

Q 1	Asked by: Councillor John Carson
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor explain why the winter gully cleaning programme was suspended, the scale of the resulting backlog, and when routine gully maintenance will be completed?”
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>Winter gully cleaning activities are still being completed by the Council on a risk-rated, reactive service basis, pending the outcome of a review of the Neighbourhood Gully Cleaning Programme and an evaluation of alternative methodologies for its delivery.</p> <p>Over the past three years, the Council’s gully cleaning has been directed on a strategic basis, via the Neighbourhood Gully Cleaning Programme published on the Council’s website, alongside responsive action following adverse weather and storm events.</p> <p>Despite its considerable success in achieving marked improvements in gully cleaning and operations, including reductions in surface water flooding reports and improved surface water drainage, the cost of delivering the programme has risen significantly each year due to a combination of factors, including (a) additional costs arising from obstructed streets and gullies due to increased levels of daytime, on-street parking and subsequent vehicle removal/relocation costs; (b) an ageing gully cleansing vehicle fleet; (c) the increased cost of gully waste disposal and additional costs associated with streetscene sweeping and public notification signing.</p> <p>As a consequence of these factors, officers are currently reviewing the resource demands within the gully cleaning programme, to align it with available resources and budgets. Using intelligence gathered about high impact flooding locations arising during adverse weather and storm events, the winter gully cleaning service continues to operate on a reactive basis. The remaining programme of thirteen neighbourhood areas that still remain to be completed are currently scheduled to commence from 31st March 2025 and will be completed within 3-4 months.</p> <p>The full cycle of neighbourhood gully cleaning is then proposed to recommence within the 2025/26 financial year and that programme will be published on the Council website. It should be noted that the success of the current programme in clearing gullies and reducing instances of flooding, is expected to accrue benefits across future financial years, with fewer gullies requiring routine maintenance, enabling the programme to be delivered within available budgets.</p>	

Q 2	Asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	"Can the relevant Convenor advise if Carlton Place is now wind and watertight in light of the fire damage last year?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>An Urgent Works Notice through Listed Building legislation is being drafted for 69-73 Carlton Place following fire damage to the roof of 69 Carlton Place. The owner has stated their intention to reinstate the roof, has gained Planning and Listed Building Consent to undertake the re-roofing and is on site and preparing to reinstate the roof.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will survey the property and thereafter set out urgent repairs that the Council will carry out within an Urgent Works Notice if the owner fails to undertake the urgent repairs. If required, the Council will step in and arrange for the works to be carried out and thereafter place a charging order on the site/ building so the Council could, in theory, recoup their costs either through a schedule of annual payments or when the building might be sold. This type of surveying requires specific expertise that will need to be procured into the Council either through City Property or externally.</p> <p>There are significant financial and resourcing issues associated with the service of an Urgent Works Notice. Surveys need to be carried out by suitably accredited building professionals first to investigate condition of the building and prepare the notice. Any works to be carried out would likely involve use of specialist stone repairs or suitable skilled and experienced roofing contractors, etc. There requires to be budget identified for the works to be carried out, which can be a significant sum.</p> <p>At this point no notices have been served, however, buildings at risk have been identified and owners engaged with to attempt in the first instance to have repairs carried out voluntarily. Should this not be successful, further notices will be drafted and issued as part wider regeneration of North Laurieston as the Council progresses the masterplan carried out in partnership with New Gorbals Housing Association.</p>	

Q3	Asked by: Councillor Paul Carey
Tabled Question	“Given the growing concern over rat and vermin infestations in the city, can the relevant Convenor outline what immediate actions are being taken to tackle this issue and ensure effective pest control measures are in place to protect public health?”
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>The recent budget has secured funding for an additional 5 officers. These officers will be focused on rebaiting, which is an area that the service has identified requires support.</p>	

Q 4	Asked by: Bailie Ann Jenkins
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what are the potential consequences for Glasgow City Council should the IJB breach the UAO (Urgent Action Order)?”
Responder	Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care and Caring and Older People
<p>Where a breach of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order occurs, Glasgow City Council often receive correspondence from law and advocacy services threatening a judicial review which is the remedy available to a homeless household where they have been in unsuitable accommodation for more than 7 days.</p> <p>Were GCC ordered by the court to find accommodation, which is defined as suitable under the UAO, then failure to do so could be considered contempt of court and may result in GCC being censured or fined and likely to incur reputational risk and damage.</p>	

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask the Council Business Manager to update on actions taken to progress Strategic Plan Grand Challenge 4, Mission 3, Commitments 5 and 6, regarding engaging Glasgow’s citizens in the Council’s budget setting process, specifically around improving the size and scale of citizen consultation from the current 50 invited participants; whether receiving findings from the consultation exercise two working days ahead of the budget submission deadline gives enough time for councillors to properly analyse and respond to citizens’ concerns; and whether the results of the consultation exercise will be published on the Council’s website, as happens in many other local authorities?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, City Convener for Open Government and Business Manager
<p>Thank you for the question. I can confirm that the response to the budget consultation has been published online and can be accessed here.</p> <p>IPSOS MORI use their independent methodology to pull together folk who are representative of the city, and that number is picked as it is a manageable number to take part in the workshops in a way which balances the education piece which often needs to take place, with getting the most useful types of information out from residents to enable the report and recommendations to be beneficial to us.</p> <p>In terms of timing, that is driven by the timing of the budgets which take place elsewhere so that our residents have, as far as possible, the most up to date position in relation to the current financial challenge. That has an impact on the timing of the report making its way to us.</p> <p>The Strategic Budget Group would be the place for a discussion on the wider aims of this consultation, and to give directions if they wanted changes to it to be made. This might change the timing or numbers of people and have a resulting impact on the cost of the report. However, I am happy to ask that it is placed on the agenda for that group to discuss it there.</p>	

Q 6	Asked by: Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask if the Convener would be willing to write to the Scottish Government regarding the 5.48% (equating to approx. £1.6 million) in-year cut to mental health services in Greater Glasgow, to express concern considering the existing considerable wait lists for various adult and children mental health services. The cut is also preventing work to improve pathways both whilst waiting assessment and following assessment, as well as halting a programme that was designed to help address the waitlist for ADHD assessments which has increased significantly in recent years?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care and Caring and Older People
<p>Yes, I would be willing to write to the Scottish Government regarding the 5.48% (equating to approx. £1.6 million) in-year cut to mental health services in Greater Glasgow, to express concern considering the existing considerable wait lists for various adult and children mental health services.</p> <p>In that regard, the HSCP can confirm that the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Officer, as lead officers for Mental Health for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC), were involved in detailed discussions with Scottish Government colleagues in the Mental Health Directorate over July and August 2024 to discuss the reduction in funding across the Mental Health Outcomes Framework and the potential impact on programmes across NHSGGC.</p> <p>Glasgow City HSCP and NHSGGC had received an indicative funding letter on 2nd July 2024, noting the allocation across board-wide programmes as £26.320million, which represented a 9.66% overall reduction in funding. However, Sharon Wearing, Glasgow HSCP Chief Finance Officer, raised significant concerns in respect of the level of reduction, and argued that the allocation was neither representative of the total national allocation nor reductions across NHS Boards and HSCTs. Consequently, Scottish Government reviewed the allocation and issued a new funding letter on 30th September 2024, as noted in the recent IJB report, and the funding allocation to NHSGGC was increased to £27.547million. Whilst this has led to a review of current and planned programmes delivered by mental health services, it is an improved situation from the previous indicative funding allocation.</p> <p>The Enhanced Mental Health Outcomes Framework funding bundles together five previous funding streams with specific outcomes, targeted towards Psychological Therapies, Eating Disorder, Children and Adolescent Mental Health, Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, School Nursing, Annual Health Checks for people with a Learning Disability and increasing the mental health workforce to provide dedicated mental health support to Emergency Departments, GP practices, Police Custody and Prisons. Neurodevelopmental pathways are not included specifically within these funding streams however the HSCTs across Greater Glasgow and Clyde had intended to utilise Action 15 funding to develop a specific adult service in order to manage the increased volume of referrals, which is no longer possible within the funding envelope. Significant work has been undertaken by clinicians in mental health services to consider options for people with a diagnosis of ADHD or referred for assessment, with an aim of ensuring that people with the highest level of need and acuity are prioritised. A report on a proposed revised pathway will be presented to a future IJB. Children’s services are at an early stage in reviewing pathways however continue to experience significant pressure in relation to demand.</p>	

Kelda Gaffney, Assistant Chief Officer, and Andrea Blair, Specialist Children's Services General Manager, have regular meetings with the Scottish Government Mental Health Directorate and have discussed the impact of the reduction in funding allocation across mental health services.

The next scheduled meeting is 13th March 2025 and Kelda will ensure that she highlights the concerns raised by Councillor Reid-McConnell in terms of waiting lists for mental health services across children and adult services, and particularly in relation to the impact on access to ADHD assessment and treatment.

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell
Tabled Question	<p>“Following Glasgow’s recent commitment to creating a Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the recent court ruling that the Rosebank oil field was unlawful, in favour of the private interest of members of the public in climate change vs the private interest of private developers. Will the Council Leader write to the First Minister to ask that the Scottish Government also join the calls for a Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>On 21 November, the City Administration Committee approved a report by the City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery, to agree that the Council would endorse the call for an international Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. As part of this initiative, the Council intends to formally write to the Scottish Government inviting them to join these calls, noting that other cities in Scotland have done similar.</p>	

Q 8	Asked by: Councillor Sharon Greer
Tabled Question	"Can the relevant Convenor clarify why, two years into the infrastructure fund, communities are being consulted again on how they would like to proceed?"
Responder	Bailie Anne McTaggart, City Convener for Communities and Equalities
<p>A paper from the Communities Team was recently presented at each Area Partnership (AP), outlining the status of NIIF and highlighting opportunities to progress engagement and prioritisation of proposals for costing.</p> <p>The new NRS team leading on governance for NIIF spending will provide a progress paper to the next round of meetings, with an up-to-date picture on the costings and allocations agreed for each ward as well as information on new internal processes for the NIIF and templates for the recording ideas, so that delays due to lack of clear information are avoided.</p> <p>In the case of APs with larger funds still to allocate it was recommended that the process begins with a meeting across community councils of the ward, to gather ideas collaboratively. Their identified priorities, based on community knowledge and experience, would be a starting point and could be expanded with ideas from local third sector and community organisations. It is anticipated that between now and the April round of meetings it will be possible to generate a community council ideas list for those APs ready to engage, alongside any other proposals generated through public engagement work, such as Local Place Plans (LPP) and Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) Projects.</p> <p>APs were asked to consider and decide on their process going forward, so that by April they are ready to proceed. In the case of some APs, it will be a continuation of current engagement to complete allocations.</p> <p>In addition, the Area Partnerships are encouraged to give special consideration to engagement with groups that may not be typically represented via community structures, such as disabled people, who may have specific needs that are pertinent to projects in the local environment. Again, support will be given from the Communities Team and other colleagues in relation to this.</p> <p>A NIIF calculator has been created to assist with allocation across the ward. It allows the £1m to be split in different ways between the community council areas of the ward and allows for population and deprivation to be factored in. It is for each AP to decide how they want to use this data.</p> <p>To further support alignment with wider infrastructure programmes, NRS will bring their programme of annual works to the Area Partnership each May. This will help avoid duplication and allow for the possibility of developing projects that complement planned work</p>	

Q 9	Asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor advise how many Heritage Buildings in North Laurieston have been served enforcement notices to prevent further disrepair?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>An Urgent Works Notice through Listed Building legislation is being drafted for 69-73 Carlton Place following fire damage to the roof of 69 Carlton Place. The owner has stated their intention to reinstate the roof, has gained Planning and Listed Building Consent to undertake the re-roofing and is on site and preparing to reinstate the roof.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will survey the property and thereafter set out urgent repairs that the Council will carry out within an Urgent Works Notice if the owner fails to undertake the urgent repairs. If required, the Council will step in and arrange for the works to be carried out and thereafter place a charging order on the site/ building so the Council could, in theory, recoup their costs either through a schedule of annual payments or when the building might be sold. This type of surveying requires specific expertise that will need to be procured into the Council either through City Property or externally.</p> <p>There are significant financial and resourcing issues associated with the service of an Urgent Works Notice. Surveys need to be carried out by suitably accredited building professionals first to investigate condition of the building and prepare the notice. Any works to be carried out would likely involve use of specialist stone repairs or suitable skilled and experienced roofing contractors, etc. There requires to be budget identified for the works to be carried out, which can be a significant sum.</p> <p>At this point no notices have been served, however, buildings at risk have been identified and owners engaged with to attempt in the first instance to have repairs carried out voluntarily. Should this not be successful, further notices will be drafted and issued as part wider regeneration of North Laurieston as the Council progresses the masterplan carried out in partnership with New Gorbals Housing Association.</p>	

Q 10	Asked by: Councillor Paul Carey
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor provide an update on the current state of residential waste collection and cleansing services in the city, including actions being taken to address missed collections, improve service efficiency, and ensure timely bin collections for all households?”
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The £7.1m investment that was put into the budget in February 2024 to accelerate the bin-hub programme is having a positive impact on the roll-out of that programme.

These new hubs are providing a more effective and efficient collection service, and the quality of the material collected within the fibre and container bins is better than the previous dry mixed recycling service within the blue bins. There are currently over 4,100 flats that are now serviced via a network of 171 bin hubs with the programme extending into the southwest of the city throughout the coming year.

Also, the service change relating to twin stream recycling is due to be complete by the end of March, when about 122,000 properties will receive this service. Initial indications from the areas where this this service has been rolled out have seen an increase in both the quality and quantity of recyclate being collected.

The 25/26 budget that has just passed includes within it some resources to look more fully at winter waste and how to build additional resilience within the service to combat the issues that are faced at that time of the year.

Q 11	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	“Does the Chair of SPT agree that SPT’s cutting of the 121 bus service from Govan Bus Station to the New Victoria Hospital is a backwards move for mobility south of the river and should not be cut?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

I would like to thank you for this question to Full Council.

As you will be aware, it would not be competent for questions at Full Council to be answered by the Chair of SPT, as in that role the Chair of SPT is accountable to the SPT Board and not to this Council. I am however happy to provide a response on the Council’s position in my capacity as City Convener for Transport.

As you will be aware, the provision of public transport bus services in Glasgow is governed by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and delivered through the Partnership by commercial bus operators. The Council’s understanding is that the 121 bus service is being withdrawn due to a loss of available funding, combined with very low patronage of the service.

When a specific bus service is not financially viable or well-used, SPT can support socially necessary bus services where there is no alternative provision, by commercial bus operators. Guidance on SPT’s approach to assessing support for local bus services is set out below. Glasgow City Council does not fund or provide scheduled bus services.

SPT’s funds are limited and requires that they look carefully at the number of passengers who are likely to use a service, the cost per passenger carried and whether or not there are other public transport options available, before they decide which services are subsidised.

The Council agrees that the proposal to cut the 121 bus service from Govan Bus Station to the New Victoria Hospital will have a detrimental effect upon those reliant upon public transport to access the medical and other services available at the New Victoria Hospital, but does understand the funding constraints within which SPT has to operate.

As the Council has no formal role in this process, I would advise you to take up the matter with SPT directly.

Q 12	Asked by: Councillor Alexander Belic
Tabled Question	"To ask the City Convenor for Culture, Sport and International Relations about the importance of Creative Scotland funding for cultural assets in our city, especially in regard to those outside the City Centre?"
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations
<p>The importance of Creative Scotland funding for cultural assets in Glasgow cannot being understated. The awards confirmed at the end of January were a foundational moment for the arts in Glasgow and we welcome the vote of confidence Creative Scotland has shown in our city's talented, creative sector workers. Over £60M of funding was awarded to Glasgow based venues, companies and projects to deliver activity between 2025- 2028.</p> <p>Creative Scotland funding is vital for Cultural Venues across the city and is a fine example of our Local and National Governments working together to ensure that Glasgow remains a city that is active and culturally vibrant, as per our Strategic plan.</p> <p>This is especially true of areas outside the City Centre, which for obvious reasons can't rely on the same connections and footfall to rely solely on commercial funding.</p> <p>One such example of this is the Citizens Theatre, which it was recently announced will receive £1.4 million in 2025/26 towards a total multi-year settlement of £4.7 million: this ongoing funding that will ensure the Citz rejoins our cultural firmament as a producing company has also been augmented by £8 million in Scottish Government capital funding, matched by the £2million released by last month's City Administration Committee that will ensure the theatre will open in the summer.</p> <p>Other examples of Creative Scotland funding for projects in wards outside the City Centre include The Common Guild, based in Florence St in the Gorbals which will receive £702,000 multi-year funding; the Tramway on Albert Drive which will receive £1.4m over three years; and the Glasgow Women's Library in Bridgeton which will receive £525,999.</p> <p>Glasgow is a City of vibrant neighbourhoods, which have historically been home to a thriving community of artists and practitioners who underpin our arts and creative industries. The Creative Scotland awards have been made at a challenging time and we recognise the importance of the support to keep the life blood of Glasgow arts sector flowing.</p>	

Q 13	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	<p>“Part of the Plastic Free Schools programme is encouraging young people to challenge Government to create change in their schools, and this is exactly what we must therefore strive to do. Does the City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets strive in that spirit to challenge the Scottish Government to ensure we have funding to carry out twin stream recycling services within our schools & nurseries estates as we roll out twin stream recycling across the City’s homes?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>NRS have secured both funding and approval to roll out an enhanced twin stream recycling service to every domestic property across the city. This initiative will bring both financial and environmental benefits to GCC and demonstrates our commitment to reducing the impact that waste has on the environment.</p> <p>There are currently no direct plans to roll out this service within Glasgow’s schools however NRS will continue to work with and engage with both the education department and Zero Waste Scotland to create opportunities to enhance recycling services within Glasgow schools and I am happy to write to the Scottish Government to make the case to them that they should consider ways to fund the expansion into schools and nurseries.</p>	

Q 14	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on the strategic plan to process increased food waste due to the introduction of bin hubs across Glasgow?”
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>As the twin stream recycling service is introduced to flatted properties, the food waste recycling service will be re-introduced. This has occurred for the bin hub pilots within Pollokshields, Haghill, Finnieston and Paisley Road West (c.171 hubs and 4,100 flats). This will either be a unit within the bin hubs or the provision of dedicated bin within the backcourt, where bin hubs to the front of properties are not installed.</p> <p>To encourage the use of the food waste service, free replacement internal food waste caddies (5 litre) and free caddy liners will be provided to residents. These are currently available for collection from libraries across the city. The link below provides details of current collection points. https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/twinstream</p>	

Q 15	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask the relevant City Convener what steps the Council is taking to reduce emissions from waste incineration given that this is now the UK’s highest-carbon form of domestic energy generation, as well as addressing false claims that this is renewable or lower carbon energy?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>The Resource & Recycling Strategy highlights Glasgow’s responsibility to effectively manage our waste and resources. The Council has a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote high-quality recycling, and there is a responsibility on everyone who produces, keeps, or manages waste, to take all reasonable steps to push material up the waste hierarchy. The best environmental option is to prevent or minimise waste from being generated however where not possible the next and most appropriate option must be considered, which can include recovery.</p> <p>The UK Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) which caps the total level of greenhouse gas emissions to incentivise decarbonisation includes Energy from Waste facilities (including the GRREC) came into force on 1 January 2021. Although the impact to GCC is currently unknown it is likely to increase the cost per tonne of treating waste via Recovery.</p> <p>Through the various waste service reforms (Twin stream roll out, education, Contamination & Bin policy) GCC look to reduce the impact that waste has on the environment by extracting high value recyclate from the residual waste bin. Through these projects GCC demonstrates its commitment to pushing waste up the waste hierarchy while reducing the financial and carbon impacts associated with energy from waste.</p>	

Q 16	Asked by: Councillor Thomas Rannachan
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor does GCC have any emergency funds or plans to create a fund that could be used to serve communities in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as the recent storm?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer
<p>The council does not hold any separate funds specifically ear-marked for natural disasters. It does hold an unear-marked reserve, the purpose of which is to cover unexpected financial pressures which may emerge during a financial year. The balance on this fund is currently £26.3 million. This is below the target balance which is to hold 2% (£40 million) over the medium term.</p> <p>However other supports are available for local authorities from the Scottish Government. Firstly there is the Bellwin Scheme. This is a discretionary scheme, which exists to give special financial assistance to local authorities who would otherwise be faced with an undue financial burden as a result of providing relief and carrying out immediate work due to large-scale emergencies. There is no automatic entitlement to financial assistance. The key criterion of the Scheme is to safeguard life and property, and prevent suffering or severe inconvenience in a local authority's area or among its inhabitants. However, there are limitations on what funding the scheme would provide and it needs to be activated by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>In addition, Scottish Government is currently developing a Flood Recovery Framework to respond to local authority requests for central support to assist communities in the aftermath of extreme weather events. The Framework formalises the support developed with COSLA and local authorities after Storm Babet, where new flood recovery grants were provided to over 400 impacted homes and businesses across 4 local authorities. It also consolidates learning and feedback on the implementation of that support from local authorities and COSLA at the time.</p>	