

Q 1	Asked by: Councillor Kevin Lalley
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor if they can confirm why 20% of all CCTV cameras in Glasgow are not operational?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>Glasgow has the largest public space CCTV and traffic camera network in Scotland with 542 cameras in total. NRS internal maintenance team work diligently to resolve and repair a wide range of current camera and network faults. This team provides significant internal expertise and knowledge to support the management of a 24/7 operation ensuring the management and maintenance of Glasgow's CCTV network is a priority providing essential support for public reassurance, traffic management, and public safety across the city.</p> <p>The Glasgow CCTV estate, which was upgraded in 2013, is now nearly 12 years old. Industry best practice typically recommends that camera networks undergo a refresh programme after seven years. However, such upgrades require substantial capital investment over several years. Operating 24/7 in all weather conditions, the estate is significantly exposed to the external environment, leading to ongoing engineering challenges in its maintenance.</p> <p>NRS are currently working with contractors to resolve issues and ensure camera faults are addressed as quickly as possible. Every effort is made to repair cameras daily, prioritising the locations of most need using operational intelligence. However, the time taken to repair or replace a camera depends on the nature of the fault. For example, one of the most common faults is condensation, which can vary in its impact on the camera's functionality. Repairs for this type of fault can take up to four weeks per camera. Pixelation is another frequent issue, but resolving it requires input and resources from contractors, which can take 4–6 weeks to identify, test, and resolve.</p> <p>From a recent review, it was confirmed that as of October 2024, 90 cameras (17%) across the network were identified as faulty. Of these, 45 (8%) had significant faults requiring replacement, while the other 45 had minor issues, such as condensation or pixelation. As noted earlier, even these minor faults can require considerable time and resources to address.</p> <p>A network of this size and complexity will experience faults and failures. Some are caused by camera-specific issues, while others relate to network or communication links. However, every effort is made to ensure the cameras remain operational. These challenges are not unique to Glasgow, but the scale of our network means we face significantly more demands than other local authorities.</p> <p>The service is currently exploring capital funding opportunities to purchase additional cameras, which would help alleviate some of the challenges faced.</p>	

Q 2	Asked by: Councillor Elaine McDougall
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor outline how the Council plans to address and fund any pressures relating to asylum seekers during the 2025-26 period?”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council
<p>Many places across the UK have seen increased costs to their homelessness services off the back of the decision by the previous UK Government to implement an accelerated decision-making process.</p> <p>However the scale and impact on Glasgow is unique, and we are currently accommodating thousands more asylum seekers than our allocated amount. We are also seeing a significant rise in the numbers of people who have been given asylum accessing our homelessness services, with that figure now accounting for half of the new applications made this year; and we are seeing people who have been given leave to remain in other parts of the UK travelling to Glasgow to seek accommodation here.</p> <p>This is, as we know, adding pressure to the HSCP homelessness budget.</p> <p>It is fair to say that since the change of government, there is a change of tone. The announcement earlier this week about the notice period increasing from 28 days to 56 days is welcome.</p> <p>And there is much more constructive relationship with the home office operationally. The Chief Executive met with officials in the Home Office earlier this week to discuss Glasgow’s specific challenges. I have also written to the Minister to seek a meeting to discuss what a bespoke solution for us would look like. I am clear that this must contain funding from the Home Office to respond to these challenges.</p>	

Q 3	Asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor advise how many empty office/ heritage buildings have been considered for conversion to homelessness accommodation in light of the recent data published showing 929 people have claimed to have slept rough this year in Glasgow?”
Responder	Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
<p>An important starting point in responding is that the priority of our housing emergency is in delivering more homes. And critical to this is accelerating bringing empty social rented properties back into use and carrying out housing acquisitions with the £11.5 million provided via the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme. Officers are working with Housing Associations to maximise the impact of this funding, both in terms of numbers of homes delivered but also that family homes are prioritised.</p> <p>Officers are also working with Housing Associations on bringing small offices into use as social rented homes. These projects can be complex and take additional time and funding to deliver. However, a building in St Enoch Square is being taken forward this year with another office conversion at the point of being submitted for planning in Anniesland.</p> <p>As part of the wider Affordable Housing Supply Programme, a number of heritage buildings, namely schools and churches in several locations, have been converted to housing.</p> <p>In relation to Homelessness Services, the HSCP has set up a 4-weekly Homeless Accommodation Oversight Group which aims to increase suitable temporary accommodation in the city, including the reprovisioning of council-owned buildings to be used as temporary accommodation.</p> <p>While some properties identified are not viable given their condition, the HSCP has identified the potential use of the Hamish Allan Centre but this will require significant remedial work.</p> <p>While one person presenting as rough sleeping is one too many, the HSCP has robust measures in place to monitor and assist those who are rough sleeping through a commissioned street service provided by Simon Community Scotland. Homelessness staff meet with the Simon Community weekly, alongside staff from the Complex Needs Service, for a case discussion on individuals and to offer support and accommodation, where possible.</p> <p>The weekly data received by Simon Community Scotland indicates that levels of rough sleeping are significantly lower than those which from the self-reported figure and Homelessness Services have confidence in the data provided by the Simon Community which is gained through staff directly working on the streets of Glasgow.</p>	

Q 4	Asked by: Councillor Imran Alam
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor whether any consideration has been given to renaming the Govan-Partick Bridge in honour of Mary Barbour, in recognition of her contributions to the local community?”
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council
<p>The Council has been approached by a number of people who have suggested that the bridge be named after various individuals and organisations including Mary Barbour but also Billy Connolly, Sir Alex Ferguson, Jimmy Reid and the Merchant Navy. At this stage there is no intention for the name to be anything other than the Govan-Partick Bridge given the important role that it will play in reinstating the historic link between the two communities.</p> <p>It is worth noting that there has been recent experience of naming the bridge at Sighthill, where a full process was undertaken by the Council with suggestions appraised and selected by local community and pupils of the school. The outcome of this exercise resulted in the Bridge being named - 'Sighthill Bridge'.</p> <p>While in no way seeking to downplay Mary Barbour's important role in the history of our city and the success of her fight for tenants' rights – and its absolutely right that she's been commemorated with the landmark statue in Govan – a tradition has emerged in the city over recent years of unofficial names for bridges emerging organically and sticking. I suspect this may happen again in this case.</p>	

Q 5	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Treasurer to confirm how much the calling of a second by-election in North East ward is set to cost the Council?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer
<p>Thank you for the question, Bailie Carroll.</p> <p>Members will be aware that Glasgow City Council have sought advice from the courts given the unprecedented nature of what occurred in relation to the North East by election and the candidate elected not resigning from the Council within the specified timeline.</p> <p>Given these ongoing proceedings members will therefore understand that I am restricted in what I can say.</p> <p>However, we know that the cost of the Hillhead by election earlier this year was £80,000 and would anticipate the costs of a single by-election in this ward being around the same cost.</p> <p>This does not factor in the wider costs of legal advice and counsel that will be required through future proceedings.</p>	

Q 6	Asked by: Councillor Holly Bruce
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener when the NRS Property Consultancy Services Team will produce a detailed and phased plan to reopen Langside Hall, and what committee will have oversight of that report?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>While Langside Halls is owned by the Council it is currently part of the property portfolio leased-out to Glasgow Life. The Halls have been closed since 2017, initially because of boiler replacement works but since the pandemic is one of a number of venues that Glasgow Life has not been able to reopen. The Halls were not included in the post-pandemic programme of reopening venues because the additional £1.1million allocated to Glasgow Life would not have extended to covering the maintenance works to partially, or fully, re-open the venue and ensure its long-term sustainability. The works required to partially re-open the building include electrical rewiring, fire and security alarm systems, and address the very weak water pressure to the building. In the long term significant repairs are required to make the building watertight.</p> <p>The People Make Glasgow Communities team has been working for some time with the Langside Halls Trust and other organisations who have expressed an interest in operating from the halls. However, none of these organisations have yet been able to take on the responsibilities of operational control, having neither the capital or the revenue to support its operation, nor the robust business case to support its long term sustainability.</p> <p>NRS colleagues continue to work with Glasgow Life to explore all options available. However, with no revenue or business case to support Glasgow Life operation or a PMGC organisation taking over the asset, officers may choose to explore wider options which could preserve and protect this heritage asset in the longer term.</p>	

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor provide an update on the measures Glasgow City Council is taking to address the concerning rise of violence in schools, including incidents against teachers and school staff?”
Responder	Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
<p>Thank you for the question, Cllr Pidgeon.</p> <p>There are several initiatives that the department have been undertaking to raise awareness about the reporting mechanisms that exist and encouraging staff to formally report incidents. Violent incidents recorded can range from low level perceived threats to potential physical injury. Therefore, whilst there has been an increase of around 34% of reported incidents year on year, which gives us a better insight into what is happening in schools, the number of RIDDOR, which stands for Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, and are those serious incidents which require to be reported to HSE have not significantly increased year on year.</p> <p>Other actions that are taking place to respond to the current issues include -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative work with the TU's • Introducing Working Groups including joint TU/Management Group and initiating improvements and supports • Developing guidance/process and improving existing guidance for staff and managers • Updating Violence Management Standards • Developing new Policy 	

Q 8	Asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	"Can I ask the relevant Convenor for a cost recovery update of public funds used for the demolition of the India Building in Laurieston?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
<p>A meeting was convened between Building Standards and the owners in September. It provided the owners with further background on the demolition, the highly deteriorated condition of the buildings and the need for emergency works to be undertaken. At the meeting an estimate was imparted as to how much the final costs of demolition may be.</p> <p>Whilst intermediate payments have been made to the contractor, the final invoice is awaited. City Property - who were administering the process for NRS - have been meeting with the contractor to agree this.</p> <p>At that point, the owners will be invoiced for the relevant amounts and that part of the debt recovery process commenced.</p>	

Q 9	Asked by: Councillor Malcolm Mitchell
Tabled Question	"To ask the City Convener for Open Government what the cost is to the council of administering a local government by-election?"
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, City Convener for Open Government and Business Manager
<p>As per Cllr Bell's earlier answer, the cost is around £80k for one by-election.</p> <p>But there are other costs: four of the seven polling stations are nurseries, that is parent and kids that have their day and education interrupted. Similarly there are people who work through the night to make sure the democratic process works.</p> <p>We had a 12% turnout in the North East and if it turns out we need another by election we will need to put work into making sure it isn't a lesser number as people may lose faith in the system, so there is a practical cost to people's lives practically as well as the £80,000.</p>	

Q 10	Asked by: Bailie Eva Murray (Withdrawn)
Tabled Question	
Responder	

Q 11	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	<p>"To ask the City Treasurer if he believes the Council should subsidise the operating costs of groups such as the anti-abortion campaign group Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and private school alumni association The Glasgow High School Club through the provision of discretionary relief to non-domestic rates?"</p>
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer
<p>Thanks for the question, Cllr Anderson.</p> <p>It remains the case that Aay Organisation registered with OSCR as a Charity is entitled to 80% Mandatory Rates Relief on their Non Domestic Rates. Discretionary Relief which is 75% funded by Scottish Government is then applied provided certain criteria is met.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the charity occupying the property in furtherance of their charitable objectives. If not, we would not award discretionary relief • Is there a retail element within the premises. If revenue from donated goods is less than 60%, we would not award Discretionary relief • Does the property have a licence to sell tobacco and alcohol. There is a calculation to reduce the percentage of Discretionary relief based on income from alcohol and tobacco. • Does the charity or organisation receive external funding to assist with payment of rates. We would reduce or reject Discretionary relief depending on the amount of external funding. 	

Q 12	Asked by: Councillor Robert Mooney
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor confirm the source of the additional £80K needed to maintain the city’s cycle infrastructure, as mentioned at the Environmental and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>The £80k p/a figure estimated in the latest Roads Infrastructure Annual Status and Options Report (ASOR) is calculated by utilising condition data gathered through visual inspection surveys. Using standard maintenance costs and an empirically derived ‘rate of deterioration model’, it is possible to estimate likely ongoing maintenance costs over the lifetime of an asset under normal operating conditions, commencing from the date at which service performance is expected to deteriorate, following the normal defect liability period.</p> <p>It should be noted that this is calculated in order to identify any expected maintenance funding requirement and the current £80k figure is low, due to Glasgow’s Cycle infrastructure being relatively new. As part of the planning and design of this type of infrastructure, steps are taken to minimise impacts to the Council’s revenue budget position through efficient geometric design and careful choice of materials and their durability. However, as the asset base increases and deteriorates, this figure should be expected to rise in the future.</p> <p>In anticipation of this Council officers from across Scotland have raised the issue of future maintenance of cycle networks with the Transport Scotland Active Travel Infrastructure Funding teams and also as a possible development project for SCOTS (Scottish Collaboration of Transportation Specialists) with the aim of rationalising the carriageway deterioration models, since cycle facilities don’t experience the same stresses as roads, in theory enabling a longer service life.</p>	

Q 13	Asked by: Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	“Can the Convenor for Culture and Sport tell us how the reduction of discounts for pensioners for Glasgow Gym facilities has affected their usage of the services and if the Convenor feels it has been value for money?”
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations
<p>In 2018 Glasgow Life’s sport facilities had a very broad and complex range of concession eligibility which included universally available discounts based on age. Following an extensive review of membership and activity pricing, Glasgow Life introduced some changes from May 2018. At this time, Glasgow Life re-focused concessions to those in receipt of benefits designed to supplement the income of the hardest pressed households.</p> <p>By doing this, Glasgow Life can offer a bigger discount to families and individuals who really struggle to pay but also ensured that they continue providing services that are increasingly expensive to offer. For those who attend regularly (once a week or more) we also introduced an ActivClub membership which includes unlimited swimming and a whole host of other activities for just £18 a month or £12 for those who meet the new concession discount criteria. This has proven to be extremely popular and has resulted in an increase in participation by removing the worry of paying for each activity.</p> <p>Glasgow Life’s sports centres report no reduction in the proportion of older adult users from the hardest pressed households despite the changes to pricing and discounts, however the amount of participation in this age group (60 – 90-year-olds) have increased significantly with the total number of visits almost doubled from 9,545 in 2017 to 18,257 in 2024.</p> <p>As well as helping to support the most in need, this targeted approach ensures we have a sustainable service that continues to offer opportunities for everyone in Glasgow to keep physically active for years to come.</p>	

Q 14	Asked by: Bailie Margaret Morgan
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Convener for Education and Early Years her thoughts on Glasgow being the only Scottish city to secure the accolade of being a UNESCO Learning City?”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education
<p>Thank you to Bailie Morgan for your question. I was delighted that Glasgow was 1 of 10 cities awarded the UNESCO Learning City Award for 2024 for our outstanding achievements in promoting lifelong learning, the only Scottish city to receive this honour to date.</p> <p>The award was only announced on 2nd December this year but the road to this achievement was started a number of years ago. Officers in Education Services here in Glasgow met with Strathclyde University and a Performance Group was formed to develop Glasgow's Learning City Plan. We are extremely lucky in the city to not only have wonderful schools and early years facilities, but 5 Higher Education institutions as well as several Further Education institutions who have all played a part in helping Glasgow become a learning city as well as other partners such as Skills Development Scotland and Glasgow Life.</p> <p>A host of internal and external programmes and projects also informed this process. Ranging from our own Project Search, the Council's Supported Employment Service for people with learning disabilities, to Parents Network Scotland, Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network, and the Workers Education Association, the breadth of agencies and their knowledge that informed this process has been remarkable.</p> <p>It is because of work like this that Glasgow continues to exceed itself in terms of attainment and achievement, even despite the challenges of the pandemic, and we see more and more young people – particularly those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds – going on to positive destinations.</p> <p>Because of our dense population, cities like Glasgow – and others across the world – are vital to making the changes we need to see in the world and responding to global challenges such as economic shifts and climate change. Obtaining UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning status is an achievement in itself and in the five years since doing so, Glasgow has proven that its coordinated, multi-agency approach to learning across the spectrum of society is paying off and Glasgow is now recognised as an exemplar to other cities around the world”.</p>	

Q 15	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask the relevant City Convener what mitigations will be in place to deal with the backlog of Christmas waste following the revision of wheeled bin collection dates to have a 6 week gap for general and recycling waste between Christmas and the New Year?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>Residents that are due to receive a kerbside collection on December 25 or 26 or January 1 or 2 have been notified that these collections will not take place until their next collection day. Properties impacted received hand delivered leaflets with full details of the collection services that are affected. Social media channels have also been updated.</p> <p>To effectively manage waste generated over this period residents are urged to use the full extent of the recycling capacity available to them for general waste, glass, food and garden waste (where a permit applies) and options for recycling paper and cardboard as well as plastic and metal containers. In Glasgow almost 68% of homes are flats with houses or bungalows making up just over 31% of the city's housing stock.</p> <p>We are aiming to minimise the overall impact felt by the loss of service by this year by focusing additional effort on back courts and public sites, where excess waste can build-up quickly and cause environmental problems.</p> <p>Those affected, approximately 3-4% of properties across the city will see any excess waste removed at their next collection day.</p> <p>Residents are also urged to use the additional support available at the city's Household Waste and Recycling Centres, closed on Christmas day and New Years day and will re-open on Boxing Day and January 2.</p> <p>An elected members' brief has been circulated with details of this years revised festive plan.</p>	

Q 16	Asked by: Councillor Saqib Ahmed
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor whether there have been discussions with the Scottish Government regarding the increasing incidents of vandalism targeting buses and taxis, and the growing threats to driver safety?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>We have not been made aware of an increase in the statistics relating to reported incidents of vandalism targeting taxis and buses. Whilst it is acknowledged that such instances can occur from time to time, this would be a matter for Police Scotland and transport operators. And should the Council be made aware of vandalism to vehicles and threats to drivers our course of action would be to redirect complaints and concerns to Police Scotland.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the Council takes incidences of threats to road user safety very seriously and acknowledges the distress that aggressive behaviour on buses can cause to members of the public. The Council therefore works in partnership with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, transport operators and police to deter antisocial behaviours, especially at transport hubs and bus stops.</p>	