

Q.1	Asked by: Bailie Ann Jenkins
Tabled Question	"Can the relevant Convenor outline what action has been taken to address the issue of dangerous cladding on some of the city's buildings?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convenor for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>This issue is being addressed by the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Act 2024, which became law in June but as yet no date for the legal commencement has been confirmed. It's therefore Scottish Ministers who hold the legislative responsibility for undertaking action – from identifying external cladding that could create or exacerbate risks of fire and to addressing those risks. But also, to establish a register recording that a building's cladding has been assessed and that remediation works have been completed. The legislation has clauses to have the original developers sign up to undertake any necessary remedial actions and applies to properties constructed between June 1992 and June 2022. Crucially, there are no statutory powers available to local authorities to seek the upgrading of cladding on buildings in private ownership.</p> <p>Perhaps the most effective way to address this complex issue would be arrange a briefing with colleagues within building standards who are familiar with the legislation, including work carried out in Glasgow to inform the Scottish Government's approach and the assistance provided by the Council in developing the Government's approach.</p>	

Q.2	Asked by: Bailie Hanif Raja
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what representation the BAME community has had in the reopening of the People’s Palace?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>A significant amount of consultation has been carried out for the People’s Palace project to date. In addition to public surveys and local pop-up events, targeted consultation to reach BAME communities has taken place with groups including West Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC); Changemakers (South Asian youth collective); CRER; Glasgow Voluntary Sector Race Equality Network (GVSREN); Mental Health Foundation (working with refugees and asylum seekers); and local teachers/school groups including English as an Additional Language pupils.</p> <p>We are also applying the feedback/learning from wider work with Glasgow’s diaspora heritage communities - including the Lascars and Legacies of Empire projects - to influence how the histories of Glasgow’s ethnically diverse communities are represented throughout the museum.</p> <p>As the redevelopment project progresses, mechanisms for future community engagement include local outreach/consultation; strategic work with community partners to reach underserved groups; and targeted engagement work with ethnically diverse communities particularly as we celebrate Glasgow’s 850<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2025 when there will be the People’s Palace on tour programme.</p>	

Q.3	Asked by: Councillor Kieran Turner
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what consideration has been given to reopening an in-person appointment-based service for citizens to engage with council services and what further improvements can be made to improve customer service across council departments?”
Responder	Councillor Ricky Bell, Deputy Leader and City Treasurer and Convenor for Financial Inclusion
<p>Since the pandemic, CBS have tested, evolved and changed their customer contact strategy and it remains under continual review. This has enabled us to increase digital service provision for those who want to access our services in this way</p> <p>However, it is important to be clear that whilst John Street is no longer open for walk-in appointments, people are still able to book face-to-face appointments if required and this can be done through the Council switchboard on 0141 287 2000.</p> <p>Additionally, alongside Glasgow Life we offer face-to-face assistance to navigate our online services at the Universal Credit Hubs which exist in libraries across the city. Appointments for this Service can be booked by contacting 0808 169 901. The written response to this will include a link outlining the 19 libraries that host these hubs, and for many accessing a hub if there is a library local to them might be easier than making a journey into John Street.</p> <p>Regarding NRS services, the digital options that are available to residents to report issues including missed bins or issues with roads and lighting include the MyGlasgow app as well as an online form on via the website. There is also a phone service for people to report these issues which is open Monday to Sunday from 9-5. Regardless of how people want to report a bin collection, it must be done the following day after a missed bin, because operatives have until 8pm to make the collection on the scheduled uplift day.</p> <p>We will continue to review these procedures to ensure that as far as possible we balance delivering a digital service to those who prefer to engage with the council in that way whilst ensuring that we also give the opportunity for residents to book face-to-face appointments if that is their preferred way to engage with us.</p>	

Q.4	Asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	“Lord Provost as Glasgow approaches its 850 Celebrations next year why has Glasgow City Council decided to suspend indefinitely the International Rose Trials at Tollcross Park?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

Prior to the onset of Covid restrictions The International Rose Trials took place each year within Tollcross Park.

However, due to ongoing budgetary pressures the trials were suspended indefinitely. The panel of judges will still be judging those roses submitted in 2022 as they're assessed over a two-year period. But - while we continue to maintain the Tollcross rose garden to a high standard to the benefit of park users and visitors - there are no immediate plans to resume the full International Rose Trials at this time.

Q.5	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener what impact they expect Glasgow City Council will face from the Scottish Government’s decision to withhold £145 million from local authorities over teacher numbers?”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years
<p>Glasgow City Council’s allocation of the £145.5 million that is ring fenced for teachers by the Scottish Government is £16.49million. Clearly, if any further money is taken away from the Council the consequences would be significant and this would result in an even more difficult budget setting process for all of us. Colleagues will be aware that the Council are already in extremely difficult financial climate and tough decisions have had to be made as a result of various factors we have talked about in the Chamber before such as austerity and the equal pay settlement, but Government funding clearly is part of that equation too.</p>	

Q.6	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener what actions the Council is taking with partner agencies to reassure people that existing fireworks regulations will be properly enforced, following the failure to deliver a lawful Fireworks Control Zone in Pollokshields this year?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>While it is regrettable that not all firework control regulations will be available to us this year, residents can be assured that the Council continues to work closely with partner agencies to ensure that enforcement action is being carried out.</p> <p>Every business storing or selling fireworks will be inspected by Trading Standards, while joint visits with Police Scotland and/or Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Service will also be carried out where there is intelligence to suggest a specific need.</p> <p>As well as checking the premises for safe storage, Trading Standards inspect the products themselves to ensure that they are compliant with relevant standards, that the business have not exceeded the agreed quantity, and have the correct category of fireworks for their particular licence.</p> <p>Businesses are reminded of their legal obligations in terms of times/dates for selling fireworks, as well as reinforcing the message relating to age restricted sales. Our officers have already commenced fireworks test purchasing including underage sales with underage volunteers. Inspections and re-visits, alongside test purchasing operations, have been arranged for the lead up to 5th November and for the week after. Additional resource has also been arranged for this coming weekend.</p> <p>The Bonfire multi-agency task group, which is jointly chaired by Police Scotland and the Council and includes various partner agencies coordinates approaches to dealing with Bonfire/ Fireworks season, including the uplift of bonfire material, which can often require support from Police Scotland. Monitoring of Public Space CCTV will take place to assist in the process.</p> <p>A Bonfire Protocol group ensures consistent messaging from all partner agencies, providing general advice and guidance, details of offences, reporting mechanisms for use by the public, as well as warnings regarding the potential dangers associated with fireworks and misuse of them. Furthermore, resident reassurance letters for hotspot areas have been agreed with Police Scotland and local housing associations. Police Youth Volunteers are assisting with posting them through doors in Pollokshields.</p> <p>And letters are sent to all pupils, parents and carers via Campus Police relating to fireworks as well as specifically for Pollokshields. The multi-agency control centre will be set up at Eastgate and will coordinate activities specifically on 4th and 5th November. Representation from partners will be present to ensure issues are risk assessed, prioritised and dealt with accordingly.</p>	

Q.7	Asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	"Can the relevant Convenor confirm how many Heritage and Listed Buildings owned by Glasgow City Council are lying empty in the city?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

Glasgow City Council currently owns 21 listed and vacant buildings. Colleagues will recall that the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-27 identified the intention to establish a Built Heritage Commission to help find solutions to the complex challenges facing the Historic Environment in Glasgow and to provide a forum for the Council to champion the Heritage agenda in all its forms. The first meeting of the Glasgow Built Heritage Commission took place last week and updates will be provided via the appropriate council committees.

Meanwhile, officers within City Property and the Property Asset Management continue to work with colleagues across the Council and other partners to identify long-term sustainable uses for our surplus property assets, including what open market opportunities may be available for some of these assets.

Q.8	Asked by: Bailie Thomas Kerr
Tabled Question	"To ask the City Treasurer what work the council financial services team is doing to enable vulnerable Glasgow pensioners to sign up for Pension Credit?"

Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Deputy Leader and City Treasurer and Convenor for Financial Inclusion
<p>Glasgow has been running a project to tackle Pensioner Poverty since 2022.</p> <p>The project involves the team contacting pensioners in the city to ensure that they are receiving all the benefits that they are entitled to.</p> <p>As of September 2024, this project has brought almost seven million pounds into the pockets of the one thousand three hundred and nineteen residents that have been helped to date.</p> <p>Most people receive more than one benefit, with the total number of gains received standing at two thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.</p> <p>The average amount of money that this project has put into the pockets to pensioners who have been contacted is five thousand pounds.</p> <p>The changes confirmed in the UK Government budget in relation to Winter Fuel Payment will impact about three quarters of pensioners here, that's about sixty thousand folks.</p> <p>We also know that over twelve and a half thousand pensioners are entitled to Pension Credit in Glasgow but not currently receiving it.</p> <p>So, alongside the Call for Action that the First Minister put out around though, we've been working with partners to deliver a co-ordinated response to ensure as many pensioners as possible claim their benefit entitlements before the cut-off date for Winter Fuel Payment of 21<sup>st</sup> December.</p> <p>Actions taken so far include:</p> <p>Revenue and Benefits section requesting permission to use the data that they hold to contact eligible citizens, this list contains almost 6,000 residents who the Council would write to make them aware that they are entitled to this benefit and point them in direction of where they can get support to apply for it.</p> <p>GAIN as well as RSLs and the HSCP Welfare Rights team are working together to support pensioners to make claims and the HSCP have started a telephone campaign to offer advice and support for pensioners wanting to make a claim</p> <p>I mentioned the Universal Credit Hubs in our libraries earlier, the teams they are also supporting applications for Pension Credit.</p> <p>And finally, our comms team are working on a campaign to raise awareness among residents.</p> <p>Hopefully these combined actions will ensure that we reach as many of the twelve thousand eligible pensioners as possible, and I'd urge any Cllr who is contacted by constituents who are impacted by this to point them in the direction of any of these projects that can support them to apply to continue to receive this payment. It is vital for them to do so.</p>	

Q.9	Asked by: Bailie Seonad Hoy
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener whether every child currently in a Gaelic Medium Education primary school will be guaranteed a place in a Gaelic Medium Education secondary school when they reach secondary school age?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years
<p>The expectations and planning assumptions are that all children currently in GME will be able to proceed to GME Secondary. The capping paper which is brought to CAC every year sets out a sustainable cap so that children can progress through all stages of Primary and then through to Secondary and I am happy to provide that assurance again both to Cllr Hoy and the parents &amp; carers of pupils currently in one of our Gaelic Primary Schools.</p>	

Q.10	Asked by: Councillor Franny Scally
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask the Leader does she agree with Edinburgh Council Leader Cammy Day that Sir Keir Starmer’s snub to Scottish cities to the Council of the Nations and Regions investment summit places whilst inviting English council leaders, places Scotland and its cities at an explicit commercial disadvantage to our city peers in England?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council
<p>Yes, I agree entirely with Cllr Day, indeed with all of Scotland’s city and city region leaders who are united in this.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it was an exceptionally poor start to this mooted nations and regions approach to exclude every city region outside England. In fact, I was particularly disappointed that on learning about this we reached out to the UK Government, thinking this was an error or oversight. But it was made clear that this was indeed deliberate.</p> <p>I hope that this is down to a genuine failure to understand long-standing governance arrangements in, around and between Scotland’s cities and regions. Simply having different governance arrangements from English cities and regions is not an acceptable reason to give them priority access to investment opportunities.</p> <p>I would also note that there isn’t even a consistent approach from the UK government on this. I had a very helpful call yesterday with the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, Peter Kyle, who confirmed the welcome news of the extension of the Innovation Accelerator, which Glasgow City Region is one of 3 UK city regions to participate in, along with the West Midlands and Greater Manchester under our current shared leadership governance arrangements in our city region.</p> <p>Of course, when the UK government wants to ensure effective delivery in that innovation economy space, Glasgow is top of their list. So, it makes even less sense for them to exclude us from conversations and opportunities around investment and growth. It’s actually cutting off their nose to spite their face and undermining their own stated economic ambitions as well as perpetuating a pretty glaring inequality between UK cities.</p>	

Q.11	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on Whitehill Pool’s options and their timescales for remedial work, following the findings of the most recent RAAC surveys?”
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

Consultant reports received recently confirm that the Whitehill Pool RAAC is a “red category - high risk” within the venue due to its condition and the imposed loading on the panels. Several feasibility options have been developed which could possibly deal with these risks. Glasgow Life is in the process of assessing these proposals to identify the potential timescales and capital budget needed to support each option. Once collated, this information will be shared and discussed with Glasgow City Council colleagues over the coming weeks to review these findings and consider the approach to address the options identified.

It’s also worth noting that all existing clubs and programme activities have been relocated across other nearby facilities to ensure continued availability of services.

Q.12	Asked by: Councillor John Daly
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Convenor for an update on the city council’s “Street Art Pilot Areas”?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>As members will be aware, both the Custom House Quay and Cowcaddens Underpass areas were identified as locations for the City Council’s Street Art Pilot areas.</p> <p>A working group including graffiti writers, the SWG3 venue, council and local arts organisations and charities have been overseeing the 6-month pilot.</p> <p>The Custom House Quay site launched in July, with an aim of providing a creative outlet for local artists and graffiti enthusiasts. By offering a designated space for graffiti, it’s hoped to encourage artistic expression and talent. The turnover of graffiti in this area had been high, with a high proportion of tag graffiti. Graffiti removal at this location placed significant pressure on council resources.</p> <p>As part of the pilot, the area is monitored for environmental quality in addition to the visual cataloguing of the spaces at the site.</p> <p>Custom House Quay held its first artist-led session in July, encouraging Graffiti writers to use the space and improve the quality of the work at the site.</p> <p>As a result, a number of graffiti works remain in situ. Monthly monitoring continues and early indications are that only 1 piece of offensive graffiti has been reported and removed since July. The graffiti area has not increased since the commencement of the pilot. Artist participation has been key.</p> <p>Due to scheduling clashes, the Cowcaddens Underpass session has yet to commence. We hope this will take place later in the year. The Cowcaddens site allows an opportunity to develop a legal wall near a busy transport hub.</p> <p>An evaluation will be carried out after the 6-month period to assess the impact and any lessons learned. Following the evaluation, a decision will be made to determine if this approach will continue, with the potential to include additional locations.</p> <p>I should add that artworks categorised as offensive will be removed in line with our graffiti removal policy. And Police Scotland are aware of the pilot and will continue to respond appropriately when criminal activity is taking place.</p>	

Q.13	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on the full enforcement of the Pavement Parking, Dropped Kerb and Double Parking sections of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>As committee has been updated, in taking forward enforcement of the pavement parking prohibition streets an assessment is required to determine whether any enforcement can take place without any further interventions on the street, or whether an intervention or exemption is required.</p> <p>The “assessment of streets” which have been identified as requiring further assessment is ongoing and is being carried out in two parts. The first is an evening parking availability survey which will also identify sites where pavement parking is taking place. The second is to carry out a full road assessment proforma for any pavement parking taking place on roads that have limited parking availability.</p> <p>The parking availability surveys and road assessments for all Wards is hoped to be complete by the end of this year. Thereafter, during the last quarter of this financial year, it is intended to review and publish the results and put forward any associated recommendations.</p> <p>As has been stated previously, enforcement of dropped kerbs, double parking and pavement parking on streets where there is no further assessment required will begin as soon as back office systems allow. The final stage of this is to ensure the systems for printing and issuing PCNs reflect the new legislation.</p> <p>This work is ongoing due to some slight delays in back-office updates with our ICT contractor, working with the Council’s legal team to ensure that statutory documentation is in line with this new legislation. It is now anticipated that enforcement of the new contraventions, where there is no further assessment of streets required, will be able to begin from early January.</p>	

Q.14	Asked by: Councillor Jill Brown
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor if the Council's gully cleaning programme is running on schedule?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>The short answer is No, the programme has suffered delays mostly relating to the aging fleet, driver shortages and issues to do with access, mostly parked cars, in the areas that we have been able to target. There is also a cost if we need to remove a parked car to clear the gully. Each area that is being cleaned also must have a TRO posted so if an area hasn't been able to be cleaned because of shortages, it isn't as straightforward as going again the next day or next week which impacts on the future programme.</p> <p>Officers are working on a report which will come to ELN in November which will outline possible ways to get the programme back on track with the updated schedule delivered after that. They are also looking at how we can invest in modern fleet to further mitigate these challenges. There is an up to date schedule on the website and that is updated regularly as and when there are changes.</p>	

Q.15	Asked by: Councillor Saqib Ahmed
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor how many Council buildings have been assessed to have asbestos?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

The Council and Glasgow Life have assessed all locations constructed prior to 2000 for asbestos across its property portfolio. At present a total of 599 buildings have been assessed and recorded as known to contain asbestos – which can be found in locations such as roof tiles, ceiling tiles, pipe lagging or floor tiles. Colleagues will be aware that the risk to health from asbestos is low if the material is not disturbed. Monitoring and any associated works to - or removal of - asbestos is managed via City Property. Licenced asbestos-accredited contractors are engaged to work/remove asbestos within the Council estate.

Q.16	Asked by: Bailie Seonad Hoy
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener what support is available to residents to register on the Ringgo app for their parking permit?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>Since the RingGo parking permit system was introduced last December, we have been continuing to improve our webpage and support information.</p> <p>Amongst the issues identified are individuals with a pre-existing RingGo account, which has not been used for a number of months and requires re-activation before being able to apply for a parking permit. Also, individuals attempting to use the App to purchase or renew a permit. However, this function is not available on the App and requires the customer to use either the RingGo or Council websites.</p> <p>In response to these issues, residents will now find a link to the "RingGo Help Centre" covering general topics like registering, setting up an account and re-activating an existing account. We have also produced more specific "step-by-step guides" on how to apply for - and adding or removing - vehicles which can be downloaded from the Council's website.</p> <p>There is also a "contact us" drop down menu that details live chat support which is available during office hours, and, for anything further, a phone number which available Tuesday and Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and Thursday 12 noon until 4 pm.</p> <p>Applicants will also receive advance notification through email of their permit expiring and will then be able to renew it through RingGo.</p>	