Q 1	Asked by: Councillor Jill Brown
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor to give a response to the Institute for Fiscal Studies report on the Scottish Governments misleading budget and the impact this will have on public services in Glasgow? ”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader and City Treasurer

Currently the Scottish Government publish figures on Local Government Budgets by comparing to the position at the start of the previous year. They do not adjust for additional funding provided during the year as part of additional settlements.

This led to the position where they were reporting a 6.8% increase for local government but were not accounting for additional funding for items such as pay.

I would agree with the Institute for Fiscal Studies that it would be more transparent if funding for the new year was compared to the closing position from the previous year.

Q 2	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor if they have discussed with government the possibility of introducing a licensing system and insurance requirement for those who ride delivery bikes?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

The Council has liaised with Police Scotland in Glasgow on the topic of enforcing existing laws and the Highway Code with all users of the road network (including footways) which includes people on bikes for whatever purpose. Local police operations, with Council engagement, have had a particular focus on delivery riders.

In my capacity as a local member for the city centre, I have also met with local police and representatives from delivery companies to impress upon them the importance of reinforcing the rules and responsibilities of the Highway Code among their riders.
A licensing system or insurance requirement for delivery riders would likely require legislative change, likely at UK Government level. While I have discussed these issues with various parliamentarians, no formal discussions have taken place with either the UK or Scottish Government regarding this.

It should be noted that it is unclear how any such legislation/regulations could be targeted at a specific user group as opposed to all people on bikes, and it is not known how it would be enforced. The Council would not support any general move to introduce licensing requirements for cycling as this would have a significant detrimental impact on our agreed active travel behaviour change efforts.

Q 3	Asked by: Bailie James Scanlon
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor how many vacant properties are in the GCC estate? In addition, are there any plans to sell these given the current economic climate? “
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Council has a variety of programmes which are designed to ensure greater utilisation of its estate and includes the People Make Glasgow Communities programme which has helped to bring Council owned properties within the management and control of voluntary and third sector organisations.

More recently, however, the Council has, in partnership with City Property, set up the “Asset Maximisation Steering Group” comprising officers from all parts of the Council Family to assist in the identification of opportunities for development, repurposing, disposal and conversion of the Council’s operational and Non-Operational estate.

City Property (Glasgow) LLP (CPG) currently manages some 327 surplus vacant buildings/ sites on behalf of GCC of which: 65 comprise buildings of which 43 have been formally handed over to CPG to manage. City Property is in the process of categorising these assets to identify opportunities for regeneration and disposal.

262 comprise land which again City Property is in the process of categorising. To date:
53 have been earmarked or are progressing as off-market disposals, and
46 have been identified or are progressing as open market disposals.

Disposal for capital receipt remains an actively pursued option for properties which no longer present an opportunity to deliver council or partner organisations services.

Q 4	Asked by: Councillor Robert Mooney
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor if they can confirm what consultation has taken place with disabled people, disabled people's organisations and providers to assess the impact of the decision to increase the amount of personal income taken into account when assessing social care charges from 50% to 75%, and whether the views and experiences of disabled people will be considered when reviewing the appropriate client contribution for social care in advance of setting the Council's budget for 2024/25?"
Responder	Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care and Caring and Older People

Can I thank Cllr Mooney for his question.

I can indeed confirm that the Non-Residential Charging Policy is reviewed on an annual basis and public consultation takes place every two years.

The purpose of the review is to:

- To update the policy to reflect the new minimum income thresholds which are set nationally and used as the basis for charging
- To update the policy on any change which will impact on charges applied to all service users including the annual uplift
- Any refinements required to the policy either to reflect changes in legislation or changes in proposed policy direction which would be specific to the Council or to tighten the policy or expand the policy to reflect anything learned/experienced in the last twelve months

The policy was last subject to a full consultation process in January 2023. A survey was carried out for 3 weeks during January and February 2023 where 5,600 service users were invited to participate along with third sector organisations. There were 118 responses and although the number of respondents was lower than anticipated, there was a good range of protected groups and feedback. The main feedback from people with disabilities was that they thought the charging policy was unfair due to their higher cost of living.

It should be noted that Disability Related Expenditure assessments seek to take account of precisely those additional costs that arise from having a disability.

The consultation was undertaken prior to the decision to increase the taper and therefore did not specifically consult on the increase applied. The need for a further consultation was considered and ruled out as disproportionate for service users, as a consultation would be asking similar questions to the same client group, and it was felt that there was sufficient evidence from the charging policy consultation and client responses, to identify the potential impact on protected groups.

The feedback from the consultation in January/February informed the annual review of the charging policy for 2023/24. This included reflecting on the feedback from those people

with disabilities and incorporating an assessment of disability related expenditure at the outset of the financial assessment process to ensure that additional expenditure, as a result of disabilities, is considered when a service user is financially assessed. This came into effect as of 1 April 2023, in line with the non-residential charging policy.

The views of service users will continue to be considered when developing the 2024/25 charging policy. As already indicated, this policy is subject to review every year and public consultation every two years and therefore the next planned consultation will not be until 2025.

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Treasurer is he agrees that Glasgow should introduce a visitor levy by 2026, subject to legislation passing in the Scottish Parliament and if he will call ministers to shorten the minimum 18 month lead in time currently proposed in the Visitor Levy Bill?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader and City Treasurer

Yes, I would like to see the Visitor Levy put in place as quickly as possible. Any additional powers given to local government are welcome, and the visitor levy would be particularly welcome because it would enable further investment to be made in our key cultural and community assets in Glasgow.

I am happy to write to Ministers to ask for an update on progression of the Visitor Levy Bill and for shortening the lead in time to be considered.

Q 6	Asked by: Bailie Elaine Gallagher
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor to please explain why the Council is disregarding the specifics of the National Planning Framework which states that all developments larger than four dwellings should include at least 25% affordable housing?
Responder	Councillor Kenny McLean, City Convener for Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration

The Council is applying the policy approach in the City Development Plan, and it does not conflict with the approach taken in NPF4 (adopted 13th February 2023).
The Glasgow housing market is complex, with considerable variations in affordability and access in different areas, both in terms of the private sector and affordable sector markets.

The NPF4 policy indicates that an affordable housing policy needs to be based on a consideration of need in a local authority area, and the target is to be informed by the Local Development Plan.

The policy intent of Policy 16 (part e) in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is to encourage those local authorities which do not currently make the provision of affordable housing a priority to start doing so.

Glasgow has continued to prioritise affordable housing and we out-performs every other authority in the country (at least by volume) with 47% of all new-build housing constructed in the previous 5-years being for either social or affordable homes.

When the current City Development Plan was developed, the issue of housing need was considered and it determined that need for affordable housing was being met through existing mechanisms. These include working with Registered Social Landlords via the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, assisted by nominated disposal arrangements for accelerated land release.

Taking this approach is consistent with NPF4 Policy 16 (e) which sets out the following:

"*Development proposals for new homes will be supported where they make provision for affordable homes to meet an identified need. Proposals for market homes will only be supported where the contribution to the provision of affordable homes on a site will be at least 25% of the total number of homes, unless the LDP sets out locations or circumstances where:*

i. a higher contribution is justified by evidence of need, or

ii. a lower contribution is justified, for example, by evidence of impact on viability, where proposals are small in scale, or to incentivise particular types of homes that are needed to diversify the supply, such as self-build or wheelchair accessible homes. The contribution is to be provided in accordance with local policy or guidance."

A paper will come to a future ETHR committee outlining the policy in more detail.

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Lilith Johnstone
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what action will be taken in response to the EIS Survey on Pupil Behaviour?”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years

The Violence & Aggression EIS Branch Survey was discussed at the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT) on 6 December 2023. It was proposed at the LNCT that a collective working group, to include both Management and Trade Union representatives be set up to consider the findings within the survey.

The collective working group met on 25 January 2024 to allow the findings of the survey to be discussed. A further meeting is due to take place on 13 March 2024 to consider the next steps, including establishing and agreeing potential actions.

As a Council we completely support the right of staff to attend their work in a safe and controlled environment and for children and young people to feel safe while at school. We will continue to focus on building our approaches based on nurture principles and understanding the impact of trauma. We will work with trade union colleagues who represent those in schools every day to develop appropriate responses to the challenges being faced not only in Glasgow but across Scotland.

Q 8	Asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor how many trees have been planted by GCC over the past five years? In addition, what is the percentage of trees planted that have failed over the same five-year period?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Glasgow City Council and its partners including the Green Action Trust (GAT), the Conservation Volunteers (TCV), various schools and community groups and business volunteering activities have planted 69,620 trees over the past five years. All partners are supporting GCC projects.

There is a wide range of different biological, chemical, and physical factors which have an impact on the growth and development of trees in the UK and while every effort is taken to ensure that the trees thrive the general indicative industry loss of 10 – 15% for a new tree site is expected.

This can range from grazing by large mammals such as vandalism, deer and domestic livestock, to insect pests, and bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens.

Glasgow City Council works to minimise the percentage of losses by assessing if sites are suitable for planting and selecting the right tree for the right place.

In addition, by adapting the composition of newly established woodlands, such as Cart & Kittoch which was planted in 2020-2021 and including more variety and diversity in planting this will limit the impact disease may have newly planted species.

As part of tendered works contractors, a maintenance period is also included within projects to assist with the establishment of the trees.

This could include, where applicable, trees having protected tubes installed, verification of planting for the first three years after planting and a twice-annual glyphosate application to the base of all trees will be applied for the first five years after planting, or until such a time that the trees are free from competition with other vegetation.

Q 9	Asked by: Councillor Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	“To ask if the relevant City Convenor could consider a review in the Council’s use of leaf blowers?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Glasgow City Council family have 88 leaf blowers in total:

78 petrol
10 electric

A review of equipment is underway and discussions will be taking place in relation to phasing out the petrol back-pack blowers. The use of electric leaf blowers can be impacted by the current options on the market and in particular the challenges with battery life but we continue to monitor what products are coming to market.

Q 10	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor whether the Council is developing a local process to give communities the ability to make the case for the designation of Fireworks Control Zones, as encouraged by the relevant local authority guidance on that, and if so when will that be available to communities?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Yes, I can confirm that a paper outlining the Councils approach around Fireworks Control Zones will be presented to the next Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee on 12th March 2024 providing guidance on the processes associated with designating a Firework Control Zone (FCZ).

This report will include detail on community requests for the designation of a FCZ and proposed timescales for applications. It is the intention that FCZ's are in place for the 5th November 2024.

Q 11	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what impact the scrapping of the Advanced Higher Hubs will have on pupils in Glasgow ?”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years

Glasgow’s school leaver positive destination and attainment figures are at an all-time high. It’s something that we are immensely proud of and illustrates the commitment of teachers and staff. Not only do we intend on preserving that, we aim to build on that. Our commitment to protecting the education budget as best we can in the most challenging financial situation local government has operated within in recent history reflects that. Where savings have to be made and models of delivery adapted, our young people will continue to have the very best opportunities. I believe the new model for Advanced Highers does just that.

It is important to understand the wider context of Advanced Higher provision across the City. In session 2022-23 there were 1507 Advanced Higher presentations across all schools in the City and there were 159 presentations from the AH Hub. The Hub has provided a useful service over the 10 years it has been in place but AH provision was available in our schools before the AH Hub existed and will continue to be made when it closes at the end of the current school session.

It is also worth pointing out that when we are in challenging circumstances relating to the budget it is important to explore areas where there is duplication of provision. The service provided by the Hub is not unique and we believe the service can be provided through an area-based model where schools in an area offer AH provision. Across the 30 secondary schools in the city, it will be possible to offer the level of Advanced Highers required by our pupils. Our focus is on ensuring appropriate pathways for all our young people which is clear in the positive destinations figures which for 2023 were at their highest ever.
One of the advantages of the Hub was getting young people into the University, although in recent years delivery for some programmes moved on-line. Discussions are continuing between the university and the Council in relation to ensuring we continue to build on the success of Glasgow Caledonian University in attracting students from Glasgow’s schools in line with their widening access policy and our aspirations for the young people of Glasgow.

Over the past six months a city-wide working group of deputy head teachers, informed by input from across all 30 Glasgow secondary schools, including pupils themselves, has been developing a replacement to the Hub. What has emerged is a model which will increase opportunities for our young people by offering a wider selection of Advanced Highers and which, unlike the Hub which had a limited number of places, has no ceiling on places and will be based entirely on demand. Located within local schools, the new model builds on many years’ experiences of schools sharing resources, choice and expertise to offer subjects and courses to pupils which may not have been available in their own schools.

The working group's proposals also reflect the support for a more localised model from many young people, who highlighted the impact of travel time and missing classes within their own school.

It also takes account of the responses from teachers, including the widely held view that better coordination between schools will enable a better digital offer, with many aspects of Advanced Highers suitable for online learning. Finally, given the importance of online learning within college and university settings, this can help prepare young people for the next stages of their education.

Q 12	Asked by: Councillor Kevin Lalley
Tabled Question	“Withdrawn”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Q 13	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor what conversations have been had with the Scottish Government on the implementation of Free Concessionary Bus Travel for those Seeking Asylum?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

In May 2023, I wrote in my capacity as City Convener to the then-Transport Minister Kevin Stewart regarding free bus travel for asylum seekers. That correspondence, in which I expressed the Council's full support for expanding this pilot, is copied below.
Since this correspondence, the Scottish Government has announced a £2million budget allocation to support free bus travel for people seeking asylum in 2024/25. While the Council is supportive of this initiative and is ready to engage in any way required, I would advise that the Council has no direct ongoing communication channels with Transport Scotland or Scottish Government on concessionary fares as SPT carry out this function on behalf of local authorities in the SPT area.

Correspondence from Glasgow City Council to Scottish Government dated 30 May 2023:

"Dear Kevin

I am writing following the recent meeting of Glasgow City Council on Thursday 11 May 2023, where a motion was passed in relation to practical support for asylum seekers. This included the following text:

"Council records it' support for the Scottish Government commitment to "Work with third sector partners and local authorities to consider how best to provide free bus travel to asylum seekers and refugees including displaced people from Ukraine."

Council recognises and applauds the work of Refugee Survival Trust in their pilot of free bus travel for those seeking asylum, and acknowledges the social, economic, and environmental benefits that free public transport can offer. Council notes that barriers to transport have a significant impact on people seeking asylum, in participating in community work, getting to appointments, and supporting their children's activities.

Council acknowledges the immense benefits which could be gained from free bus travel for people seeking asylum if the right to work was given, and therefore resolves to support the extension of free bus travel to those seeking asylum. Council will ask the Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport, and City Centre Recovery to write to the Scottish Transport Secretary expressing its support for the current pilot and ask for it to be expanded to all those seeking asylum."

In accordance with the above Council decision, I am therefore contacting you as Transport Minister in my capacity as the relevant Council Convener to formally express the Council's position.

At present around 150 people seeking asylum in Glasgow are benefitting from free travel through a 12 week bus pass and their testimony suggests that this has presented a lifeline, allowing them to avoid a straight choice between eating and travelling. Being able

to access this pilot allows people seeking asylum to integrate better and feel much less isolated.

I know your predecessor Jenny Gilruth said that “the information gathered from this pilot will help inform options on how to deliver our commitment to consider how best to provide free bus travel to people seeking asylum, right across Scotland.” As this work is taken forward, I would express Glasgow City Council’s support for a fuller rollout to all those seeking asylum, and I look forward to you progressing this agenda with Glasgow standing ready to support its expansion.”

Q 14	Asked by: Bailie Paul McCabe
Tabled Question	“Can the Leader of the Council provide an insight into the impact of UCI 2023?”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition, Leader of the Council

Staged between 3 and 13 August, the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships was an inaugural combined event which brought together 13 individual UCI World Championships across seven cycling disciplines. Unprecedented in scope and scale for cycling, this event was also one of the largest international sporting events hosted in the UK in 2023.

The award of the 2023 UCI Cycling Worlds was testament to Glasgow and Scotland’s reputation as a successful host of premier sporting events, both in cycling and more widely; also, Glasgow’s status as the UK’s first UCI Bike City in 2019 which recognises cities which host not only cycling events but also invest in developing community cycling and related infrastructure and programmes.

A new independent report from Ernst and Young has highlighted the socio-economic benefits of the UCI Cycling World Championships. The event had four overarching objectives: operational excellence, policy delivery, engaging new audiences, and commercial success.

Glasgow, of course, yet again delivered a world class event, burnishing our reputation as a leading sport events city. It also provided a backdrop to showcase our aim to extend the City Network with further 270 kilometres of safer active travel infrastructure over the next five years by £100 million investment and involve the public in Glasgow’s innovative Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy.

Around a million spectators attended the Championships, over a third of whom came from outside Scotland. Out of these, 89,000 came from outside the United Kingdom; people travelled from five continents. As a comparison, the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games had 1.24 million ticketed spectators – which is in a broadly similar range, but it is worth noting that the Commonwealth Games comprised 19 sports.

Spending by spectators, teams and media provided a significant boost to local businesses. Nearly a million spectators gathered to enjoy the events, resulting in a total visitor spend of £220m, £136m of spending directly in Glasgow and creating over 5000 jobs.

The independent report also found that: 79% of residents said they intended to cycle more; 95% of residents said they were proud to see their region host the event; 91% of spectators were likely to recommend Scotland as a holiday destination.

The 2023 UCI Cycling Worlds were also a critical part of our aim of inspiring new and existing cyclists to make cycling an activity for life, whether for exercise, sport, transport or fun. Our Go Cycle Glasgow Fund which helped community groups to create cycling projects that tackle inequalities and were accessible. They delivered benefits including health, uptake of active travel and sustainability.

The 2023 UCI Cycling Worlds provided an opportunity to showcase Glasgow and Scotland as a high-quality visitor destination, via the positive experience of international attendees at the event itself as well as its extensive global broadcast reach.

UCI 2023 has been an excellent launchpad for turbo charging our visitor and events strategy and maintaining Glasgow as the go to city for hosting inclusive international events that attract revenue and investment to the city.

Q 15	Asked by: Councillor Paul Leinster
Tabled Question	“Can the Leader of the Council/ City Convener for the Economy & Just Transition provide an update on investment and innovation in the city and wider economic region?“
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition, Leader of the Council

The strengthening relationships across sectors and boundaries are positioning Glasgow and our city region as an internationally regarded centre of innovation and a location for inward investment.

The expertise within Glasgow’s world class learning institutions is translating pioneering research into innovative technologies, many of which are delivering on their commercial potential.

This is combining with the investment decisions taken by, and the increasing track record of, the City Region leadership in addressing productivity, climate, inclusion, and the wellbeing of nearly two million citizens.

Those strategic investments and decisions are now returning dividends, Glasgow’s innovation economy is a growing contributor to the employment, training, and productivity outcomes our citizens need and economy demands.

In under two years the Glasgow City Region has secured almost £350million in investment that both acknowledges and builds on our strengths and assets, and our clear strategic vision for the regional economy.

Supported by resource secured through the Innovation Accelerator, scale-ups and start-ups are now demonstrating their potential to push the city region to the forefront of science and innovation.

To cite just one example, Chemify, a University of Glasgow spin-out developing ground-breaking techniques to reduce the time and cost associated with the creation of new drugs, have recently leveraged almost £40million in additional private investment.

This year we’ll also start to see clear outcomes from the £160million secured from Government for our Investment Zone, further advancing innovation and the status of the City Region.

That status was further reinforced by the recent announcement that influential business analysts FDI Intelligence had ranked Glasgow as Europe’s best large city for attracting inward investment, citing the partnerships between government, academia and business and focusing on the emerging innovation economy.

This was followed by the announcement that was placed second among 20 UK cities for economic momentum by Evaluate Locate Key Cities Tracker.

Taken with our selection as a 5G Innovation Region, the physically transformation parts of Glasgow are experiencing as a result of the growth of the innovation economy and how some sectors, such as precision medicine and life sciences are addressing challenges here in Glasgow, its increasingly clear that our clarity of vision and clear strategic focus is delivering for the city region, for Glasgow and for Glaswegians.clauire

Q 16	Asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor advise what plans there are to regenerate Bridge Street and the surrounding areas?”
Responder	Councillor Kenny McLean, City Convener for Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration

The South Central Local Development Framework (LDF) was adopted as Supplementary Guidance to the City Development Plan in September 2023. The LDF provides a structure for the future development and regeneration of this area of the city. It acts as an overarching framework identifying key priorities, design principles, connections and strategic relationships. It can support more detailed planning work on specific sites and projects within the overall plan and sets out an action programme. Specific neighbourhood guidance for Laurieston, Gorbals and Oatlands supports improvements to pedestrian and cycling links to Bridge Street subway station.

As part of the Laurieston Transformational Regeneration Area (TRA) activity, a North Laurieston Strategy Group has been set up. The cross-service group includes Housing, Planning, City Centre Regeneration, City Deal, Roads/ Avenues project, Transport Planning and New Gorbals Housing Association. The Group reports to the Laurieston TRA Local Delivery Group and aims to assess, investigate and facilitate regeneration outcomes for the North Laurieston area - generally the area within Carlton Place, Bridge Street, eastwards on Norfolk Street to Gorbals Street and back to the river.

New Gorbals Housing Association intend to refresh and review the masterplan which was prepared previously. This masterplan would then aim to inform the regeneration of the area.

Buildings at Risk work is part of the North Laurieston Strategy Group and specific heritage properties (known as the Bridge St/ Oxford St/ Coberg St/ Norfolk St - BOCN block) will be a focus for the refreshed masterplan. The Council Housing team have already carried out repairs to the adjoining tenement 144/148 Norfolk St and 69/71 Bridge Street and major repairs are being planned by the owner of 134/142 Norfolk Street. Authority has been granted for an off-market nominated disposal of 26-34 Bridge Street to New Gorbals Housing Association.

The Council’s Buildings at Risk officer is monitoring the condition of 73 Carlton Place while it awaits redevelopment.

The Avenues project on South Portland Street will improve that stretch of road and footpath, linking it to the new residential development of Laurieston. Further details can be found here: