296 **RESOLVED:-**

That the appointments be made to serve on the Committees and other bodies set out below:-

**Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Lou Robson (Lab) to replace Councillor Tahir Ali (Lab) as the Chair for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2020.

Councillor Maureen Cornish (Con) to replace Councillor Ken Wood (Con) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2020

**Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Ken Wood (Con) to replace Councillor Gary Sambrook (Con) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2020.

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**EXEMPTION FROM COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE.**

19297 **RESOLVED:-**

That for agenda item 9 (Executive Business Report) Council Rules of Procedure be waived to allow 3 Councillors to propose the Motion having a total of 10 minutes and to allow the 3 Councillors a total of 10 minutes for the right of reply.

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**EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT**

The following report from the Cabinet was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Councillors Jayne Francis, Kate Booth and Paulette Hamilton moved the motion which was seconded.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Jayne Francis, Kate Booth and Paulette Hamilton replied to the debate.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19298 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

19299 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1650 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1623 hours.

At 1655 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

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Deputy Lord Mayor in the Chair

**BIRMINGHAM SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2019-2024**

The following report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

Councillor Paulette Hamilton moved the motion which was seconded.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Simon Morrall and Alex Yip gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 5)

Councillor Simon Morrall moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Alex Yip.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton replied to the debate.

The amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19300

**RESOLVED:-**

That Council endorses the Birmingham Suicide Prevention Strategy and calls on elected members across all parties to work to support delivery of the strategy moving forward.

That the Action Plan that underpins this strategy is circulated to all Members and that updates on progress against this are published on an annual basis.

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**BORDESLEY PARK AREA ACTION PLAN: ADOPTION**

The following report of the Leader was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Timothy Huxtable and Peter Fowler gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 7)

Councillor Timothy Huxtable moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Peter Fowler.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Karen McCarthy and Mariam Khan gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 8)

Councillor Karen McCarthy moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Mariam Khan.

A debate ensued during which Councillor Majid Mahmood declared an interest in that his family home was located within the area covered by the Action Plan.

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The first amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting with names listed in seat number order was as follows:-

(See document No. 9)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 28 (For the amendment)  
No – 49 (Against the amendment)  
Abstain – 0 (Abstentions)

The second amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19300

**RESOLVED:-**

That the City Council adopts the Bordesley Park Area Action Plan and in doing so confirms that it will work with the licensees of the Wheels Site to explore potential opportunities for those activities to continue on alternative sites or, once vacant possession has been obtained by the council, on the Wheels site in the short-term, if a suitable agreement can be reached with the licensees.

Council notes that the Planning Inspectorate report on the examination of the BPAAP concludes that 'The BPAAP as submitted is both sound and legally compliant, it is capable of being adopted without change.'

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**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

**A. Councillor Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer have given notice of the following motion.**

(See document No. 10)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Roger Harmer.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Deirdre Alden and Ewan Mackey gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 11)

Councillor Deirdre Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors John O'Shea and Marje Bridle gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 12)



Councillor John O'Shea moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Marje Bridle.

As a point of order Councillor Deirdre Alden, following a comment from Councillor Marje Bridle, emphasised that she had been fully engaged with the work of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**THE QUESTION BE NOW PUT**

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward moved 'That the question be now put' which was seconded by the Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19301 **RESOLVED:-**

That the question be now put

Councillor Jon Hunt replied to the debate.

The first amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting with names listed in seat number order was as follows:-

(See document No. 13)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 28 (For the amendment)  
No – 47 (Against the amendment)  
Abstain – 0 (Abstentions)

The second amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19302 **RESOLVED:-**

Council believes the executive's approach to fly-tipping and street cleaning is as follows:

The council is taking a robust and proactive approach to tackling fly-tipping and other waste related offences.

- In 2018/19 the council prosecuted a fly-tipper or issued a fixed penalty notice, on average, once every 30 hours. This resulted in fines and fixed penalties totalling over £200,000.
- The Waste Enforcement Unit prosecuted 223 offences defined as 'fly-tipping related' under DEFRA's statutory guidance.
- This resulted in 154 offenders prosecuted for fly-tipping related offences, including 58 for discrete incidents of fly-tipping. Fines totalling over £175,000 were imposed compared to £87,000 the previous year.
- Over the same period, the council issued 73 fixed penalties, totalling over £29,000 in fines to offenders.
- For fly-tipping the average total financial penalty paid by offenders in 2018/19 was £1,935. This compares favourably to a Core City average of £420.

In order to build on this enforcement activity, the council as part of its budget process has consulted on the following

- Investing a further £1 million in the successful 'Love your Streets' project to tackle fly-tipping and related issues across the city.
- Investing a further £400,000 in waste enforcement.

The council will also continue to work with people across the city including ward councillors, businesses and community organisations to ensure a collaborative approach to tackling the criminal scourge of fly-tipping.

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**B. Councillor Sharon Thompson and Hendrina Quinnen have given notice of the following motion.**

(See document No. 14)

The Deputy Lord Mayor advised that Councillor Sharon Thompson was not present at the meeting and she called upon the Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones to move the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Hendrina Quinnen.

The Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones made a short closing comment.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19303

**RESOLVED:-**

The council notes:

- That for many women in Birmingham, the menopause and how they are treated in the workplace as a result of experiencing the menopause is a real issue.
- That around 3.5 million women aged fifty years and over are currently in employment in the UK and that menopausal women are the fastest growing demographic in the UK workforce.
- That although rarely discussed menopause is a natural stage of life for most women - usually occurring between the ages of 45 and 55 but less commonly to some women in their 30s.
- That symptoms can start months, or even years before menopause and can last between four and eight years.
- That most women will experience some symptoms of the menopause, although each woman's experience will be different, and the type of symptoms and their severity will vary.
- That around 25 per cent of women will suffer severe symptoms.
- And that some symptoms can have a significant impact on a woman's everyday life, potentially affecting attendance and performance in the workplace.

Council further notes:

- That almost 60 per cent of the Birmingham City Council workforce identifies as female and many will experience the menopause during their time as council employees. Therefore it is important to raise awareness and understanding of menopause throughout the organisation.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Increase awareness of the help and advice already available for staff members and councillors experiencing the menopause.
- Ensure that line managers are aware, show understanding and are able to support staff and signpost the help and advice that is available.
- Work with Trades Unions - who have also produced advice and guidelines for employers and employees - to remove any potential stigma surrounding menopause.
- Write to the West Midlands Combined Authority urging them to adopt a similar approach and to encourage partners across the region to adopt

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an open and supportive approach to staff members experiencing the menopause.

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The meeting ended at 1905 hours.

**APPENDIX**

Questions and replies in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure B4.4 F of the Constitution

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

**A1     Athletes Village**

**Question:**

**Please list all areas of the Athletes Village project which are currently projected to overspend, including by how much?**

**Answer:**

Work is currently underway to ensure that the Athletes' Village is delivered to the required specification on time and within available resources and the final proposals will form a part of the forthcoming revised Full Business Case for the project.

Key elements where financial pressures are emerging relate to the construction of the residential elements of the Village and consequential costs such as fees and capitalised interest, and costs associated with the relocation of the National Express bus depot. The latter will be considered in detail at the Cabinet meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Costs related to wider land acquisitions, demolition and costs associated with the relocation of the new school, are in line with estimates included within the June 2019 Full Business Case.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**A2 Commonwealth Games**

**Question:**

**Please list all areas of the Commonwealth Games programme which are currently projected to overspend, including by how much?**

**Answer:**

At this stage, the Commonwealth Games programme is forecast to be delivered within the budget envelope as confirmed by Central Government in June 2019.

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

**A3     Athletes Village ‘cash envelope’**

**Question:**

**When the revised business case for the Athletes Village comes back to Cabinet in February, will the ‘cash envelope’ referred to in recent press comments also be revised from the original £519.4m set out in the outline business case?**

**Answer:**

Details for the revised full business case for the Athletes’ Village, which meet the required specification for the Games, are currently being finalised, including a review of both anticipated expenditure and funding arrangements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

**A4     Athletes Village affordable homes**

**Question:**

**When the revised business case for the Athletes Village comes back to Cabinet in February, will there be any revisions to the number of affordable homes provided in the legacy mode of the site?**

**Answer:**

The revised full business case will set out the proposed level of affordable housing for the scheme.



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

**A5     Athletes Village InReach**

**Question:**

**Are there currently any plans to vary the number of homes on the Athletes Village site that the Council sells to Inreach, or the amount of the loan (currently budgeted at £100m) the council intends to loan to Inreach in order to complete these purchases?**

**Answer:**

The proposed level of disposals to InReach will be considered as part of the overall disposals strategy for the residential scheme which will be externally commissioned, and will be subject to agreement with InReach on both the number and value of properties sold.

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

**A6     Emergency Executive Decision**

**Question:**

**What steps were taken, ahead of the Emergency Executive decision taken on 31 December relating to the National Express Depot, to establish if it was possible to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet rather than using emergency powers?**

**Answer:**

It would not have been feasible between the date of agreeing a proposition and 31<sup>st</sup> December to convene a Special Cabinet meeting with the required 3 day notice.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

**A7     Emergency Executive Decision implementation**

**Question:**

**On what date were recommendations i to iv in the Emergency Executive Report ‘Commonwealth Games – National Express Bus Depot relocation’ actually implemented? (i.e. the date each was – or will be - physically executed, not the date the decision was taken)**

**Answer:**

Recommendations (i), (ii), and (iii) of the report were implemented on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

Recommendation (iv) is ongoing in order to fulfil the requirements of recommendations (i), (ii) and (iii).

Recommendation (v) was by its nature implemented at the signing of the report.

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

**A8     Air Quality Assessment**

**Question:**

**Does the Leader agree with me that all major regeneration projects should have an air quality assessment carried out for both the construction and completed phases?**

**Answer:**

The Inclusive Growth Directorate are currently reviewing the Birmingham Design Guide and this suggestion will be taken up as part of the review process.

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

**A9     Depot Relocation**

**Question:**

**How much did the Council pay to the external consultants who provided the estimate of £2m for the depot relocation that is now costing £15.5m?**

**Answer:**

£2m was identified at OBC stage as the cost of a replacement depot relocation for National Express. The was an indicative figure prior to discussions commencing with National Express on scope and scale.

The revised figure is based on a well-developed and agreed scope. On a like for like basis, the full replacement cost would have been higher than the deal agreed, and had the deal not been agreed in line with the timescales National Express would have removed the cost cap, thereby removing certainty. The deal therefore represents value for money.

The external consultants were Savills and a fee of £16,800 was agreed with them.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

**A10 Depot Relocation cost**

**Question:**

**Was any further expert advice taken, even internal or externally, to challenge the costs provided by National Express when negotiating the final £15.5m cost of relocation or was this figure accepted in order to meet timescales?**

**Answer:**

BCC appointed external consultants to undertake a review of National Express's cost assumptions and also sought advice from TfWM on the design and specification of the scheme. This indicated that the proposed scheme – although not directly like for like – was suitable in scale for the operation provided by National Express.

The contract requires National Express to use reasonable endeavours to deliver the project at less than the cost cap and the Council will assure National Express's development documents, including all plans, specifications, drawings, engineering calculations, bills of quantity and other data that may be required in connection with the NX development, and scrutinise development funding claims made by National Express prior to releasing payment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**A11 Tenure Mix of Athletes Village**

**Question:**

**At bid stage, planning application stage, and now, what proportion of homes on the athlete village site were**

- a) Affordable**
- b) Social Rent**
- c) Sold to Inreach via council loan for Market Rent**
- d) Sold on Open Market**

**Answer:**

At bid stage the tenure mix had not been confirmed.

The consented scheme delivers 22% affordable housing and this remains the case.

The disposal strategy is in development and will inform of the tenure mix and is set to come to Cabinet later this year.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

**A12    National Express Negotiations**

**Question:**

**Before agreeing to the final £15.5m cost of the bus depot relocation, how many higher offers from National Express did the council reject and how many counter offers did the council make, and how much higher\lower than the final agreed price were they?**

**Answer:**

National Express are a Statutory Undertaker, giving them certain rights and obligations that would not be present in commercial negotiations.

Agreement was reached after a considerable amount of discussion and negotiation between the parties and their advisors and not based on a bid process.

The negotiations resulted not only in a lower costs per square metre than National Express's initial position, but critically in a relocation longstop date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. This will provide certainty for the delivery of the current National Express site for its required use during the Commonwealth Games.



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

**A13 Commonwealth Games additional events**

**Question:**

**Does the Council have a written guarantee that, should any additional events such as shooting be added to the Commonwealth Games 2022 but held in a different country, that the Council will not have to make any financial contribution towards it?**

**Answer:**

It is the Organising Committee, together with the Commonwealth Games Federation, who hold the sporting events. There is no explicit obligation on the Council to make a financial contribution to sports being hosted outside the UK.

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

**A14    National Express West Midlands as a major stakeholder**

**Question:**

**As Cabinet Member responsible for Regeneration and for the Commonwealth Games, how many meetings has there been and when has he had National Express West Midlands as a major stakeholder (Landowner and provider of services) in the Perry Barr area?**

**Answer:**

I am unclear what Councillor Hunt is asking. If it is how many meetings have I had with National Express on the subject of Perry Barr then the answer is none.

Officers have of course met with National Express on the issue of the Perry Barr Depot.

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

**B1     Local Authority Decisions**

**Question:**

In a Special Needs Jungle post from December it is noted that:

**“The decision that LAs make about whether to maintain, amend or cease the EHCP is the key part of the annual review process. The statutory process gives families the right to appeal the LA’s decision – but families can only exercise this right once the LA sends out a letter notifying them of their decision, and their right to appeal it.”**

**If there is no letter then there is no legal right of appeal. It then refers to some Ministry of Justice statistics:**

**Ministry of Justice statistics tell us that last year, only 1.6% of appealable local authority decisions resulted in families appealing to SENDIST**

**The vast majority of these theoretically-appealable decisions – around 80% of them – are the ones that LAs are supposed to make at EHCP annual review time. But if local authorities aren’t completing annual reviews, then families don’t have any chance to appeal at all.**

**And because of this, the SENDIST appeal rate is not necessarily an accurate reflection of the quality of local authority decision making**

**The Guardian report of 31 December stated that:**

**“Birmingham City Council, the largest local authority in Europe by population, was taken to Send tribunals 985 times between 2014 and 2019, which was more than any other local authority. Cases against the council increased by 273% over the period.”**

**For the period January - December 2019 please provide a breakdown of the following data:**

- **The number of decisions that SHOULD have been made by SENAR that would have been appealable to the SENDIST (this includes requests for assessment, issuing of plans, contents of final plans and placements, as well as decisions to amend following annual reviews**
- **The number of decisions that were ACTUALLY made (same criteria as above)**
- **The number of appeals 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)**

**Answer:**

*By way of background, the figures for overall appealable decisions are calculated from data collected by the DfE via the mandatory annual SEN2 data return. The total appealable decisions figure is the calculated as the sum total of the following:*

- Number of initial requests for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments refused
- Number of assessments completed and a decision made not to issue an EHC plan
- Number with an EHC plan as at January each year
- Number of EHC plans ceased because the special educational needs of the child or young person are being met without an EHC plan

More information on SEN2 data collected by the DfE can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen#statements-of-special-educational-needs-sen-and-education,-health-and-care-ehc-plans>

**For the period January - December 2019 please provide a breakdown of the following data:**

- **The number of decisions that SHOULD have been made by SENAR that would have been appealable to the SENDIST (this includes requests for assessment, issuing of plans, contents of final plans and placements, as well as decisions to amend following annual reviews**

Refusal to Assess: 492

Refusal to Issue Plan: 163

Content of Plan/Review: 10,469

Cease to Maintain: 72

Total: 11,196

- **The number of decisions that were ACTUALLY made (same criteria as above)**

Refusal to Assess: 492

Refusal to Issue Plan: 163

Content of Plan/Review: 1,334

Cease to Maintain: 72

Total: 2,061

(The January SEN2 Survey is currently underway and will be available on 28 February 2020).

- **The number of appeals registered by SENDIST**

297.

- **The number of appeals conceded by the local authority prior to hearings**

97.

- **The number that went to hearing where the appeal was dismissed (i.e. the local authority's decision was deemed to be correct)**

5 appeals that went to hearing were dismissed.

(Please note that 110 appeals remain ongoing, there have been 7 consent orders where agreement was reached between the parties and 19 were upheld in favour of parent). s

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

**B2     EHCPs issued**

**Question:**

**Please provide monthly data of the % of EHCPs issued within the statutory timeframe since the damning OfSTED inspection of June 2018?**

**Answer:**

Month	Total	Over 20 Wks	Within 20 Wks	% within 20 Wks	% over 25 Wks
June	85	15	68	81.9%	100.0%
July	101	13	86	86.9%	98.0%
August	94	18	75	80.6%	100.0%
September	92	14	77	84.6%	94.6%
October	63	5	54	91.5%	98.3%
November	61	4	20	83.3%	100.0%
December	50	4	13	76.5%	88.2%
January	52	2	28	93.3%	100.0%
February	58	9	47	83.9%	100.0%
March	59	11	44	80.0%	98.2%
April	102	15	86	85.1%	99.0%
May	79	27	50	64.9%	92.2%
June	70	16	54	77.1%	94.3%
July	111	33	76	69.7%	89.9%
August	116	35	75	68.2%	92.8%
September	47	18	28	60.9%	84.8%
October	47	21	22	51.2%	88.4%
November	75	17	20	54.1%	78.4%
December	81	14	19	57.6%	93.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1443</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>75.3%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>

The National Picture over the last 5 years:

Percentage of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>60.1</b>
Sandwell	.	34.9	43.2	65.3	99.5
Leicestershire	.	99.1	97.8	98.9	98.3
Leeds	100.0	89.4	90.4	96.8	97.3
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>84.9</b>

### **City Council – 14 January 2020**

Coventry	.	63.3	60.7	84.2	84.6
Lancashire	100.0	.	75.3	89.3	83.0
Manchester	.	55.7	54.4	89.0	79.3
Essex	0.0	10.1	37.9	73.6	77.8
Staffordshire	100.0	86.1	75.6	88.6	68.0
Leicester	0.0	52.8	71.8	60.8	57.4
Warwickshire	0.0	17.6	29.4	29.2	50.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	.	70.6	85.4	86.0	50.4
Liverpool	100.0	8.6	12.0	78.1	47.6
Sheffield	.	3.1	12.0	13.4	42.3
Derbyshire	100.0	0.0	47.3	52.9	34.0
Kent	11.5	86.2	85.8	58.8	28.9

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

**B3     EHC Needs Assessment Data**

**Question:**

**Please provide monthly data of the % of EHC needs assessment requests actioned within the statutory timeframe of 6 weeks since the damning OfSTED Inspection of June 2018?**

**Answer:**

July 2018	59%
August 2018	72%
September 2018	66%
October 2018	75%
November 2018	76%
December 2018	70%
January 2019	70%
February 2019	82%
March 2019	73%
April 2019	57%
May 2019	44%
June 2019	39%
July 2019	55%
August 2019	68%
September 2019	52%
October 2019	43%
November 2019	45%
December 2019	37%

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

**B4     Annual Reviews**

**Question:**

**Please provide the monthly data of the % Annual Reviews that have met the statutory requirement for a decision to be made within 4 weeks of the paperwork submitted to SENAR since the damning OfSTED Inspection of June 2018?**

**Answer:**

July 2018	2%
August 2018	0%
September 2018	2%
October 2018	2%
November 2018	1%
December 2018	2%
January 2019	2%
February 2019	1%
March 2019	1%
April 2019	1%
May 2019	0%
June 2019	1%
July 2019	0%
August 2019	0%
September 2019	5%
October 2019	4%
November 2019	0%



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S  
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

**B5     Definition**

**Question:**

**In the answer to Question B5 of November 2019 a very limited definition of Inclusion was given to equate to mainstream school. Please can you qualify this assertion and base it on informed research?**

**Answer:**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines inclusion in education as *“a process of addressing and responding to the diverse needs of all pupils through increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities and reducing exclusion from education and from within education”*.

The statutory guidance *‘National curriculum in England: framework for key stages 1 to 4’* explains that, for all local authority maintained mainstream and special schools which teach the National Curriculum, inclusion involves setting suitable challenges for every pupil and ensuring that those with protected characteristics, such as disability, those with SEN and those with English as an Additional Language can access the National Curriculum and that there is an appropriate response to pupils’ needs and to overcoming potential barriers for individuals and groups of pupils.

In relation to pupils with SEND, the role of the SENCO in mainstream schools may include *“promoting the pupil's inclusion in the school community and access to the school's curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities”*.

(Regulation 50(3)(b)(vii)) of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014)

*‘Inclusion’* is also sometimes used to refer to the Council’s statutory duty to name a mainstream school in an Education, Health and Care Plan, which only applies in cases where parents do not express a preference for a particular school and where naming a mainstream school would not be against their wishes and would not be incompatible with the efficient education of others.

(section 33 of the Children and Families Act 2014).

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

**B6     Tribunals**

**Question:**

**Please provide the monthly data of the numbers of SENDIST Tribunals lodged since the damning OfSTED Report of June 2018?**

**Answer:**

Year/ Month	Number Received
July 2018	26
August 2018	16
September 2018	26
October 2018	30
November 2018	18
December 2018	15
January 2019	16
February 2019	25
March 2019	31
April 2019	31
May 2019	43
June 2019	36
July 2019	29
August 2019	21
September 2019	22
October 2019	22
November 2019	12
December 2019	9

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

**B7     EHC Plan**

**Question:**

**Section 33 CAFA 2014 says that a child or young person with an EHC plan must be educated in a mainstream setting unless:**

- 1. It is against the wishes of the child's parents or the young person; or**
- 2. It is incompatible with the provision of efficient education for others and the LA shows that there are no reasonable steps that it could take to prevent that incompatibility.**

**Does the Council feel that it has a sufficiency of Special School Places?**

**Answer:**

As the question indicates, the CAFA "secures the general presumption in law of mainstream education in relation to decisions about where children and young people with SEN should be educated" (Code of Practice paragraph 1.26). It is therefore important to ensure that mainstream provision is inclusive, properly resourced and that mainstream staff have access to appropriate training, support and advice. The issue of sufficiency of special school places cannot be considered in isolation. Provision needs to reflect the graduated response and be responsive to changing needs. The locality model aims to provide easier access to support and resources for children in mainstream schools so that they can have their needs met within their mainstream setting where this is in accordance with parents wishes and is compatible with the efficient education of others.

A key aim and priority of the City Council is to empower people to enjoy the best possible quality of life and reach their full potential by:

- Reducing inequalities by improving life chances and protecting and promoting good health
- Giving children the best possible start in life
- Raising skills and educational attainment for all age groups
- Promoting independence and independent living
- Protecting and supporting our most vulnerable residents

We are currently reviewing provision across education, health and care at universal, targeted and specialist levels. Our aim is to gain a better understanding of the levels and patterns of need across the city so that we can commission services that improve the outcomes for children and young people. We want to commission services that are needs led, efficient, effective and child and young person centred across the continuum of need (universal, targeted and specialist provision), making the best use of resources.

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

**B8     Home Tuition**

**Question:**

**What is the number of pupils and cost to the Council of the children currently receiving home tuition as they do not have an appropriate school placement?**

**Answer:**

At the end of December 2019, there were 58 children and young people receiving home tuition.

The total commitment during this financial year (2019/20) for this cohort of pupils amounts to £439,000.

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

**B9     Tribunals 2**

**Question:**

**What % of Tribunals were lost over the last 12 months where the parents wanted  
Specialist Provision?**

**Answer:**

31 cases went to hearing in 2019. Of these 8 related to requests for specialist provision which were found in favour of the parent.

This represents 25.8% of the 31 appeals that went to hearing, however, it should be noted that not all of these appeals related to requests for specialist provision.

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

**B10 EHCPs Finalised**

**Question:**

**How many EHCPs does the Council maintain that have been finalised by 'Type' or name a current mainstream school but the pupils are awaiting a special school placement?**

**Answer:**

At the end of December 2019 there were 168 school aged pupils with EHCPs finalised by type or in named mainstream provision awaiting a special school place.

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

**B11    Legal Parental Rights**

**Question:**

**Is there a drive to deny legal parental rights by not assessing children for EHC Plans and for school placements to be decided by Panels rather than following the requirements of the law relating to parental preference?**

**Answer:**

No there is not.

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

**B12    Parental Link Workers**

**Question:**

**What is the total cost and employment liabilities that have been incurred by the establishment of Parental Link Workers?**

**Answer:**

Staffing costs = £83,928 plus usual on-costs



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S  
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**B13 Costs**

**Question:**

**What is the total cost of including children who would attend special schools into their local mainstream school?**

**Answer:**

It is important to recognise that including children in mainstream schools has been found to bring benefits to the wider school community. A study by Cambridge University found that teachers felt that when properly resourced and managed, inclusion was not only beneficial for the individual child with SEND, but also helped the wider school community to learn about diversity and acceptance.

We are seeking to develop a model that promotes inclusion by making it easier for mainstream schools to access the resources that they need to enable them to include local children with a variety of needs. A first step towards this is developing a funding system that allows schools to access additional funding without delay, thereby enabling them to support early intervention.

Special schools will still have an important role to play in this model. Working together in localities, mainstream and special schools will collaborate to share expertise and resources. The locality model is being developed to enhance collaboration between schools so that they can work together to meet the needs of children and young people.

In order to achieve this vision, we need to:

- Review and revise our systems of funding for SEND so that they are more responsive and facilitate early intervention
- Provide effective and targeted professional development for school staff that reflects the needs of their local pupil population
- Ensure that special provision, whether delivered through a mainstream or a special school, is tailored to need and has access to appropriately qualified support services

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

**B14 Parent Carer Forum**

**Question:**

**In a recent Newsletter it confirmed that the Parent Carer Forum have lent their support to the new SEND Model. Have they raised any concerns about the new SEND model?**

**Answer:**

Feedback has been provided by the Parent Carer Forum which led to changes being made, including the below:

- Health representatives have been included in the working groups, locality panels and locality planning and workforce development meetings to help share key information.
- Parent Carer Forum are now involved in the locality planning meetings, weekly meetings with the Assistant Director. Representatives from Parent Carer Forum have also been identified for a variety of projects including the Local Offer website stakeholder group.
- Parent Carer Forum are involved in the planning of communication with parents to support understanding of the new model, including the appropriate timings for events.

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

**B15    SEND Locality Hubs**

**Question:**

**At the last Full Council meeting you were asked for detailed information, such as a policy briefing paper on or business case for SEND Locality Hubs and Parent Link workers and other associated changes, including costs. You responded by providing leaflets and posters and very short answers. Assuming the decision to make these changes was not based purely on leaflets and posters could you please provide the detailed policy document, business case and costs?**

**Answer:**

The changes being implemented are part of the general organisation and management of the directorate, and as part of the usual business development do not require specific policy or business case documentation. The focus of changes are around more effective service delivery in order to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in Birmingham.

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

**B16 Helplines**

**Question:**

**CONTACT have a national free advice helpline on SEND and SENDIASS have a local helpline. Why has a further duplicate helpline been set up and what is the total cost of this?**

**Answer:**

The phonenumber to the Parent Link workers does not duplicate any existing helpline and will provide early advice and support for families in Birmingham.

The CONTACT helpline is for parents/carers with a disabled child only. The SENDIASS helpline is for families of children and young people with SEND that focusses on statutory processes.

The Parent Link phone line is for families seeking general advice, information and signposting, whether their child has a diagnosis or not. This will complement the excellent service already provided by CONTACT and SENDIASS while seeking to reach a wider group of families.

The cost of the phone line is yet to be determined and will be covered by the Innovate to Save budget.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION,  
CULTURE AND SKILLS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**C     Christmas Market Education Provision**

**Question:**

**What was the cost to the Council of providing education to children of market traders at the Christmas Market in 2019, and is any of this cost recouped by the education service?**

**Answer:**

The Council was not notified of any school age children accompanying Christmas Market traders in 2019 so no cost was incurred.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**D1 Consultants**

**Question:**

**Please can you provide a breakdown by directorate of the spend on consultants since January 2019, specifying the cost, remit of and rationale for engaging each individual consultant?**

**Answer:**

<b>CONSULTANCY FEES SPLIT BY DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Jan 2019 - Dec 2019</b>		
ADULTS & SOCIAL CARE	10.314	This cost relates mainly to our specialist organisational change partners, working alongside the Council and Health Partners to improve outcomes for citizens and to realise financial benefits through developing, testing and rolling-out an integrated health and social care model for older people.
EDUCATION & SKILLS	0.411	The cost relates mainly to additional interim Assistant Director support to the directorate management team, additional consultancy support for school transport and other projects in Education and Skills.
NEIGHBOURHOODS	0.131	The costs relate to the ongoing work on the Waste Strategy Review. Around half of the £131k relates to consultancy costs for the Adult Education service (now transferred to Education and Skills) for the Service Improvement Plan (following the Ofstead Report)
INCLUSIVE GROWTH	4.009	£2.583m Professional Engineering support to work on Transportation Projects - Covering vacancies and providing additional capacity when required. Fully recharged to projects. £0.434m Snow Hill Growth Strategy - Network Rail specialist consultancy support required (LGF funded) £0.444m Clean Air Zone specialist consultancy support (grant funded) £0.118m Langley Urban Masterplan - specialist planning support not available in-house Various projects with consultancy support <£100k
HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	0.032	Costs relate to use of external consultants (tend to be one man bands) to investigate grievances etc. in schools and product report or mediation.
DIGITAL & CUSTOMER SERVICES	2.436	Costs relate mainly to the Provision of Contract Skills Training for ERP, the insourcing and partial termination for convenience of the Capita ICT services contract. Figures shown relates to gross value, this is netted off by funding shown on separate income code.
FINANCE & GOVERNANCE	1.773	Costs relate to consultancy fee for PWC work on Procurement, CIPFA improvement work, ERP implementation consultancy cost, and VAT Advice on Financial Planning
PARTNERSHIPS,INSIGHT	0.049	Costs relate mainly to the Improvement Panel consultancy fee
CONTINGENCIES	0.053	Miscellaneous
<b>TOTAL BCC ONLY</b>	<b>19.209</b>	

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

**D2     Christmas Market**

**Question:**

**For each of the last 6 years, how much in subsidy has the Council paid for the staging of the Christmas Market?**

**Answer:**

**6 Years  
German/Christmas  
Market Net  
Expenditure (costs  
less income)**

Year	Net Expenditure
	£000s
2018/19	(8)
2017/18	268
2016/17	156
2015/16	(19)
2014/15	4
2013/14	(8)

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

**D3     Source of additional budget for Perry Barr Bus Depot relocation**

**Question:**

**How will the extra £13 million required for the relocation of the Perry Barr Bus Depot be funded?**

**Answer:**

Work is currently underway to ensure that the Athletes' Village is delivered to the required specification on time and within available resources. Final proposals will form a part of the forthcoming revised Full Business Case for the project.

Consideration of the funding of individual elements is not possible without considering the revised Full Business Case for the entire site.

The planned date for Cabinet to consider the revised Full Business Case is 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



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

**E1     Twixmas Sickness levels**

**Question:**

**How many staff in the refuse service were on sick leave on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019?**

**Answer:**

A total of 40 staff from the Refuse Collection Service were on sick leave on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND  
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

**E2     Twixmas Refuse Collections**

**Question:**

**How many wagons were unable to complete rounds on 30 and 31 December 2019 due to staff absence?**

**Answer:**

Across all depots and both waste streams the following amount of wagons were unable to complete their rounds, due to staff absence.

- 30 December = 8 Wagons
- 31 December = 9 Wagons

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND  
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

**E3     Twixmas Catch-up Refuse Collections**

**Question:**

**The Council announced that additional waste collections would be carried out on the Friday to sweep up missed collections, given all staff are now working a 5 day week, where did the additional capacity for this come from and what was the cost?**

**Answer:**

Due to the amount of staff requests for leave on the Friday, it was decided to grant the leave and not collect. Staff who chose not to take leave were diverted to pick up missed collections and any black bags left on the street as part of their normal working hours. There was therefore no additional cost.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND  
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

**E4     Twixmas Missed Collections**

**Question:**

**For each of the last 6 years, how many reports of missed collections were there in the last two weeks of December each year?**

**Answer:**

Below are the number of reported missed collections received by year for the last two weeks in December.

	<b>Week</b>	
	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>2014</b>	1068	361
<b>2015</b>	455	454
<b>2016</b>	1126	627
<b>2017</b>	5358	2310
<b>2018</b>	1642	1217
<b>2019</b>	737	345

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND  
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

**E5     Green Waste Discounts**

**Question:**

**How many people ordered green waste collections for 2020/21 online before the error that meant the discount was not applied was corrected?**

**Answer:**

Between 00:01 Saturday 4 January and approximately 09:30 Monday 6 January 2020, 3803 customers had ordered garden waste subscriptions at the incorrect price.

As of the 8 January all affected customers have been contacted and had part refunds automatically processed.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND  
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

**E6     Green Waste Discount Refunds**

**Question:**

**What is the transaction cost of issuing a refund to each resident who ordered their 20/21 green waste collections online without the correct discount being applied?**

**Answer:**

There has been no transactional cost incurred for issuing part refunds to customers affected by the overpayment between 4 January and 09:30 on 6 January.

All refunds were processed by 8 January.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND  
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**E7     Green Waste Bookings**

**Question:**

**How many green waste subscriptions for 2020/21 have been purchased so far compared to the same point in each of the previous years for which a charge has been applied?**

**Answer:**

Below are the number of subscriptions purchased in the first 4 days of sales for each of the stated seasons:

2016	7220 Subscriptions
2017	4162 Subscriptions
2018	23 491 Subscriptions
2019	17 680 Subscriptions
2020	15 309 Subscriptions

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE  
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

**E8     Cost of post-Christmas catch-up collections?**

**Question:**

**What has been the cost of post-Christmas catch-up collections following the failure to complete rounds in the week following Christmas?**

**Answer:**

The cost of catch up collections is estimated to be in the region of £25,000. The actual cost won't be available until timesheets are processed at the end of the month.



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENES  
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

**E9     No post-Christmas Waste Collections**

**Question:**

**Why were there no waste collections on Friday 27 December 2019, as it was not a Bank Holiday?**

**Answer:**

A decision was made not to collect on the Friday due to the high volume of requests from staff to take time off.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE  
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

**E10 Food waste up-date**

**Question:**

**On Tuesday 9 January 2018 the Council agreed a motion on food waste, originally proposed by myself, committing to a “city wide programme to tackle the amount of food waste thrown away each week”.**

**What steps have been taken to implement this commitment?**

**Answer:**

The motion was looked into however, the cost of implementation with, additional staff and specialised collections vehicles, made the proposal unsustainable within existing budgets.

The Government, through its 25 year plan, is looking to legislate to bring in a separate food waste collection. This is at the consultation stage and we would expect funding support would be made available to implement this positive measure.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENES  
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**E11 Removal of fruit and vegetable peelings**

**Question:**

**Given the Council's poor record on food waste collection, why were fruit and vegetable peelings removed from the Green Waste Collection Service?**

**Answer:**

Our collection methods and advice relating to Green Garden Waste has remained unchanged since the launch of the chargeable garden waste service in 2015. If you are aware of any contradictory messaging, please can you let us know, so that we can ensure that all messaging is consistent.

Our current advice is below.

**Please use your garden waste wheelie bin or sack for:**

- grass
- hedge clippings
- plants
- weeds
- leaves
- bush prunings
- tree prunings (no more than 5cm or 2 inches in diameter)

**Please do not use your garden waste wheelie bin or sack for:**

- stones
- soil
- bricks
- rubble
- Japanese Knotweed
- plastics
- metals
- chemicals
- treated wood
- used tea bags
- cooked meat
- vegetables
- fruit
- pet bedding
- faeces

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENES  
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

**E12 Apologies and explanations for missed collections**

**Question:**

**Following the missed collections on Wednesday 27 December 2019, could Councillor John O'Shea apologise to those residents that were affected and explain what went wrong?**

**Answer:**

There were no planned collections for the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> December. However, any missed collection is unacceptable and I will continue to work with the service to ensure we have regular collections with no properties missed.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

**F1 Perry Barr A34 Bus Journey Times**

**Question:**

**What is the cabinet member's understanding of the impact of the Perry Barr A34 Highways Project on bus journey times down the A34 corridor over the next two years?**

**Answer:**

The highway construction works programme is expected to be around 2 years' duration, however every effort will be made to deliver the highway changes in the shortest time possible.

The delivery of the changes to the highway will result in a period of disruption to users. It is difficult at this stage to determine the impact of the construction works on bus journey times. Officers from the City Council are working with Transport for West Midlands, National Express and other contractors to keep the level of disruption to bus services to a minimum. The following mitigation measures are proposed:

- Co-ordination of all construction projects in the local area to ensure potential conflicts are managed.
- A phased construction approach to optimise the available road space available at key times to help keep traffic and bus services moving.
- Compliance with the Council's Traffic Management Protocol process will be in place to manage approvals for the contractor's temporary traffic management proposals.

The implementation of a Travel Demand Management Strategy to manage the level of demand and promote alternative modes and times of travel.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

**F2 Doubling Tree Cover initiative for Birmingham**

**Question:**

**A number of Councils have committed to doubling tree cover as part of the response to climate change. Will he support a similar initiative for Birmingham?**

**Answer:**

The Climate Change Taskforce is creating an action plan setting out how Birmingham could become carbon neutral by 2030 – trees and other green infrastructure are an important part of this action plan.

The city currently has an average canopy cover of 18.6% which equates to 49km<sup>2</sup> of our city area, this is already above the England average of 15% and the best performing amongst the major cities in the UK. However, the existing canopy coverage is not spread evenly throughout the city with some wards having in excess of 30% whilst others as little as 9%. It is in these low canopy coverage areas that action is needed most.

I believe we need to have a higher aspiration and therefore I have asked our Principal Arboricultural Officer to draft out how we may, in the longer term, achieve a minimum 25% cover in every ward of the city.

However, changing the landscape of Birmingham will require education and engaging our citizens with their trees if we are to successfully promote importance and value to society. Over the last 13 years the city has partnered with organisations such as Birmingham Trees for Life (BTFL), Trees for Cities and The Woodland Trust and worked with communities to plant trees in parks and other open spaces; 90,000 new trees have been planted and thousands of citizens engaged through these partnerships over that time. These partnerships will be increasingly important if we are to deliver on this aspiration.

As Councillors you are uniquely placed to encourage our citizens to play their part in increasing our canopy cover through planting a tree in their own garden or retaining existing healthy trees.

By working together, I am sure we can achieve a city that is resilient, biodiverse and fit to meet the challenges that the future may bring.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**G     Athletes Village Emergency Report**

**Question:**

**Were you consulted as Chair of Scrutiny before the publication of the ‘Emergency Executive Report’ on 31 December authorising a £15.5m funding agreement for the relocation of the National Express depot to make way for the Athletes Village?**

**Answer:**

**No**