

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

“Positive DBS Checks”

Question:

Since the Internal Audit report into the Home to School Transport service first revealed serious problems with the Corporate HR approach to DBS checks, how many other services have been checked to see if they are also affected?

Answer:

Any 3rd party providers used by the Home to School Transport service have the responsibility to undertake DBS checks for their employees. BCC does not hold the information for each 3rd party provider as they retain the employment records for their own employees.

The contract for Home to School Transport required that the provider supply BCC with information relating to the DBS checks that it had carried out and in this particular case, that information was subsequently found to be incomplete.

The Council's process for reviewing information provided by 3rd parties has therefore been reviewed, as has the process for all services across the Council.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

“DBS Policy”

Question:

Following the recommendations of the Internal Audit report into Home to School Transport, on what date was the revised policy on DBS checks and accompanying guidance notes fully rolled out and implemented?

Answer:

The review of and for employees of BCC was completed 31.10.19, with a further deeper investigation then initiated by the Chief Executive to be completed by end of January 2020.

A set of recommendations were produced from the initial review and these have already been actioned and implemented since that point, including:

- The BCC process for reviewing 3rd party DBS information was immediately strengthened.
- The DBS policy and process for BCC employees has been reviewed.
- Guidance notes have been updated and made available on the Intranet.
- Training for the HR services team was completed in December 2019.
- The next training phase is for directorate based staff commencing on 1st February 2020.
- The Council's DBS panel has been strengthened, and the AD Human Resources now chairs the panel meetings.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“ATG Audit Report”

Question:

**On what date were you first informed about the findings of the Home to School
Transport Internal Audit Report?**

Answer:

I received a copy of the **draft** report on 28 June 2019.

I was reassured that an investigations was underway and that appropriate action
would be taken.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

“Bus Depot”

Question:

On what date were you first informed about that the relocation of the National Express depot was likely to be significantly more than the original estimated cost?

Answer:

I was informed via email on 20 December 2019.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“ATG Audit Report”

Question:

**On what date were you first informed about the findings of the Home to School
Transport Internal Audit Report?**

Answer:

7th November 2019

I was reassured that an investigation was underway and that appropriate action
would be taken.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Bus Depot”

Question:

On what date were you first informed about that the relocation of the National Express depot was likely to be significantly more than the original estimated cost?

Answer:

A decision was taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader as required by the Constitution.

I was briefed by the Leader on my return from the Christmas break.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ROGR HARMER.

'Home adaptations waiting time'

Question:

What is the waiting time for each category of adaptation?

Answer:

We aim to release priority 3 work (higher priority) to the contractor within 6 months of receipt from Adults' Services, and priority 2 (lower priority) work within 12 months of receipt from Adults' Services.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE.

'Home adaptations average cost'

Question:

What is the average cost of adaptations for all categories?

Answer:

For the financial year 2018/19, from April to December, please note that costs will differ depending on a number of factors including property type and specific requirements.

For council tenants

The average cost per job across all works was £8323.00.

For owner occupiers:

The average cost of adaptation is approximately £3,739.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

'Current number of pending home adaptations'

Question:

How many adults are waiting for adaptations to enable them to live comfortably and safely at home in all categories?

Answer:

For council tenants:

As at 20 December 2019, there were 123 adults waiting for adaptations where applications have not yet been released to contractors.

For owner occupiers:

Currently we have 300 referrals waiting allocation to contractors.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

“ATG Audit Report”

Question:

**On what date were you first informed about the findings of the Home to School
Transport Internal Audit Report?**

Answer:

On 2nd December 2019

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Bus Depot”

Question:

On what date were you first informed about that the relocation of the National Express depot was likely to be significantly more than the original estimated cost?

Answer:

A decision was taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader as required by the Constitution.

I was briefed by the Leader on my return from the Christmas break.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

'Declaration of a Public Register for Declared HMO's

Question:

Will there be a public register of the HMOs that have been declared prior to the introduction of the new Article 4 in June?

Answer:

There already exists a public register of approved mandatory licensed HMOs which can be found on the BCC website.

This recorded by the Private Rented Sector team and updated accordingly. Other HMOs which are not licensable are not publicly recorded by this team.

Planning Services will be recording properties that are declared as HMOs in advance of the city-wide Article 4 Direction coming in to force on 8 June 2020. It is intended that this will be for internal use only and will not be a public register.

Not yet approved

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

'Bescot Court, Perry Barr – Current Status

Question:

**What use is now being made of the former sheltered housing Bescot Court in
Perry Barr?**

**Answer: Bescot Court is currently being used to provide much needed temporary
accommodation for homeless families**

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

'Digital Autopsy option current up-date with case numbers'

Question:

Digital Autopsy option - Following the launch of the pilot scheme that started in August 2019, could the Cabinet Member please provide an update as to how many cases have been dealt with up to present?

Answer:

The year long CTPM trial with Igene commenced on 1st July 2019, which provided for a minimum of 250 cases to be provided.

Birmingham and Solihull Coroners service have sent 151 cases for CT scans in the period 1 July to end of December 2019. 89 scans have identified cause of death and 62 cases have required an invasive post mortem following the CT scan.

The results so far are not achieving expected levels of diagnosis from CT scans and the Senior Coroner together with the City Council officers are looking into any technical and operational issues that may improve the levels of diagnoses.

Details will continue to be monitored for the duration of the trial with a view to formally reviewing the outcomes in due course.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

“ATG Audit Report”

Question:

**On what date were you first informed about the findings of the Home to School
Transport Internal Audit Report?**

Answer:

On 2nd December 2019

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Bus Depot”

Question:

On what date were you first informed about that the relocation of the National Express depot was likely to be significantly more than the original estimated cost?

Answer:

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CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

“Beat sweepers”

Question:

In each year since 2012, how many beat sweepers per ward have been employed by the council?

Answer:

The table below lists the number of Beat Sweepers employed as at April of each year. As some of these staff will have pitches which cross over Ward boundaries an average number is given based on the number of Wards.

Year	No. Beat Sweepers	Average
04/2012	0	0
04/2013	3	0.075
04/2014	18	0.45
04/2015	13	0.325
04/2016	12	0.3
04/2017	13	0.325
04/2018	39	0.975
04/2019	32	0.8
01/2020	31	0.449 (Number of Wards increased in May 2019 to 69)

In addition to the current Beat Sweepers there are a further 223 positions within Street Cleansing who have a specific role in keeping Birmingham's streets clean.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“Garden Waste Subscriptions”

Question:

How many Garden 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:

At the end of the 4th sales week:

Season	Subscriptions
2015	20,380
2016	28,266
2017	37,768
2018	47,904
2019	36,599
2020	40,279

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

“ATG Audit Report”

Question:

**On what date were you first informed about the findings of the Home to School
Transport Internal Audit Report?**

Answer:

I was first informed at a meeting of informal Cabinet on 2 December 2019

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

“Bus Depot”

Question:

On what date were you first informed about that the relocation of the National Express depot was likely to be significantly more than the original estimated cost?

Answer:

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I was briefed by the Leader on my return from the Christmas break.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

'2019-2020 Garden Waste Collection subscription comparison'

Question:

What is the current number of subscriptions for garden waste collection services compared with the same time last year?

Answer:

The number of subscriptions sold by the end of the 4th sales week are as follows:

2019 Season = 36,599 Subscriptions

2020 Season = 40,279 Subscriptions

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRAURY 2020

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

'Pressure placed on staff during Garden Waste Renewal for 2020'

Question:

What submissions has the cabinet member received from the Library Service about the pressure placed on their staff by the decision to make garden waste renewal web-only?

Answer:

I haven't received any queries or comments from Library staff about pressure placed upon them as a consequence of web-only garden waste renewal.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

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

“Tree Coverage Per Ward”

Question:

Answers to written questions in January (F2) revealed that the difference in tree coverage by Ward ranged from 9% to 30%. Can you provide a Ward by Ward breakdown of the tree coverage in each ward?

Answer:

The following data has been derived through the use of a system called “I- Tree Canopy”. It is calculated by taking approximately 500 random sample plots per ward and an operator determining if there is a tree present at that location or not. This data is accurate to within +/- 1.5%. This data also produced the 18.6% city average cover

A comparison was also undertaken at a city level using data derived from satellite imagery using a computer run algorithm which returned a result that was within 0.2% of the above city average indicating that this data is reliable.

Two sets of tables have been set out below:

Table 1 shows Wards arranged alphabetically by Constituency.

Table 2 shows Wards arranged by least cover to greatest.

Table 1- Wards arranged alphabetically by Constituency

Constituency	Wards	Canopy %
Edgbaston	Bartley Green	26.1
Edgbaston	Harborne	30.5
Edgbaston	Quinton	30.9
Edgbaston	Edgbaston	33.6
Erdington	Castle Vale	13
Erdington	Kingstanding	16
Erdington	Gravelly Hill	17
Erdington	Stockland Green	17.4
Erdington	Pype Hayes	17.4

Erdington	Perry Common	19.8
Erdington	Erdington	20.4
Hall Green	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	10.15
Hall Green	Balsall Heath West	13.14
Hall Green	Sparkhill	15.4
Hall Green	Hall Green North	25.3
Hall Green	Moseley	33.6
Hall Green	Hall Green South	34.1
Hodge Hill	Alum Rock	12.6
Hodge Hill	Small Heath	15.1
Hodge Hill	Ward End	15.8
Hodge Hill	Shard End	16.4
Hodge Hill	Heartlands	20
Hodge Hill	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	20.6
Hodge Hill	Bromford & Hodge Hill	22.2
Ladywood	Bordesley & Highgate	9.66
Ladywood	Holyhead	10.8
Ladywood	Aston	11
Ladywood	Newtown	12
Ladywood	Nechells	13.2
Ladywood	Ladywood	14.6
Ladywood	Bordesley Green	15.2
Ladywood	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	18.8
Ladywood	North Edgbaston	26.7
Northfield	Rubery & Rednal	18.8
Northfield	Weoley & Selly Oak	19.29
Northfield	Allens Cross	20.8
Northfield	Longbridge & West Heath	23.2
Northfield	Northfield	23.4
Northfield	Frankley Great Park	24.8
Northfield	King's Norton South	26.1
Northfield	King's Norton North	30.3
Perry Barr	Lozells	11.4
Perry Barr	Handsworth	16.4
Perry Barr	Birchfield	18.4
Perry Barr	Oscott	18.6
Perry Barr	Perry Barr	20
Perry Barr	Handsworth Wood	23.8
Selly Oak	Highter's Heath	18.2
Selly Oak	Stirchley	19
Selly Oak	Druids Heath & Monyhull	20.6
Selly Oak	Bournbrook & Selly Park	21.94
Selly Oak	Brandwood & King's Heath	25.5
Selly Oak	Bournville & Cotteridge	28.2

Selly Oak	Billesley	31.5
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Reddicap	17.4
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	19.2
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Roughley	19.8
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Mere Green	22.6
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Wylde Green	28.1
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Vesey	36.5
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Four Oaks	46.7
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Trinity	46.8
Yardley	Garretts Green	11.4
Yardley	Tyseley & Hay Mills	16
Yardley	South Yardley	20.4
Yardley	Yardley East	22
Yardley	Yardley West & Stechford	22.6
Yardley	Sheldon	23.2
Yardley	Acocks Green	25.5

Table 2 - Wards arranged by least cover to greatest

Constituency	Wards	Canopy %
Ladywood	Bordesley & Highgate	9.66
Hall Green	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	10.15
Ladywood	Holyhead	10.8
Ladywood	Aston	11
Perry Barr	Lozells	11.4
Yardley	Garretts Green	11.4
Ladywood	Newtown	12
Hodge Hill	Alum Rock	12.6
Erdington	Castle Vale	13
Hall Green	Balsall Heath West	13.14
Ladywood	Nechells	13.2
Ladywood	Ladywood	14.6
Hodge Hill	Small Heath	15.1
Ladywood	Bordesley Green	15.2
Hall Green	Sparkhill	15.4
Hodge Hill	Ward End	15.8
Erdington	Kingstanding	16
Yardley	Tyseley & Hay Mills	16
Hodge Hill	Shard End	16.4

Perry Barr	Handsworth	16.4
Erdington	Gravelly Hill	17
Erdington	Stockland Green	17.4
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Reddicap	17.4
Erdington	Pype Hayes	17.4
Selly Oak	Highter's Heath	18.2
Perry Barr	Birchfield	18.4
Perry Barr	Oscott	18.6
Ladywood	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	18.8
Northfield	Rubery & Rednal	18.8
Selly Oak	Stirchley	19
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	19.2
Northfield	Weoley & Selly Oak	19.29
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Roughley	19.8
Erdington	Perry Common	19.8
Perry Barr	Perry Barr	20
Hodge Hill	Heartlands	20
Erdington	Erdington	20.4
Yardley	South Yardley	20.4
Hodge Hill	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	20.6
Selly Oak	Druids Heath & Monyhull	20.6
Northfield	Allens Cross	20.8
Selly Oak	Bournbrook & Selly Park	21.94
Yardley	Yardley East	22
Hodge Hill	Bromford & Hodge Hill	22.2
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Mere Green	22.6
Yardley	Yardley West & Stechford	22.6
Yardley	Sheldon	23.2
Northfield	Longbridge & West Heath	23.2
Northfield	Northfield	23.4
Perry Barr	Handsworth Wood	23.8
Northfield	Frankley Great Park	24.8
Hall Green	Hall Green North	25.3
Yardley	Acocks Green	25.5
Selly Oak	Brandwood & King's Heath	25.5
Edgbaston	Bartley Green	26.1
Northfield	King's Norton South	26.1
Ladywood	North Edgbaston	26.7
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Wylde Green	28.1
Selly Oak	Bournville & Cotteridge	28.2
Northfield	King's Norton North	30.3
Edgbaston	Harborne	30.5
Edgbaston	Quinton	30.9
Selly Oak	Billesley	31.5

Edgbaston	Edgbaston	33.6
Hall Green	Moseley	33.6
Hall Green	Hall Green South	34.1
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Vesey	36.5
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Four Oaks	46.7
Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Trinity	46.8

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

“ATG Audit Report”

Question:

On what date were you first informed about the findings of the Home to School Transport Internal Audit Report?

Answer:

2 December 2019.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ENVIRONMENT COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

"Bus Depot"

Question:

On what date were you first informed about that the relocation of the National Express depot was likely to be significantly more than the original estimated cost?

Answer:

A decision was taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader as required by the Constitution.

I was briefed by the Leader on my return from the Christmas break.

CITY COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY.

'Cost breakdown of Vehicle Actual Speed Signs for Yardley and Hodge Hill'

Question:

Will the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of VASS (Vehicle Actual Speed Signs) installations in Yardley and Hodge Hill Constituencies, the cost of equipment and cost of installation and who provided the funding including City Council and Community Groups?

Answer:

In total over the last 3 years (the extent of available records) a total of 9 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs have been provided in the Hodge Hill and Yardley Constituencies. The total cost of equipment and installation was £60,887.

Of the required funding, £40,000 was provided by a local Community Group, the Sheldon Traffic Action Group. The funding provided by the group was a result of a successful bid made by them to BCC's Local Innovation Fund, formerly the Local Investment Fund. All other funding was sourced directly from BCC.

