Q 1	Asked by: Councillor Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor what discussions have taken place with the Scottish Government regarding a review of the primary and secondary school curriculum to include an accurate representation of Scotland's role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its resulting monetary benefits?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years

Thank you, Cllr Siddique, for your question and I'm sure that, like me, all member of this Chamber are proud of the ongoing work instigated during the last Council term when the SNP were first in Administration to recognise Glasgow's role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade and how we respond to that past. It's a chapter in our history which was under-acknowledged for far too long.

Glasgow is represented on various national groups which focus on addressing issues through the curriculum on Scotland's colonial past and its impacts on the present, while developing pioneering work on the issue here in the city.

At a local level, Glasgow schools work to provide a culturally responsive curriculum within the framework of the national curriculum to ensure a focus on communities and local history. Work is underway which have evolved from The Glasgow Slavery Audit, which the Council commissioned Dr Stephen Mullen to undertake between 2019 and 2022. As part of our commitment to address aspects of the Audit, the report's fundings will be embedded in the city's school curriculum through a partnership project currently underway between University of Glasgow historians and Education Services.

The project comprises workshops and tours to improve the knowledge of teachers about this aspect of Glasgow's history, including how colonial processes facilitated economic, societal and urban transformation. It focusses on developing a programme of CLPL for staff and as a result, develop resources for all young people from Primary and Secondary to learn more about this important issue. This training will take place over the course of term 3 and 4 in this academic session and be fully implemented in session 2024-2025.

Additionally, principles for an anti-racist curriculum were published by Education Scotland earlier this year. Glasgow Education Services continue to develop ways of enacting these principles for and with our learners and wider communities.

Q 2	Asked by: Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Treasurer if equality impact assessments will be carried out on this year’s budget decisions?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Treasurer

I am somewhat surprised that Councillor Pidgeon wants to ask me a question about the budget because if she wants to know how the budget process work, I could suggest that’s she tries coming to a budget setting meeting which obviously she decided not to do.

However, to cover her question, yes of course the Equality Impact Assessments are carried out on all our budget decisions. Some of those are carried out in advance of those budget options coming before the cross-party budget working group and others are carried out as the cross-party budget working group moved through its work. And, obviously all of them are concluded in advance of the budget being set in February which I’m sure Councillor Pidgeon will put in her diary for the upcoming budget setting process.

Q 3	Asked by: Councillor Cecilia O'Lone
Tabled Question	"To ask the City Convenor for Culture, Sport, and International Relations, what are the plans to fully reopen the Glasgow National Hockey Centre? And what discussions on the future of the centre are taking place with the governing body, Scottish Hockey? "
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

As part of Glasgow Life's service recovery programme post pandemic, discussions with Scottish Hockey took place to establish measures required to provide access to the venue, in line with the agreement between the two parties, Glasgow Life's financial position and Scottish Government guidelines at the time.

Further discussions resulted in access to hire the pitches, with toilets on site and changing facilities within the nearby Glasgow Green Football Centre. While this is not an ideal, it means we can provide public access to pitches.

At present, we are fulfilling the terms of the agreement with Scottish Hockey, including providing access to offices, pitches for the National Teams, and the use of changing rooms. Clubs can also use the pitches and access the stand, which includes toilets.

Glasgow Life also encouraged Scottish Hockey to consider engaging with the People Make Glasgow Communities (PMGC) programme and I understand they lodged an expression of interest in the venue but have not progressed their application. We are happy to continue to support Scottish Hockey, where we can, with advancing their PMGC application.

In terms of the financial position of the Hockey Centre, it's important to highlight when the project was conceived to construct the venue, it was on the understanding that Scottish Hockey would fully operate the venue. Unfortunately, post the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the National Governing Body was not able to fulfil this commitment. Consequently, Glasgow Life has remained the operator of the Centre, with the city covering the operating deficit.

Dialogue with Scottish Hockey continues and in view of their recent communications, arrangements are being made to meet to discuss the current situation.

While the Hockey Centre is a national facility, there is no financial support from the Scottish Government or Sportscotland and, therefore, the venue operates through funding solely from Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life.

With this in mind, we plan to discuss what financial support the Scottish Government or Sportscotland could provide to enable Glasgow Life to return the Hockey Centre to the operating model that was originally intended.

Q 4	Asked by: Councillor Saqib Ahmed
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor if there have been any discussions with the city’s bus operatives, regarding measures being put in place to ensure that there are no last-minute cancellations of bus services over the festive period? In addition, are there any plans to relax LEZ rules during the festive period to encourage more people to visit our city centre?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Thank you, Cllr Ahmed. The Council has no control over bus services operation planning and cannot do anything about last minute cancellations. Bus operators must consult with SPT as part of the statutory process when withdrawing services.

The issue has, however, been discussed at the Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership and operators have said that some issues resulting in last minute cancellations earlier in the year such as driver shortages are abating.

It is also worth pointing out that public transport operators are themselves gearing up for the festive period. Indeed, earlier this week, I joined the main bus operators, ScotRail, the Subway and Glasgow Taxis at the launch of a joint campaign between the Council and public transport providers to encourage people of all ages to make the switch to public transport when they are organising their evening celebrations in the city over the festive period.

And I hope that all members across this Chamber can join myself, transport operators and representatives of the nighttime economy in doing just that - encouraging more people to come into town on the many options available and supporting our economy at this busy time of year.

On the second point, there are no plans to relax LEZ rules during the festive period. As Cllr Ahmed is aware, the LEZ is a public health measure which targets the most polluting vehicles, whose emissions disproportionately contribute to the illegal levels of air pollution recorded in the city centre.

The default position for all LEZs in Scotland is that they operate at all times, 24/7 and 365 days a year, as the potential impacts of those emissions on people’s health problems and wider health inequalities are also in place at all times.

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	“To ask the Leader of the Council if she will reflect on why many people opposed her decision to share a platform with representatives of companies that have supplied equipment used in Israel’s bombardment of Gaza, which has been described by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as “clearly having a devastating humanitarian and human rights impact”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition, Leader of the Council

Thank you for the question, Cllr Molyneux. Yes, indeed I reflected for a long time both in the run up to the State of the City conference and since. And I believe that in difficult circumstances and, as so often is the case, these are not straightforward decisions, but it was the right decision to make.

On my part to not disinvite individuals, in particular the director of naval ships at BAE Systems, are responsible for the employment of a very significant amount of workers in this city. And in the case of BAE are the mainstay of the shipbuilding and maritime industry in this city.

My horror at the slaughter in Gaza is unequivocal. It is I know this is shared I suspect by the vast majority of people across this city and my stand on demanding an immediate ceasefire continues as it did when I moved the motion at Full Council last month. However, I was very clear in my mind it would not have been a good thing for me particularly as Leader of the Council to send a message to the four thousand workers in Govan and Scotstoun who are working to build ships, not weapons, that because I may personally disapprove of what is being done by another part of their parent company, that I would somehow be seen to withdraw support for them or to imply that they were in any way culpable for the actions of the Israeli Government, the IDF, or indeed the terrorism of Hamas.

That is plainly not the case: these are workers, working hard every day, building ships in an incredibly important industry for Glasgow and I think it’s really important that this council continues to show them our support and our support for the continuation of that industry in this city.

Q 6	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor for an update on the development of a ‘new way of engaging with foster and kinship carers on a wider basis which builds upon the aims and aspirations’ from the Foster Carer summit held earlier this year?”
Responder	Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for health, Care and Caring and Older People

In addressing this issue, I must start by acknowledging the very real commitment of foster and kinship carers in providing children and young people with a loving family environment. It’s important to bear in mind that it’s this family setting that’s most valued by young people. We, as their corporate parent, may provide professional support for young people and their carers - but this cannot be viewed in the same light as the sense of family I’ve referred to.

Since February’s summit, there’ve been a number of developments in our relationship with carers.

Most obviously, we’ve reached a milestone in the agreement between Cosla and the Scottish Government on the new Scottish Recommended Allowances. This gives us a very clear benchmark on allowance levels and in Glasgow these are generally an improvement on what has gone before. It has also set a precedent, in that Government is funding the increase.

Following the summit, officers launched an extensive consultation and engagement exercise with carers and the most recent report to the IJB sets out the stages reached in establishing a Carers Forum, Carer Support Groups and direct representation on the Champions Board, which incidentally met yesterday for the first time.

Officers have established regularised in-person, carer-led support groups, and staff are also developing both daytime and online support groups to maximise opportunities to engage with all Families for Children Carers, taking account of their needs and commitments.

To support the delivery of carer support groups, we are encouraging each group to have a chair and depute to ensure their work is genuinely collaborative.

Service Managers are looking to establish a carer consultation group in early 2024 and are seeking expressions of interest from carers. It is hoped that this will include representatives from the carer support groups and provide a platform for carers to help shape the service going forward.

We are also seeking expressions of interest from foster carers to join the Champions Board. The details of this will be developed by officers in conjunction with the Board.

There is regular communication with carers about key changes within the service and the next edition of the carers’ newsletter will be issued before Christmas.

Carers are also working with the Learning and Development team co-delivering preparation groups and training sessions and we will build on this over 2024 to develop

their engagement.

A Placement Support Template has been trialled within the service to explore the supports individual carers need to care for looked-after children. This will enhance individualised development planning and will be amended following feedback from carers and staff.

We continue to work with carers through the review, supervision and support process to develop the service and enhance the care offered to Glasgow's Children through fostering.

Members can therefore see that our work with carers involves support, engagement, consultation and representation. We need to appreciate carers' concerns and act on them. We need to support them and ensure that they are equipped and able to do what they have volunteered for and what we value from them –providing a loving and supportive family environment for the young people in our collective care.

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Anne McTaggart
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets provide an update on recent investments in our Neighbourhoods?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Since the last Full Council, the Centre for Civic Innovation has been pressing ahead with citizen consultation on Pollok and Calton on priorities for the Neighbourhood Improvement Fund spend with spend of over £1.2m. Hundreds of residents have been engaged in this and its become clear that different approaches are going to be needed and taken in different areas of the city as there are specific priorities and approaches that they will want to take with that.

Last Thursday, City Administration Committee approved the spend of almost £2.3million on several city-wide projects through the Place Fund from the Scottish Government. This included much needed investment in Fossil grove and accessible toilets and changing spaces in four of our public parks.

An additional £6m road programme is continuing at pace and is on course to be completed by the end of March barring any weather setbacks. Footway improvements have also started across the city and the procurement for our lighting column replacement programme has been completed and the work for that will start in the new year.

And I was delighted to see the hard work of council officers and the consultation with the local community result in the £15million being secured for the regeneration of Drumchapel Town Centre through the Levelling Up Fund.

Q 8	Asked by: Bailie Elaine Gallagher
Tabled Question	“At the last full council the convenor admitted that the storm drainage capacity is insufficient to deal with increased rainfall due to climate change. Can the convenor say what the city is doing to rectify that problem in respect of planning policy and relationships with Scottish Water?”
Responder	Councillor Kenny McLean, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

Thank you, Bailie Gallagher. The National Planning Framework 4, which came into force in February 2023, strengthens the planning policy position with respect to ‘*Flood risk and water management*’. The intent of the specific section of the framework - Policy 22 - is ‘*To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding*’.

The Council will build upon Policy 22 as part of the emerging City Development Plan 2, the evidence gathering stage of which is now underway. This will also include review of our existing supplement guidance, SG8 on the Water Environment.

The Council continues to engage constructively with Scottish Water and other key stakeholders through the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership.

Scottish Water and the Council continue to invest in drainage infrastructure to remove and reduce the flows of surface water into the combined sewer network, thereby reducing the risk of property flooding and off-setting the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, in the last week the chief executive and executive director for NRS met with the new chief executive of Scottish Water and committed to strengthening our working relationship and joint working.

The Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to receive a report on surface water drainage at the 10 January 2024 meeting.

Q 9	Asked by: Bailie Elaine Gallagher
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor what timescale the Council are working towards in enacting enforcement against illegal pavement parking?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Glasgow City Council very much welcomes the delivery by the Scottish Government of new powers to enforce against pavement parking, and as recently reported to committee we will progress the necessary work to implement this as soon as possible next year following the enactment of the legislation.

The national regulations and guidance on the technical aspect of enforcing this prohibition is going through the parliamentary process at Holyrood. Following the formal making of these regulations, which are due to be published on 12 December, the Council will submit a request to our ICT provider CGI to commence the necessary changes to our back-office enforcement system.

The late publication of the regulations and the various aspects of the new legislation with different enforcement requirements means that enforcement will be introduced in a phased basis. This aligns with the position of other local authorities that the Council engages with via the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland.

Glasgow intends to begin limited enforcement of dropped kerbs and double parking upon completion of the necessary updates to our back-office system, currently targeted for March 2024. Wider enforcement will gradually be phased in thereafter, but problem areas can be dealt with on an ad hoc basis as soon as the systems allow the issue of penalty charge notices in relation to this new offence. In the meantime, we are also exploring a soft launch of enforcement with the potential to provide warning notices to vehicles engaged in pavement parking in key problem hotspots.

NRS officers are also working with procurement to appoint a consultant to undertake a survey and assessment of our pavements to identify areas where pavement parking occurs and the extent of these issues, in line with national guidance.

This will also provide an evidence base to consider any exemptions which should be introduced, for example due to the potential impact on the wider road network of pavement restrictions in certain narrow residential streets. The findings of this survey should be available by May, with consideration of any exemptions to come back to committee thereafter.

Q 10	Asked by: Councillor Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convener for details of the work with COSLA to address the housing crisis and to secure additional resources to prevent homelessness?”
Responder	Councillor Kenny McLean, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

Thank you, Cllr Wardrop. Officers from both the HSCP and NRS Housing Investment are involved in various workstreams with COSLA, due, in large part to the fact that the housing pressures which have created the housing emergency, come from different quarters and require a range of inputs and responses.

Housing pressures were discussed at the recent COSLA Leaders meeting and Councillor McTaggart sits on the COSLA Community Wellbeing Board which has homelessness and housing within its remit. In response to the priority for housing, COSLA has established a Housing Special Interest Group comprised of cross-party elected members from across Scotland, with the first meeting being 13 December.

I will be representing the Council on that group along with Councillor Kerr. Key priorities will be housing crisis response, as well as overseeing the Scottish Government’s Housing to 2040 strategy and longer-term targets for new affordable homes. The NRS Housing Investment team is in regular discussions with COSLA through ALACHO, the chief housing officers group, around resourcing for affordable housing investment, and will also be represented at the soon-to-be-established Strategic and Affordable Housing Delivery Board. The remit here is to oversee and escalate housing supply issues to the Housing to 2040 Strategic Advisory Board which is co-chaired by the Housing Minister and the COSLA Community Wellbeing Spokesperson”.

In relation to the specific issues relating to asylum and the accelerated decision-making process from Home Office, officers within the HSCP have strong working relationships with the Strategic Migration Partnership (SMP) and regularly contribute to the national discussion within COSLA on asylum. In addition, COSLA SMP supports our officers and lead politicians in the UK discussions, and we have worked closely to model the potential financial impact of the accelerated decision-making process and share that across the Scottish and UK networks. Outwith of this I also meet regularly with the Housing Minister with Councillor Casey where many of these issues contained therein are also raised and again we make the case for Glasgow and for resources.

Q 11	Asked by: Councillor Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor when a full economic impact assessment will be completed on the Golden Z proposal recently presented to the City Administration Committee?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

The Golden Z report sets out the potential for the revitalisation of the historic core of the City Centre, through repurposing of buildings, creation of public realm and introduction of mixed uses. Carried out by consultants on behalf of the Council, it is primarily a visioning and engagement exercise, one which looked at the potential for reuse of former retail units as alternative uses but would retain the activity within the area. It examined key sites and looked at what could happen at these locations to help to regenerate and revitalise the area in the face of deep and long-term structural shifts and changes to consumer habits.

The proposals engaged many local owners, stakeholders, groups and investors, many of whom have since followed up with the Council to see how they can assist in taking forward development. A development team within the Council to co-ordinate the commitments in the City Centre Strategy, the Property Repurposing Strategy and suggested actions from documents such as the Golden Z is being advanced.

The nature and format of the Golden Z Vision and Plan is such that it has a broad span of ideas and vision, with many varied opportunities for specific development proposals to come forward. It would simply not be possible therefore to run an economic impact assessment on this type of report, which will facilitate and encourage a wide range of future private sector projects and investment.

Q 12	Asked by: Councillor John Daly
Tabled Question	“Given that the most recent figures supplied by NRS show that, as of this month, there are 462 black taxis currently non-compliant with the city’s LEZ stipulations and not in receipt of a retrofit grant, what is being done to ensure that these cabs do not disappear from Glasgow’s streets next summer?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Since the Council agreed to introduce a Low Emission Zone in 2017, there has been considerable flexibility provided to support efforts to transition to LEZ compliance.
A key focus has been to encourage all non-compliant operators to make use of the grant funding that has been made available by the Scottish Government to support retrofit to achieve compliance, with £1.9million paid out to support taxi retrofit in the Glasgow region since 2019.

Ahead of the introduction of LEZ enforcement in June this year, the Council also provided further flexibility by offering a one-year exemption for those operators who had submitted an expression of interest in the retrofit fund but had not yet had a retrofit undertaken, and also to those operators who were ineligible to receive funding. This could be for example because their vehicle is not of a retrofittable type or because they are a larger, multi-vehicle operator business which are expected to finance their own fleet renewal and are excluded from the microbusiness criteria of the fund.

In providing these exemptions, the Council has always been explicitly clear that these are time-limited and for a period of one year. These arrangements were put in place to allow operators more time to achieve compliance, either through vehicle retrofit or through fleet renewal, in addition to the roughly five years notice already provided from formally agreeing the introduction of an LEZ in 2018.

Analysis of the Glasgow taxi fleet suggests that 787 taxis are compliant, either at point of manufacture or through funded retrofit, with an additional 93 currently in receipt of a confirmed grant with retrofit expected to be completed before next June.

Of the remaining fleet, 51 vehicles are of a model for which there is no retrofit option, and where fleet renewal will be required. 411 are of a type where a retrofit solution is likely to exist but they are not currently in receipt of retrofit funding, either because they are on the LEZ Fund Waiting List, because the operator did not progress from their expression of interest to a formal application when invited to do so, or because they are ineligible for funding for example due to business size.

The Council will continue to consider further flexibilities where providers can evidence that they are taking active steps to achieve compliance, for example through evidencing that they have a booked retrofit not yet completed or a replacement LEZ compliant vehicle being on order but not yet delivered.

Transport Scotland research indicates that LEZ compliant vehicles, both new and second hand, remain available on the market. NRS will also engage further with Licensing regarding vehicle eligibility for licensing in the Glasgow fleet, building on the previous to allow fixed steps on taxis to increase the available options for vehicle renewal.
GCC officers will continue to liaise with Transport Scotland regarding the LEZ Support Fund and an update report on the LEZ, including an update on taxi compliance, is scheduled for committee in February.

Q 13	Asked by: Councillor Fyeza Ikhlaq
Tabled Question	“To ask the Convener for Education & Early Years what work is going on to amplify pupil voice in the city?”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years

Thank you for your question Cllr Iklaq. The voice of all stakeholders in our education system is of course extremely important, but young people’s voices in the city should be front and centre of our discussions on education.

There are a variety of different forums for young people across Primary and Secondary schools to empower and build pupil participation across the city. These are in addition to local school-based groups to ensure we as a Council are providing opportunities and initiatives from central level which enable and empower the voice of our young people. For example, the Glasgow Schools Forum, both Primary and Secondary forums, don’t only provide a great resource for schools and pupils, but also adults who regularly consult with these forums. For example, NRS in the Council have asked about spending on play equipment and waste management; and they have been asked to feed into national conversations on assessment and school meals, for example.

Additionally, ‘A Manifesto for a Better Future’ was launched by the young people at the Citywide Pupil Conference, which was the first event open to participation of delegates from all schools in the city. The Senior Phase Parliament’s views have been instrumental in creating this manifesto and each of their meetings going forward is focussed on a strand of the manifesto. The young people themselves have volunteered to be part of subgroups that will lead to outcomes, and although adults are supporting them, they have taken complete ownership of drafting and delivering on this manifesto.
Our Director of Education in the Council has been meeting with School Captains from all Secondary and ASL schools in the city for the second year in a row where the young people have had the opportunity to share their thoughts & questions with him directly and I believe these discussions have been lively, positive & very beneficial for the Council to hear from the young people who have been through their whole school journey.

And lastly, I have begun what I’m calling Youth Surgeries in schools to have a chat not only with Head Teachers about what’s happening in our schools, but also to young people from a range of groups within the school and across all years to get the best understanding of the young people’s experiences in school. So far, I have focussed on just a handful of Secondary Schools but will expand this further in the new year. I have found it really interesting and enjoyable having these chats with pupils about what they like in school and what improvements can be made, and conversations have included a whole range of topics like school subject choices, exams, wider achievement opportunities, the school curriculum including in PSE and social and global issues - and importantly, every single school I have been in so far, one of the first things pupils have said is how respected and supported they feel from their teachers and school staff, and that this is having a positive impact on their learning.

This of course isn’t all that’s happening to amplify pupil voice, but I hope it has given just a flavour of the work ongoing daily to ensure young people have a voice in our decision making.

Q 14	Asked by: Councillor Robert Mooney
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor when will Glasgow follow Edinburgh’s lead by charging motorists £100 for parking on pavements?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Glasgow City Council welcomes the introduction of new legislation by the Scottish Government to allow for enforcement against pavement parking, and we look forward to implementing this next year as I set out in my earlier answer to Bailie Gallagher.
Recent press articles regarding Edinburgh’s plans to enforce pavement parking legislation have been somewhat misleading. The City of Edinburgh Council Committee report which prompted these media reports clarifies matters:

Edinburgh have stated that they will begin limited enforcement of dropped kerbs and double parking from January 2024. However, they acknowledge that their back-office enforcement software and stationery will need to be changed to allow this and that changes cannot take place until after the exact contents of the regulations, due to be published on 12 December 2023, are known.

Edinburgh also acknowledge that further consideration should be made of potentially problematic areas before enforcing footway parking due to the potential impact of displacement on the wider road network, and that this may require future interventions and the introduction of exemptions.

In Glasgow, NRS officers are working with procurement to appoint a consultant to undertake a survey and assessment of our pavements to identify areas where footway parking occurs and potential exemptions under the new legislations. NRS will also submit a request to CGI once the guidance is issued in December to commence the necessary changes to our back-office enforcement system.

Glasgow also intends to begin limited enforcement of dropped kerbs and double parking in March 2024, subject to our back-office systems having been updated. Wider enforcement will gradually be phased in later next year, but problem areas can be dealt with on an ad hoc basis as soon as back office systems are updated to allow the issue of penalty charge notices in relation to this offence.

Q 15	Asked by: Councillor Franny Scally
Tabled Question	“Can the City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets provide the Chambers with highlights of the impact our new Sustainable Procurement strategy is making.“
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Glasgow City Council has an annual procurement spend of £630m. This makes us one of the largest purchasers of goods and services in the city and as such we are in a position where we can make sure our procurement positively impacts the wider community.

Our Corporate Procurement Unit is widely recognised as not only one of the best in local government but as a leader across the whole of the public sector. This has been reflected in the numerous awards it has received in recent years and came in highly commended in two categories at the recent GO Awards.

One of those was for the Community Benefits Supplier Recognition Scheme where we award contractors silver, gold and platinum certification depending on the delivery of their agreed community benefits. This has been positively received by suppliers and those in receipt of the community benefits alike.

Ensuring that these benefits match up with the needs in our city is vital and a great example is the work delivered by one of our suppliers Hawkins Brown, an architecture firm. The Simon Community Scotland had a vacant unit and required assistance with the development of design proposals in order that it could be utilised for the needs and purpose of the organisation. Between August 2021 and August 2022, the Supplier worked with the Simon Community in providing pro-bono architectural services, in developing design options for the unit. The Supplier also assisted with the design proposals for the initial ‘Streetreads’ brief and concept for the space.

Another way in which community benefits are delivered is through the creation of positions for those in priority groups. One of our suppliers, McLays, as part of their community benefit offering ran a 26 week position for an individual with a learning disability who had struggled with employment in the past. This proved to be such a good fit that the position was made permanent and the individual who was employed has remarked on the improvement this has made to his health and wellbeing along with the social aspect of being in full time employment.

Q 16	Asked by: Councillor Eunis Jassemi
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what steps are being taken to ensure council services are as accessible as possible over the Christmas period?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Thank you for the question, Cllr Jasemi. In keeping with accepted practices over previous years and with workforce terms and conditions, most services will be subject to change, reduction or closure across Christmas and New Year. Operating times will soon be available online to help Members and the public access services they may require over the festive period.

As regards some of those services we may describe as life and limb, Social Work maintains 24/7 emergency services including over holidays and continues to operate a number of residential and home care services. Members will be aware that an out-of-hours homelessness service will be available during the festive period. Across several of the public holidays during the Festive Period, a limited level of Home Care Services provision will be in operation across Glasgow. All affected service users will have received a letter detailing the changes.

Changes to bin collections and Glasgow Life venue opening times are also published online.