Q 1	Asked by: Councillor George Redmond
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor if they can confirm that there will be commitment to compensate local authorities due to the Council Tax freeze announced by the Scottish Government? In addition, the Council needs a commitment from the Scottish Government that this announcement will not have an impact on Glasgow City Council’s gservices?”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

The First Minister has confirmed his plans for a Council Tax Freeze will be fully funded by the Scottish Government and paid for by Holyrood. He’s also confirmed that local authorities have the option of accepting the funding or not

Council Officers and CoSLA Officials are already engaged in discussions with Scottish Government around the detail of implementation and that there will be no detriment to local government in either this or future years will of course be a key principle.

Local Government funding will continue to face significant challenge, not least from rampant inflation, regardless of the position with regard to Council Tax, however a fully funded like-for-like freeze would, by definition, not have a further material impact

Q 2	Asked by: Councillor Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor for an update on discussions that have taken place between the administration and the Scottish Government regarding the manifesto commitment to introduce legislation to give Glasgow City Council powers to make Compulsory Sales Orders, following the leaders public statement that Glasgow needs this power?"
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council

This is an issue that this administration has been raising with the Scottish Government both at officer and political level for years.

Having CSO power would be an important tool in helping to continue to transform Glasgow's urban realm, enabling swifter development, and removing blight in our communities. However, there are undoubtedly complex legal issues surrounding their implementation.

Nor do CSOs stand alone. The Scottish Government has advised officers that work continues on addressing the issues around CSOs but also that CPO reform is likely to progressed and introduced in the first instance. This is extremely welcome as although the Council already makes extensive use of CPOs for empty properties, enhancing and streamlining those powers would allow us to go even further.

The Scottish Government has said that they will appoint an advisory panel to inform development of options for CPO reform and have recognised that as one of the main users of CPO in Scotland, Glasgow City Council has valuable insights and practical experience to contribute to this work.

There are other issues around our ability to acquire and repurpose properties that require reform and that lie in the hands of the UK government, for example the VAT charged on the refurbishment of existing buildings that is not charged on new build. The Council has led on work within the Scottish Cities Alliance to analyse and make recommendations on how to progress city centre property repurposing in the round and joint discussion on that with the Scottish Government will take place at the next SCA meeting.

Q 3	Asked by: Councillor Cecilia O'Lone
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor what actions are Glasgow Life taking to find the £3million worth of items listed as missing or stolen, including Auguste Rodin's Les Bourgeois de Calais?"
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

Thank you Cllr O'Lone. If I can first address the issue of Rodin's Les Bourgeois de Calais. The last confirmed location of the plaster cast of the piece was an open air exhibition in 1949. Glasgow Museum has never had a bronze version of this work. A storm occurred on the last day of the exhibition where it is understood Le Bourgeois de Calais was damaged.

This only came to light in 2004. It is reasonable to conclude that the damage was so significant that it was not retained, and any written record was not lodged in the appropriate place at the time.

The Comite Rodin have said that the disappearance was "regrettable but must be put into the context of the times, as plaster works did not arouse much interest in the 1940s."

On the wider pint, the museums team carry out an ongoing Inventory process, recognised in the museum sector for collections management and a mandatory component of Museums Accreditation. That process uncovers items previously recorded as unlocated, has enhanced security, prevents theft, and reduces the number of objects recorded as unlocated.

The Museum Asset Database provides catalogue and location information for objects in the collections. An inventory project systematically works through the stores matching objects found with the objects recorded in the paper records.

Where historic thefts have been conclusively identified, we have robust processes in place including notifying the police and adding the items to the Art Loss register when appropriate which makes it difficult to secure sales at legitimate auctions. Children Wading, by Robert Gemmell Hutchison was recently returned to us through this process.

Q 4	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	“To ask relevant Convenor what the departments policy is with regards to the maintenance of roadside gullies in areas known to flood?”
Responder	Cllr Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Thank you, Bailie Ferguson. NRS has a comprehensive gully maintenance programme for the city’s 78,000 gullies. This involves the cleaning and emptying of flood route gullies three times a year, main arterial gullies once a year and neighbourhood gullies every two years.

Data derived from recent reports of flooding and blocked gullies over three years, as well as local engineering knowledge, informs the locations for flood routes. Seven different vehicles carry out the work.

Particularly at this time of year when fallen leaves can easily cover over gully covers/gratings, regular sweeping of gullies and road channels is undertaken. The leaf sweeping locations include ‘hot spots’ where trees shed leaves in such a way as to block gullies and road channels, leading to flooding.

It should also be noted that at times the Scottish Water sewer network can be full during periods of persistent and heavy rain. When this occurs, there can be a delay before sewer capacity is ‘freed up’ to allow it to take surface water and this delay can lead to temporary road and footway flooding. NRS Flood Management work with partner organisations including Scottish Water to consider strategic flood risk management

Over and above the cyclic gully maintenance programme, members and their constituents can report flooding and blocked gullies using MyGlasgowApp or by calling the RALF number on 0800 37 36 35. These reports are risk assessed and any required flood clearing or gully cleaning/emptying will then be undertaken.

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	“To ask the Chair of the Strathclyde Pension Fund Committee whether he will ask the Fund's officers to update their climate assessment of Equinor in light of the approval of the Rosebank oil and gas field?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Treasurer

Yes, I’m happy to ask officers to re-evaluate the assessment of Equinor.

To be clear, this work is conducted independently and there is no guarantee that asking for a re-evaluation will lead to a change in their status.

However, given the concerns around Rosebank I am happy to ask officers if this is something that could be progressed.

Under the policy implemented during 2022, investment managers are required to assess the environmental risk of each and every investment they make and advise the fund of particular strengths and weaknesses. The fund also receives updates on what engagement is taking place to improve performance, as well as changes in holdings.

For example, a total of 12 energy sector companies previously held by SPF have been sold by investment managers since the previous assessment. Meanwhile, all ten companies that were held at the first round of assessments and were still held in 2023 had improved scores.

I’m proud of the work we are doing, but I’m also realistic. We are breaking new ground and we are learning all the time – so are our investment managers and, to a great extent, some of the companies we hold. And we have a fiduciary duty not only to the pensioners currently receiving funding, but those yet to come.

One of the other barriers can be that data and the disclosure of plans and targets that we are looking for just aren’t there because – at a UK government and regulatory level – they have never been demanded. So, we’re asking for things very few other investors are.

It’s a journey – and we’ve learned a lot from colleagues in New York, who are really the only big fund that are further along the road. They’ll tell you, it took them five years to get on top of it – at the moment, we’re barely a year in with lots still to do.

“The reality is, Strathclyde was probably cleaner than most funds when we started this – and it’s only going to get cleaner. The more funds that join us on this journey, the easier it will get for all of us.

Q 6	Asked by: Councillor Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	“To ask the Leader of the Council to update on actions taken subsequent to the recent meeting of the Emergency Committee regarding the Home Office’s streamlined asylum process, and whether the UK Government has offered any suggestion it cares about the significant impact this will have on the Council, its financial position, and on those directly impacted?”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

The day after the Emergency Committee, Cllr Casey and I wrote to the Secreatry of State for Scotland with a copy of the paper that was discussed and outlining the significant impact that this could have on the city – we are yet to receive a response.

Operationally, the Chief Officer continues to engage at a UK level including recent meetings with the Home Office and the Local Government Association where she shared our report. There was significant concern expressed across the UK about the impact this would have. The LGA have made a formal request for funding from the UK Government and have noted the irony that local authorities might be forced to use the hotels to house people that the UK Government are coming out of.

The Home Office have put in place an Implementation Board in Glasgow to work through cases but there is no funding attached to this.

Officers are also looking a feasibility around modular and other types of temporary accommodation.

We continue to engage with COSLA who are supportive of Glasgow’s position. Through COSLA, either myself or Cllr Casey will meet with the Minister for Immigration Robert Jenrick later today where we will raise directly with him the issues that the city is facing. The timing of that meeting is such that who will attend will depend on the business taking place at Council at the time.

We will reiterate to him that rather than moving people around like chess pieces, which will create humanitarian crisis in towns and cities across the UK, and still cost money, the Home Office should approach this in a planned and structured way, instead of this approach where they are trying to convince voters they are delivering on their ugly rhetoric on asylum but all they are doing is leaving panic and destitution in their wake.

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Sean Ferguson
Tabled Question	“Can the City Convener for Culture Sport and International Relations advise us of the progress being made on the strategic plan commitment to Celebrate Glasgow’s 850th birthday in 2025?”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

Thank you for the question, Cllr Ferguson. Glasgow 850 – in a little over a year’s time – presents us with an exciting opportunity to celebrate our city’s journey from a small ecclesiastical centre near the Clyde to the Glasgow of 2025. And reflect on the key events and issues which have shaped today’s city. In looking back we’ve the Glasgow 800 celebrations as a reference point - not simply to see how we did it then but how Glasgow has changed over those 50 years.

The Glasgow of today is unrecognisable from the city of 1975 but in just like half a century ago our city faces major structural, economic and social shifts, requiring us to again change and adapt. In Glasgow 850 we have a platform to look to that future and accelerate Glasgow’s ambitions.

We hope that this anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the city’s growth since 1975 when Glasgow 800 was held, building and reflecting on key areas and events which have shaped Glasgow today. There is an opportunity to use 2025 as an accelerator for change for the future.

Be it the Year of Culture, the Commonwealth Games or COP26, we’ve seen over the years the power of events to galvanise and energise our city, and to generate pride and real change. In 2025 we’ve another opportunity to bring the city together and to continue to deliver on the city’s vision for a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future. The celebrations will build on many of the Council’s ambitions, not least enhancing the city’s reputation here in Scotland and much further afield and delivering legacy for Glasgow’s communities. Colleagues from across the council family are currently curating and proposing how best to support a programme of events and activities to celebrate the anniversary and look forward to bringing a paper with further detail to CAC very soon.

Q 8	Asked by: Councillor Eva Bolander
Tabled Question	"Glasgow has recently been ranked 61st in the World's Top 100 Cities by Resonance. Can the Leader of the Council explain the significance of this for the city, its international reputation and its economy?"
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

Thank you, Cllr Blander and this is indeed huge, but also well-merited, recognition of the strides Glasgow is making, and something which this city - the council and all our partners - should be proud of helping secure.

This is what the world is seeing when it looks in at Glasgow – a cultured, innovative, skilled and educated city, a city with an edge and authenticity.

For colleagues who aren't aware the global Resonance consultancy has indeed ranked Glasgow as 61st in the list of the world's top 100 cities. Particularly pleasing is the fact that we're the second ranked of the UK cities in the list, with London placed again at No.1. Glasgow is 11 places above Manchester and 13 above Liverpool. Birmingham and Leeds were in the 80s. This is a list dominated by capitals and megacities.

We're familiar with various listings and surveys which put Glasgow as one of the best or worst of something or other. The Resonance rankings are different. Using robust and comprehensive approaches, Resonance provide international investors with valuable and up to date data on international cities. The rankings are determined by analysing the performance of each city on a wide range of factors that have historically shown positive correlations with attracting employment, investment and visitors to cities.

The metrics used and the themes of liveability, lovability and prosperity used by Resonance are highly relevant to, and very much in tune with, how Glasgow promotes itself to investors, visitors and talent. Glasgow's profile is built around the strength of its education, the quality of its universities, its emerging tech ecosystem and, crucially, its affordability. The famous Glasgow nightlife and wider cultural offer is also highlighted as is our long tradition of hosting international events. Last year, when we were ranked 91st, Resonance recognised our commitment to inclusive growth, ensuring we do all we can to ensure all our citizens can share in our ambitions. They've clearly have a good look when making their assessments.

Colleagues, this is highly significant, and a very positive story for Glasgow. It's a solid accolade and one to build and improve on in the years ahead. And I was delighted to see today business, nightlife and academic leaders join in that recognition.

Q 9	Asked by: Councillor Holly Bruce
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor what is the status of Mount Florida Community Council’s Letherby Triangle project, if there have been any barriers to delivery and if so, how can GCC overcome those barriers?”
Responder	Cllr Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Thank you for the question, Cllr Bruce. An application for construction funding for the Letherby Triangle project, that’s RIBA Stage 5-7 in the process, was made to the Sustrans’ Places for Everyone grant in November 2022. In March of this year, Sustrans provided an award in principle but later the funding parameters were changed to no longer permit multi-year funding for projects. This has generated difficulties as the Letherby Triangle requires multiple years of funding to allow for the preparation, construction and opening of the project.

As of last week, Sustrans has also confirmed that construction of projects will no longer be supported through Places For Everyone and instead Local Authorities will be directed to Transport Scotland’s Active Travel Transformation Programme (ATTP) fund. With Mount Florida Community Council being the client for this project, this creates a new barrier to delivery.

We are urgently seeking clarifications from Sustrans on how this project can proceed given their award in principle, and we will certainly be actively pursuing any opportunities to secure that funding or indeed to seek alternative funding sources.

Q 10	Asked by: Bailie Ann Jenkins
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor how individuals who do not have online access make a request for a brown bin permit? In addition, what is the timetabling for the introduction of brown bin permits? And has there been proper engagement?”
Responder	Cllr Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The charge for garden waste and the requirement of a “brown bin permit” was approved as part of the budget process at Full Council in February 2023.

In relation to payment options for the permit, The Council continues to promote online payments as it’s payment method of choice and approximately 80% of citizens have opted for online payments across a range of Council service.

However, we appreciate that this is not an option for everyone and therefore householders can opt to pay their permit via the Council’s Garden Waste telephone enquiry line, which is open every Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 16:00pm. (0141 287 9700).

When the Garden Waste scheme was introduced, we did introduce a cap on the level of inbound telephony contact our call centre could reasonably handle. This approach was required to ensure that all other call types to the council (emergency and non-emergency) could also be answered. Whilst demand was initially high when the scheme went live on 20 September 2023, I can confirm that contact has now stabilised and by 19th October we have answered 808 Garden Waste calls.

The Council also offers Live Chat for Garden Waste enquiries every Monday to Friday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and there is an online enquiry form available out with normal working hours.

Approximately 120,000 Glasgow households were lettered on 18th September to advise of the introduction of this scheme.
We are currently sending out permits twice weekly and the average time for residents receiving their permits is 21 days.

There have been 17,136 applications made for permits as of 23rd October.

Q 11	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	“To ask the chair of Glasgow Life when the investigation into the possibility of RAAC concrete being present in the structure of Drumchapel Pool will be completed? Can the Convenor also confirm if there are any indicative timeframes for the reopening of Drumchapel Swimming Pool?”
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

Glasgow Life is in the process of appointing the services of structural engineers and we anticipate that they will undertake their initial site survey this week.

Until such times as the survey has been completed and the engineers have provided a statement on their assessment of the condition of the RAAC we are unable to provide any indication of a reopening timescale.

We will ensure that updates are provided when further information is available.

Q 12	Asked by: Councillor Keiran O'Neill
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor what representations the Council has made to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service regarding the removal of several fire appliances across the city and the loss of 24-hour boat rescue team from the Clyde?"
Responder	Cllr Greg Hepburn, City Convener for Open Government, Council Business Manager

Thank you, Cllr O'Neill. As the member will be aware, it is the Safe Glasgow Partnership which has the responsibility for scrutiny and engagement arrangements with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the city.

Reports and updates on the Service's Strategic Service Review are presented to the Partnership at its quarterly meetings, the last of which was August 24th and included a full briefing to members.

The implementation of changes in appliance location and crewing of some specialist services was presented at the meeting, with evidence from a wider review of services considered. Members were made aware of the removal of some appliances on an initial temporary basis.

The Council has the authority, through the Partnership, to continue to review the impact and to offer its assessment of the service changes. The Fire and Rescue Service has committed to monitoring the impact and reporting on a quarterly basis to the Partnership.

Members may recall a similar question at last Full Council where I told the Chamber that the Local Area Commander David Murdoch was open about the changes and gave assurances that there would be no adverse affect on responses to incidents. I remain – at this juncture - satisfied that the operational plans have been thoroughly thought through and our Citizens continue to be safe.

Commander Murdoch offered 121 meetings for Councillors who could not attend that meeting or that wanted more detail specific to their wards. The opportunity for further engagement with the Fire and Rescue Service is possible through the Partnership.

Q 13	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor for an update on work being undertaken to identify and mitigate the impact of RAAC in Glasgow.”
Responder	Cllr Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

At the time of writing, Glasgow City Council has positively identified only one building within the education estate as having RAAC – this is Whitehill Secondary School. RAAC has been known to be present in the school since 2019, and our PPP Partner – who has operational responsibility for this school – has had a robust regime of inspection, mitigation, and maintenance in place to manage the risk whilst the longer-term plan for its replacement is considered.

In July 2023, the Scottish Government requested all local authorities to actively “search” for RAAC within their respective education estates, and following this directive, Glasgow City Council undertook a 4-stage process to do so:
Stage 1 – Desktop analysis
Stage 2 – Analysis of archive drawing information
Stage 3 – Site visit and inspection (non-disruptive)
Stage 4 – Site visit and inspection – invasive survey

GCC has 269 buildings within its education estate and only 9 buildings remain to have their stage 4 assessment concluded.

The Asset Management Team has also commenced the same 4-stage assessment process within other parts of the GCC built estate including: Social Work, NRS, Corporate and Leased Out properties. Glasgow Life and City Property’s respective teams are looking at their own estates using a similar process.

Q 14	Asked by: Councillor Audrey Dempsey
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor why CCTV operations have been reduced from 24/7 to 12/7 and what is being done to ensure the safety of citizens?”
Responder	Cllr Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Thank you, Cllr Dempsey.

This decision was taken as part of the budget and, since you didn’t turn up to take part in that decision, it is understandable that you are not aware of how and where decisions are taken.

Regarding ongoing safety, the cameras continuously record so footage can be viewed retrospectively in the event they are required.

Additionally, and in response to any emerging trends, cameras can be positioned to ensure coverage when operators are not on duty.

Q 15	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor what is being done to ensure an equitable delivery of Liveable Neighbourhoods projects across different parts of the city.“
Responder	Cllr Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Thank you for the question, Cllr Molyneux. The scale and complexity of identified Liveable Neighbourhood projects varies across the city and a number are in feasibility or concept design phases. Designs can be complex or simple. Each project, for example, requires specific elements of concept design to meet criteria set by funders. The more aspirational and complex a project, the more surveys and studies it will require and the more likely it is that costs will be more significant.

In terms of creating the short list from the longer list which have been part of RIBA stage 1, projects are assessed against several criteria. This includes environmental, social, and economic factors such as potential for carbon reduction, capacity for modal shift, opportunities for the local economy and deliverability of the projects within budget available to the consultants and resources.

Ward Councillors have also been presented with shortlisted projects for comment, while Spatial Planning colleagues were also consulted. A selection of 3-6 projects in each Liveable Neighbourhood area will be carried through to RIBA stage 2 for concept and preliminary design work.

Independent consultants have been appointed to ensure equity and consistency of approach at each stage and across each area. A regular reporting schedule has been established through the Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods committee which will provide updates and transparency as this process progresses.

Q 16	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor what work is being done to promote active travel to, from and around schools and nurseries, following reports of construction work forcing children, parents and carers to walk, wheel and cycle on the road outside Shawlands Primary School earlier this month.”
Responder	Cllr Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Thank you for your very timely question, Cllr Anderson, as it gives me an opportunity to congratulate all involved in both highlighting the need for, and then delivering, the innovative traffic light technology that helps Shawlands Bike Bus safely navigate a busy Southside junction following its national award.

The Ultra Smart Cycle System took the top prize for an 'Exemplary Approach to Active Travel and Public Space' at the National Transport Awards in London this week.
The system has been described as a game changer for the more than 50 young riders cycling to Shawlands Primary. I appreciate this doesn’t deal with every obstacle, which I’ll return to shortly, but it has been a real asset in promoting active travel in this part of Glasgow.

City-wide, the Active Travel Strategy has a focus on young people to ensure our next generation is one of active travellers. The City Network has been designed to ensure that all schools are within 400m of protected cycling infrastructure, with low traffic, safer streets connecting to the City Network. Alongside the continued roll out of School Streets, improvements to local streets and spaces through the City Network and Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan, will help facilitate active school journeys.

We are also working with the Scottish Government and partners to widen access to cycles for school pupils in Glasgow. Support through the Smarter Choices Smarter Places funding, or example is increasing the reach of the Play Together on Pedals programme to nursery and P1/P2 pupils. The council’s Road Safety Unit continues to deliver Bikeability cycle training to older primary children at all schools – all of which complements the road safety education initiatives in the Glasgow Road Safety Plan, and the Unit’s education, training and publicity service.

I am aware of the issue created by contractors for SP Networks and City Fibre outside the school on October 11th. This was unfortunate and was raised with the roads team which was asked to investigate. Officers also met with the Head Teacher on 24 October 2023 to discuss road safety and active travel.

While we always seek to avoid these situations, I would urge anyone who sees similar to immediately contact the Road Safety Unit.