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| Q.1 | Asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique |
| Tabled Question | Can the relevant Convenor advise on the costs of demolition of dangerous buildings over the past five years and how much was recovered from owners? |
| Responder | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |

There have been three emergency demolitions undertaken by NRS Building Standards & Public Safety that commenced in the past five years. These include:

- **187 – 193 Albert Drive/159 Kenmure Street** in 2019. The demolition followed a collapse of the tenement during a fire and the cost of works was £483,082. The Council has fully recovered its costs

- **17 Fairley Street** in 2023. The demolition was two derelict buildings on an old semi industrial site and the cost of the works was £100,919. Cost recovery proceedings are still ongoing through the CBS debt recovery team. The title deeds initially show the registered owners address as being in India and a recent meeting was held with Legal Services to discuss the placing of a Charging Order on the land

- **37 to 45 Bridge St**. This is the ongoing demolition of derelict 4 to 5 storey buildings. Costs are not yet complete for re-charging to the owners and a meeting is being arranged with the owners to discuss the future invoicing and cost recovery

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| Q.2 | Asked by: Councillor Jill Pidgeon |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor if they agree with the Education Secretary, Jenny Gilruth, that it is impossible to improve attainment, attendance, and address challenging behaviour with fewer teachers, in light of the cuts to education made by this City Administration? |
| Responder | Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years |

Thank you to Councillor Pigeon for your question. Teachers are highly valued and I hope it goes without saying that we cannot address poverty related outcomes gaps without them. I am grateful to every teacher in the city who goes above and beyond to ensure the wellbeing and success of their pupils. I also want to congratulate all of Glasgow's young people who sat exams this year and who played a part in helping Glasgow perform well against the national average. In addition, we were up against all indicators compared to our 2019 exam results and this is particularly impressive given these were the first post-covid exam results without any modifications. This is a great testament to our young people, their families and their teachers.

However, the focus on teachers alone in closing poverty related outcomes gaps might fail to understand the valued role played by a broad range of professionals in ensuring our children and young people are able to overcome the barriers associated with relative deprivation. For example, even before children arrive in school, most have spent at least 2 years with our outstanding early learning and childcare colleagues who provide such a valuable service to the children and families of Glasgow. And when they get to school, children and young people are not only supported by their teachers, but by support for learning workers; speech and language therapists; other non-teaching staff in the school; Campus Cops; Skills Development Scotland staff and a range of Third Sector Partners. Glasgow is very fortunate to have strong Third Sector partners such as FARE, PEEK, the Rangers Foundation and the Celtic Foundation. In addition to these bigger organisations there are very many smaller and very local community and faith groups who have deep roots in their local community, all of whom who contribute to the wellbeing of our children, young people and families.

It is no secret that this year in particular, all Councillors had to take extremely difficult decisions in order to balance the city's budget thanks to years and years of inadequate government funding, UK austerity measures and Labour's mismanagement of Glasgow's finances. These financial pressures on Councils, public services, and individuals of course have an impact on our citizens and while we have had to take extremely tough decisions, it is our job to do whatever we possibly can to ensure as many services are delivered within the financial settlement we receive. However, apart from Labour's atrocious handling of equal pay in this city which means we as a city has £30m less every year to spend on services and people, financial issues are not unique to Glasgow and as long as the Labour Government continue the same austerity measures as their Tory predecessors, more and more people will be kept in poverty and will experience the impacts of poverty, such as within the education system. For example, the GCSE pass rate for students in England, Wales and the North of Ireland fell for the 3rd year running to 2019 levels. The common theme here is Westminster austerity policies which are actively hindering the life chances of our young people.

The more fundamental point is that children cannot learn unless they have their basic physical and emotional needs met and that doesn't happen between the hours of 9 and 3 Monday to Friday. In fact, the issues highlighted in the basis of the question: attainment, attendance and behaviour have all been linked to poverty-related factors by the Child Poverty Action Group, Early Intervention Foundation and papers published by the University of Strathclyde. And in that spirit, I'm proud that this City Administration has consistently protected the Holiday Food Programme,

which feeds children and families, so that when they do go back to school, they have food in their stomachs to learn – a programme that Labour have not only tried to cut once in their most recent budget, but twice since the programme was introduced. The core issue is that we need to be funded properly to deliver the services our children, young people and communities need. That cannot be addressed by focussing exclusively on one part of the equation, but by looking at inequality and inequality related outcomes holistically.

However, recent research by a group of academics from several Scottish universities have highlighted that whilst measures that help support families navigate the cost of living are useful, the priority should be on eradicating poverty at source; and I very much look forward to Councillor Pigeon and her Labour colleagues making that exact case to the new Labour Government, although given what we have seen in the very early days of the new Government, I won't hold out too much hope. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation highlighted that the UK Government still has significant control over employment, social security and inequality and argued they should use these powers to "poverty-proof the labour market by ensuring wages are enough to live on and abolish the more pernicious elements of Universal Credit such as the 2 child cap". And if Labour are willing to stand up to Labour MPs who have had quite possibly the worst start to any UK Government, then I look forward to them backing those calls in the SNP amendment to their first motion rather than the self-congratulatory nonsense they have submitted so they can focus on eradicating poverty at its source and giving children and families in Glasgow – regardless of their background – the tools and resources they need to thrive.

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| Q.3 | Asked by: Bailie James Scanlon |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor what measures Glasgow City Council is taking to address the proliferation of graffiti and anti-social behaviour along the Clydeside? |
| Responder | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |

Public Space CCTV covers parts of this area and cameras are reviewed to establish if anti-social behaviour is occurring and contact is made with Police Scotland when incidents are observed. Cameras record 24/7 and can be reviewed by Police Scotland as required.

Community Enforcement Offers patrol the city centre and cover this area at a frequency based on intelligence.

Senior officers of NRS meet with Police Scotland weekly to discuss anti-social behaviour in the City Centre, including Clydeside and direct resources based on intelligence.

The NRS graffiti removal team attend the area to deal with offensive graffiti within the 48hr service level agreement and other graffiti as resources allow. There is also a trial legal wall at Custom House Quay, which attempts to deter those who graffiti the area. Upon completion of the trial period, we will be able to assess whether there has been a positive impact. This is part of a new multi-partner approach to street art and a city wide protocol is currently being developed. This approach was developed following the Council Motion in September 2023. A Stakeholder group has been established to oversee the introduction of legal walls including independent graffiti writers, Elected Members, Glasgow Life, Glasgow School of Art, NRS, SWG3 and Clutha Trust.

Unfortunately, many of the walls and building surfaces impacted by graffiti can be damaged by traditional methods of graffiti removal which makes the task difficult.

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| Q.4 | Asked by: Councillor Elaine McDougall |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor how many homeless individuals required bed and breakfast accommodation over the past year? |
| Responder | Councillor Allan Casey, Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services |

For the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 there were 4674 Households accommodated in BnB / Hotel accommodation, a total of 5442 Adults and 2050 children. As at 10th September 24 there are 1369 Households in BnB / Hotel accommodation, a total of 1553 Adults and 266 Children.

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| Q.5 | Asked by: Councillor Holly Bruce |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant City Convener what conversations they have had with the Scottish Government on when the Delivering Equally Safe Funding will be committed to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services and if they've reconfirmed their commitment to the multi-year funding model? |
| Responder | Councillor Anne McTaggart, City Convener for Communities and Equality |

Thank you for the question, Councillor Bruce.

For the awareness of the Chamber, I met with Councillor Bruce last week, alongside Bailie McCabe as chair of Safe Glasgow to discuss this issue and we have agreed to write jointly to the Scottish Government to lobby them for the multi-year funding which will be required to deliver the recently refreshed Equally Safe strategy.

There are many organisations in Glasgow who are doing critical work to support women and girls from violence, and they rely on this funding to continue to undertake this work.

We have also committed to extending an invite to the Minister for Equalities to come and visit some of these services in Glasgow and hear from them first hand their plans in relation to Equally Safe and the impact if this funding is not secured could have on them and their operations.

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| Q.6 | Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant City Convener what impact the Scottish Government's cuts to its active and sustainable travel budget will have on the Council's ambitious plans for the city network and liveable neighbourhoods programmes. |
| Responder | Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery |

As I indicated at City Administration Committee last week, officers are awaiting formal notification of the impacts of announced spending reductions earlier this month.
While it is understood these are revenue budget-based and not capital budget cuts, the Council has still not received the outcome of its Active Travel Infrastructure Fund Tier 2 bids for 2024/25. As such there remains a significant degree of uncertainty over the current programme and the future pipeline and officers are continuing to engage with Transport Scotland to seek certainty on any release of funding from ATIF Tier 2.

To be clear the Council is continuing to progress a number of active travel infrastructure projects, with various projects currently on site and several more essentially shovel-ready. While the exact phasing of these and the funding package (in terms of the balance between the Council's capital match funding and any national infrastructure funding) is still to be determined, we remain absolutely committed to the projects which have been progressed to final design phase.

We also remain committed to delivering our ambitious plans for the City Network of safe, segregated cycle infrastructure across the city, which is vital to enable modal shift and make active travel a more realistic option for everyday journeys.

We will continue to bring forward a pipeline of projects to fill out the City Network and support the Liveable Neighbourhoods process, though as has always been the case timescales for delivery and the number of projects that can be progressed concurrently will be funding-dependent.

Officers will also look to prioritise key projects and continue to work in partnership with services areas within the Council and with external stakeholders to maximise the delivery of sustainable transport projects, as part of the Council's wider, place-making, economic development, regeneration and community-focused projects.

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| Q.7 | Asked by: Councillor John Carson |
| Tabled Question | Can the relevant Convenor provide details on how the council confirms that the gully cleaning programme is being effectively carried out across the city? |
| Responder | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |

NRS has a comprehensive, risk-based, gully maintenance programme for the city's 78,000 road gullies. Gullies are assigned one of three categories, which determines the frequency of inspection and cleaning:

Category 1 includes gullies serving locations with elevated flood risk which are cleaned and emptied three times per year.

Category 2 includes arterial/main road gullies which are cleaned and emptied once per year. And Category 3 includes neighbourhood gullies which are cleaned and emptied once every three years.

Kerb side access for the large gully vehicles is facilitated through the promotion and displaying of Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices to suspend parking (such as the use of signs, yellow cones and notices on lighting columns), community engagement and use of social media. Vehicles parked in contravention of the traffic regulation notices may be uplifted to allow access and Parking Charge Notices may be issued.

Also, the Glasgow City Council website includes: FAQs; future, current and completed programme information, gully cleaning videos and resident information.

During the works supervisory staff co-ordinate vehicle uplifts, gully cleaning and road sweeping and complete site visit reports.

Gully cleaning performance is monitored through daily site visit checks and KPIs are collated and discussed at monthly performance meetings.

Gully cleaning KPIs include scheduled number of gullies to be cleaned as per the programme, actual number of gullies cleaned during the programme and supporting information regarding any issues.

When blocked or damaged gullies are recorded they are included in a risk and area based follow up programme and a return visit is arranged.

The volume of blocked gully reports received from a particular neighbourhood is influenced by multiple factors including, seasonality, distribution and intensity of rainfall across the city, the capacity of Scottish Water sewers and the status of the leaf sweeping programme at the time of heavy rainfall during the autumn.

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| Q.8 | Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux |
| Tabled Question | To ask the City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations if she will explore whether the city's Common Good Funds could contribute to the costs of an annual civic fireworks display, as happens in several other Scottish council areas? |
| Responder | Bailie Annette Christie City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations |

An independent review of Glasgow's Winter Events Programme was undertaken and included a review of all events, both civic and commercial, from Halloween through to Celtic Connections. As part of this insight Glasgow Fireworks was removed, with funds channelled towards developing events across a wider time period.

With regard to the costs of a Firework Display, following the 2019 event, Police Scotland recommended a significant increase in safety and security measures. With the significant inflationary pressures facing both core infrastructure and pyrotechnics it is estimated that the cost of the Glasgow Fireworks Display would be approximately three hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

While it may be possible to fund this from the Common Good Fund, funding at this level would place pressure on maintaining the Common Good balances as per Common Good Policy.
It is also worth noting that a recent cross party oversight group examined the use of Common Good Fund and agreed with the current policy for spend.

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| Q.9 | Asked by: Bailie Ann Jenkins |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor how many homes are currently lying empty in Glasgow? |
| Responder | Councillor Allan Casey, Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services |

Bringing empty homes back in to use by families across the city has been a real area of strength for Glasgow over the last few years but there is more still to do.

There are many reasons why a property might be empty including prohibitive investment requirements, to common repair issues, issues with utilities companies, or neighbouring property issues.

Having a dedicated Empty Homes team who are doing proactive work with owners, and working to progress CPOs has enabled us to bring 237 empty properties back in to use since 1st April 2024. Last year, we brought 579 homes in to use.

There are currently 2801 long-term empty properties which have been vacant for more than 6 months. Of these 2801, 189 have been vacant for 10 years, 520 for five years and 972 for two years.

We continue to engage with RSLs across the city to see how we can quickly bring empty properties back in to use to assist with alleviating pressures within the housing system. Our relationship with RSLs on this is critical to its success since we aren't a landlord ourselves.

The work that we are doing to bring more homes in to use quickly in Glasgow so that we can reduce the numbers of people in hotel, B&B and temporary accommodation will be aided by the almost £12m of funding that Glasgow will receive this year as part of the National Acquisition Fund.

I am very pleased that the Scottish Government have listened to our lobbying efforts to target this fund in the areas with the greatest need, and this money will absolutely enable us to do more of this type of work.

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| Q.10 | Asked by: Bailie Christy Mearns |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant City Convener whether the replacement of 3G “rubber crumb” sports pitches across the Education estate can be accelerated, given the growing evidence of dangerous health and environmental impacts? |
| Responder | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |

At the present time, there is no programme to replace rubber filled synthetic surfaces. The UK guidance on this issue does not accept that there is sufficient evidence of a health risk to warrant a change in policy at this stage. Colleagues within NRS Property and Consultancy Services are happy to explore this again should further evidence become available, but for the moment, we have no plans to replace 3G rubber crumb surfaces.

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| Q.11 | Asked by: Councillor Saqib Ahmed |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor if school boilers were serviced prior to the beginning of the new school term? |
| Responder | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |

All our educational estate properties receive appropriate servicing. Statutory inspections are undertaken as part of the Planned Preventative Maintenance schedule, which are carried out either annually or six monthly depending on type and usage of building.

Additional Info:
In preparation for winter our contractor can usually supply and install a temporary plant within four or five days. If necessary, we can supply schools with an alternative source of temporary heating until the temporary boiler plant is installed. Most schools have external temperature sensors and plant rooms have electric heating in them to prevent burst pipes in winter when the temperature drops. The cost of full boiler replacement can be significant and our ability to pro-actively replace boilers before failure is limited by the availability of funding.
There are 15 school buildings where the boilers have failed and to ensure they are adequately heated are running with temporary containerised boiler plant. Other than these 15, we are aware of another 8 that have been assessed as “end of life”. Approximately 80 percent of the education estate is over 24 years old, therefore, it is impossible to predict if or when any one of these boilers could fail.

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| Q.12 | Asked by: Councillor Jill Brown |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor how can GCC prevent public health issues that arise from waste bins not being collected on schedule? |
| Responder | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |

On a daily basis, the City Council uplifts in the region of 62,000 bins across the city from all property types, each with their own specific service requirements and challenges. There are a number of variables that impact upon the uplift of waste and recycling such as access issues, sickness, weather and available resources although measures are in place to mitigate the impact of these to residents. For example, additional vehicles are available to manage breakdowns, servicing and maintenance; we have contingency staff to take into account absence; and we have trained staff across all front-line services who can be deployed into areas with greatest need.

Although contingency measures are in place to manage domestic collections, occasionally services can be impacted by some of the issues highlighted. Missed collections are recorded on the asset management system ALLOY, which allows for the collections to be rescheduled as soon as possible. Residents can also report missed collections through the My Glasgow App & call centre, which will be passed onto the appropriate depot for action.

In the event that missed collections occur we encourage residents to report this to GCC and to store their waste material and recycling within the appropriate bins or home to reduce the impact of birds and vermin. It would only become a public health issue if the waste was not contained, such as side waste in bags. As long as adequate containment is in place, the impact should be kept to a minimum.

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| Q.13 | Asked by: Bailie Seonad Hoy |
| Tabled Question | To ask the Leader of the Council if she received responses from the then-Foreign Secretary and First Minister to her letters regarding the Solidarity with Palestine motion passed at Full Council in March of this year, and if she intends to write to their successors to share this Council's agreed position on the provision of weapons to Israel. |
| Responder | Councillor Aitken, Leader of the Council |

Due to the period of intense political flux which followed the passing of the Solitary With Palestine motion, including the resignation of the then-First Minister, UK General Election campaign and election of the new Government at Westminster, it was felt that the moment was passing - and indeed quickly passed - to direct our correspondence to the original intended recipients.

However, with both Parliamentary recesses having now concluded and new leaderships well in place, my office has since brought the matters raised in the motion to the attention of the current First Minister John Swinney and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. We have yet to receive responses to those letters but will share them with Councillor Massie and colleagues across the Chamber when we do so.

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| Q.14 | Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux |
| Tabled Question | To ask the City Treasurer what discussions he has had with the Chair of the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board regarding the £7.4m funding the Council received after setting its Budget, of which around £5m stems, via the Barnett Formula, from social care spending in England? |
| Responder | Councillor Ricky Bell, Deputy Leader and City Treasurer and Convenor for Financial Inclusion |

It's important to state that Barnett Consequentials to the Scottish Government are not hypothecated – that is, they are not linked - to any policy commitments in Scotland. The Funding referred to in the question was the £62.7m which was the final part of the funding provided by Scottish Government for the Council Tax Freeze. This funding, as Councillor Molyneux notes, was confirmed after Glasgow had set its budget. Given the level of risk within the Budget it was decided to hold this funding in reserves to deal with pressures as have been experienced via Budget Reporting.

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| Q.15 | Asked by: Councillor Sean Ferguson |
| Tabled Question | To ask the City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations about hosting the European Heritage Hub and Glasgow's accolade of being identified as one of ten leading cities for exemplary local practices in the field of cultural heritage? |
| Responder | Bailie Annette Christie City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations |

Across the 8th, 9th and 10th of July, around 20 heritage experts visited Glasgow for the start of the European Heritage Hub's inaugural peer-learning visit. Over those three days, participants from across Europe came together to explore Glasgow's heritage scene and exchange valuable knowledge from their own local contexts.

The first day started with a tour of Glasgow's unique built heritage, including the City Chambers. Participants learned about the city's story of regeneration, from post-industrial decline to a transformation led by culture. Day 2 gave participants a chance to visit Pollok Country Park to learn of two major cultural heritage projects. Firstly, The Burrell Collection, where participants learned of the success of the Burrell Renaissance Project and then the Stables, where they heard about the redevelopment of the A-listed Stables and Sawmill.

The final day allowed for participants to engage in valuable discussions to share their learnings from over the previous days.

The European Heritage Hub's mission is to connect, share, and strengthen heritage across Europe and we were honoured to have been selected as one of the 10 initiatives due to the quality of our work in cultural heritage. Glasgow stood out as one of the first cities to see regeneration beyond the lens of economic development. The Hub's visit shows the value that cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange can bring to cities. It was a way of building a fellowship and provided an opportunity to work together with people of like minds, to find solutions to common problems, and give each other support.

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| Q.16 | Asked by: Councillor Keiran O'Neill |
| Tabled Question | To ask the relevant Convenor what action the council is taking to ensure Citizens Advice Bureau can effectively support Glaswegians? |
| Responder | Councillor Ricky Bell, Deputy Leader and City Treasurer and Convenor for Financial Inclusion |

Glasgow City Council and the HSCP have provided Glasgow's CAB's with funding of £1.447m in 2023/24 and to date funding of £1.495m in 2024/25. They are strategic partners as key members of the GAIN Network and have all been heavily involved in our strategic discussions around the redesign of Financial Inclusion provision within the City.