Q.1	Councillor Lilith Johnstone
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener what assurance can be given to the residents of Glasgow that the funds allocated through the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) will be fully spent during this Council term?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) represents Glasgow's first large-scale implementation of participatory budgeting, with £23 million allocated in 2022/23 - £1 million per ward. Area Partnerships were given responsibility for decision-making, with priorities to be agreed and minuted at their meetings. As a capital fund, the budget can be carried forward, though the aim is to have it fully committed by March 2027.

Progress has been slower than anticipated. In response, a dedicated team was established in November 2024 to review the process, address the backlog of requests, and develop clearer guidance and governance.

This new support structure is already proving effective. Clear guidance has now been issued to help Area Partnerships and communities identify eligible proposals. These include improvements to:

- Open and green spaces (including tree planting)
- Leisure and play areas, including community buildings
- Street furniture, lighting, and CCTV
- Road and pavement conditions
- Road safety and crossings
- Flood mitigation
- Murals and general environmental enhancements

All proposals must be informed by community engagement, even if a full participatory budgeting process is not followed.

To date, £4.3 million has been committed across several wards. However, many Area Partnerships have yet to allocate a significant portion - or any - of their £1 million. Officers are committed to working closely with each Partnership to understand local priorities and deliver costed, deliverable projects within the available timeframe.

The Community Empowerment team will continue to support engagement, while regular update reports will be provided at Area Partnership meetings. Any unspent funds can be carried forward, ensuring all communities benefit from this important investment as efficiently and equitably as possible.

Q.2	Councillor Fiona Higgins
Tabled Question	"Following the Ruchill Community Centre decision, can the relevant City Convener let us know when officers will be meeting with local members and the community to set out next steps?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Thank you for your question. I can confirm that a meeting has taken place between Ruchill Community Trust and officers from the PMGC team within the Council's NRS Department following the recent CAC meeting.

A draft project plan has been developed, and a way forward has been agreed with the Trust. To ensure momentum, project meetings will now take place every two weeks, with the People Make Glasgow Communities Team leading the process, with support from Glasgow Life officers.

This collaborative approach ensures that the Trust receives consistent and coordinated support as the project progresses towards a future paper at CAC later this year.

Q.3	Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener what steps are being taken to mitigate the increase in vape usage in the city's schools?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education

Vaping among young people has become a growing concern in our schools, with data showing a significant rise in usage. Between 2018 and 2022, the percentage of 15-year-olds reporting vape use in the past 30 days jumped from 7% to 25%. This increase is closely linked to the rise of disposable vapes and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alarmingly, the use of disposable vapes among 11 to 17-year-olds in Great Britain surged from 7.8% in 2020 to 69% in 2023.

Nicotine use at a young age can negatively affect brain development, impacting concentration, learning, mood, and self-control. It also increases the risk of long-term addiction. In response, Glasgow's education services are working closely with the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and NHS Health Improvement to deliver targeted health education across all schools.

This year, schools have been provided with tailored resources through Personal and Social Education (PSE) and Health and Wellbeing networks. These include lesson plans for teachers and materials for engaging parents. Staff training is ongoing, supported by Health Improvement colleagues, and students seeking to quit vaping are encouraged to use the "Quit Your Way" service.

Additionally, a leaflet titled "Vaping: A Guide for Parents and Carers" has been distributed to schools. While vaping is part of a broader pattern of risk-taking behaviour, we recognise that schools cannot tackle this issue alone. We remain committed to working with key partners to develop a coordinated and effective response.

Q.4	Councillor Jill Brown
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener whether the Council or Friends of Groups are liable for insurance regarding maintenance works being undertaken in the city's parks?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

It is the responsibility of the Friends of Groups to have the relevant insurance in place before undertaking maintenance works in the City's parks.

Glasgow's NRS Parks and Greenspace and Biodiversity team have developed a strong partnership with our Friends of Groups which number over 70 in total and are very active across our Parks and a number of the city cemeteries.

The groups are a valuable and welcome addition to our service and play a vital role in events, raising funds and facilitating volunteer opportunities for their members and the wider communities associated with their respective parks/cemeteries.

At present due to the wide variety of the tasks performed by the groups and in addition to their volunteer, non-statutory status, it is not possible for a blanket cover to be provided via GCC insurance policies.

NRS officers are currently scoping out opportunities, in partnership with the Glasgow Parks Forum, in resolve this issue. Officers are actively engaging with the National Parks Forum, relevant insurance brokers and other local authorities to come up with a solution to ensure activities can continue while adhering to the requirements of such activity.

Q.5	Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener how many young people in S1-S3 will receive free school meals as a result of the recently announced funding for increased free school meal expansion in Glasgow and 7 other local authorities?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education
Thank you for the	question Cllr Anderson.
us to pilot this in 4	ared by the Greens in the most recent Scottish Government budget, has allowed a secondary schools in the city: Springburn, Drumchapel, Castlemilk & Lochend. 440 pupils will receive free school meals in S1-3 as part of this expansion.

Q.6	Bailie Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener if an options appraisal has been completed for a permanent new Care Experienced Hub in the city centre which would be a place for young people to gather, have fun and find support across all areas including housing, money, mental health and employment?"
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer

I would respond at the outset by saying that YES, we would be delighted to be able to identify a place for young people to gather, have fun and find support across all areas including housing, money, mental health and employment.

The idea for a Care Experienced Hub emerged at a Champions' Board last year and the principle was discussed again during the Champions' Board last week, where the Young Champs met up with the Champions' Board members and raised that they would like their own space. Previously, the Young Champs used Refuweegee space, and before this My Bank space. Currently, the group meets at Ladywell and this is where all participants stated that they wanted to remain following a couple of moves last year.

Following the discussions at the Champions' Board, where it was pointed out that there are many empty shops on Sauchiehall Street that might provide suitable accommodation, discussion took place between the Interim Chief Officer for Finance and Resources and the Head of Children's Services (North-West). To be clear, the Children's Services leadership team fully supports the aspiration.

However, and sadly we have to deal with some practicalities at this point, there isn't currently a sufficient number of participants in either the Young Champs' or Arts in the City groups to justify sole use of a building and associated staffing, particularly in the context of the current financial climate.

Running a dedicated space would require significant financial support, and this would need to be wider than the HSCP budget, acknowledging corporate parenting responsibilities across the Council and wider Children's Services Planning Partnership.

Having acknowledged this however I don't wish to sound too pessimistic. I will be pursuing the matter further with officers within the HSCP as both myself and senior officers recognise the value that such a space would have for the young people involved. We also want to encourage the commitment the young people have shown both on this issue and on their wider engagement with the Champions Board. For my part, I would want to see such commitment rewarded.

At this point I will ask officers to continue their dialogue with the young people and further reports will come back to the Champions Board on participation levels, funding and the practical availability of suitable property.

Q.7	Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener to comment on Glasgow's improved ranking in the Climate Action Scorecard, with the council now tenth ranked in the UK and joint second outside London?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Glasgow is continuing its mission to achieve net zero and we are proud to have achieved this significant milestone and recognition.

In the latest 2025 Climate Action Scorecard assessment, conducted by Climate Emergency UK, Glasgow received a score of 64%—a 9% increase from last year. This places us in joint first position in Scotland, alongside Edinburgh, and among the top-performing councils across the UK.

The Climate Action Scorecard is a rigorous assessment based on up to 93 questions across seven key areas, developed in consultation with over 90 organisations and individuals. Councils were assessed between July 2024 and March 2025, with a right to reply before final scores were audited.

Glasgow is one of only 62 councils UK-wide to score above 50%, and notably, we were the only local authority to score over 80% in any section—achieving an impressive 85% in Collaboration and Engagement. This reflects our strong commitment to working with residents, community groups, schools, health services, cultural institutions, and businesses to reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

This recognition follows closely on the heels of Glasgow receiving an 'A' rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), confirming our leadership in both climate mitigation and adaptation. We are now one of just 112 global cities on the CDP's 'A-list', placing us in the top 15% of nearly 1,000 reporting cities worldwide.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teams and partners across the city. While we will continue to review and respond to the scorecard's findings, this result clearly demonstrates that Glasgow is making strong, measurable progress in tackling the climate and ecological emergency.

Q.8	Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener whether the Council has been reimbursed yet for the demolition of the India Building in Bridge Street?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

At this stage, the Council has not yet been reimbursed for the demolition of the India Building on Bridge Street. The site comprises three interconnected buildings constructed at different times, with only the Oxford Street section remaining. The demolition of the two older buildings was carried out under emergency powers due to safety concerns.

Ownership of the site is complex, involving multiple parties and title transfers, some of which may still be in probate. This has raised questions around the fair apportionment of demolition costs—particularly whether owners of parts of the remaining building, who had no stake in the demolished sections, should bear any liability.

A Charging Order under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 is being prepared to secure the debt once these legal and ownership matters are resolved. This order, once registered, allows the Council to recover costs with interest over time.

We are also continuing to press the owners to carry out essential repairs to the remaining Oxford Street building, which remains partially unsafe and unoccupied. The site is part of ongoing discussions within the North Laurieston Masterplan, and we remain committed to ensuring public safety while pursuing all available avenues for cost recovery.

Q.9	Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener what review there has been regarding accessibility of bin hubs within the pilot areas, in particular in reference to any feedback provided by residents?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Bin Hub pilot has played a crucial role in shaping the future of waste management services across Glasgow. Feedback and data gathered during the pilot phase have directly informed the design of the citywide roll-out programme, with a strong focus on improving accessibility, functionality, and user experience.

One of the key areas of improvement has been accessibility. Initial designs included locks to restrict bin access to residents only. However, it became clear that lost or forgotten keys led to waste being left on the street, negatively impacting cleanliness. As a result, locks have been removed from existing hubs and will now only be used in specific, justified cases.

To further enhance accessibility, the hubs are now installed on the road surface with adjustable feet, reducing their overall height and making them easier to use. Bin lids have also been redesigned to include access apertures, eliminating the need to lift heavy lids. Food waste bins have been upgraded with forward-opening chutes, helping to reduce mess and odour during use. To support recycling efforts, residents in flatted properties receiving the new twin service will be provided with a reusable "bag for life" to help segregate and transport recyclable materials more easily.

The citywide roll-out of the new service will begin in August 2025, starting in the southwest of Glasgow. All affected residents will receive detailed information about the changes, supported by a targeted social media campaign and local drop-in information sessions to ensure everyone is well-informed and supported.

These improvements reflect Glasgow's commitment to delivering a cleaner, more efficient, and user-friendly waste management system—one that is shaped by community feedback and designed to meet the needs of all residents.

Q.10	Bailie Seonad Hoy
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener if following the Scottish Parliament's agreement of the Scottish Languages Bill, if the administration will be updating the Council's Gàidhlig language plan and introducing a Scots language plan?"
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, City Convener for Open Government and Business Manager

Glasgow plays a vital role in the preservation and promotion of the Gaelic language, with the largest number of Gaelic speakers outside the Highlands and Islands. Gaelic is a living language that enriches the city's educational, cultural, and community life. From Gaelic-medium education to the work of organisations like An Lòchran and the Gaelic Books Council, the language contributes to Glasgow's diverse civic identity.

This commitment will be further highlighted when Glasgow hosts the Royal National Mòd from 9–17 October 2026. The Mòd, a major celebration of Gaelic language and culture, will bring thousands of visitors and participants to the city, offering a platform to showcase Glasgow's vibrant Gaelic community.

The Council's Gàidhlig Language Plan will be updated in 2026 as part of its midpoint review. This will allow for reflection on progress and renewed engagement with communities to strengthen Gaelic development across the city.

At the same time, the Council recognises the importance of supporting the Scots language. While there are currently no immediate plans to introduce a Scots Language Plan, the Council is carefully considering the implications of forthcoming legislation. This includes evaluating how best to align resources and delivery mechanisms to ensure any future plan is meaningful and achievable. Engagement with key partners will be central to shaping a thoughtful and inclusive approach to language planning in Glasgow.

Q.11	Councillor Malcolm Mitchell
Tabled Question	"To ask the Leader of the Council for her thoughts on the implications of the UK Spending Review for Glasgow?"
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

I don't think I can say that we are anything other than disappointed with the results of the spending review and what it means for Glasgow.

After a promising start with a new Labour Government that said it would do things differently from the Tories I would even go so far as to say that the announcements for Glasgow that were contained in the Spending Review have taken us backwards from where we were previously, as previously trailed announcements come with more strings attached than had been anticipated – a process of infantilising Glasgow to the status of a minor local authority administering programmes on behalf of the UK Government.

Most alarmingly, there was no sign of any new regional growth deal for Glasgow, with myself and officers having spent time and resource presenting the UK Government with a case to provide us with a single pot of funding and a devolution deal commensurate with that given to Greater Manchester and the West Midlands: yet we now hear from the Chief Secretary of the Treasury and the Minister of State in the Scotland Office that the UK Government does not consider it their responsibility.

Where there were commitments to Glasgow, around investment zones and a strategic partnership with the National Wealth Fund, we will absolutely do our best to use this additional resource to benefit the people of Glasgow and our city region economy: but let's not pretend that this will be enough to provide the sort of economic transformation that our voters expect.

What Glasgow is asking for isn't a special deal – we are simply asking for a level playing field with comparative regions in England.

"One thing that the Chancellor did do in the spending review was provide £15 billion to city-regions for transport investment. Not a penny though for Glasgow city-region, Clyde Metro ignored by London Labour, and due to the way the funding was allocated, not even the consolation of Barnett consequentials. A fiscal event that shortchanges Scotland by a billion pounds. Does the leader agree that the class of 2024 have carried on the tradition of previous cohorts of Scottish Labour MPs. Completely ineffective and irrelevant".

I think what we have now is a challenge for Glasgow's MPs – we need to see the efforts you are making to get Glasgow's voice heard, because this is not good enough.

Cllr Mitchell touches on a perfect example of where UK Government funding – something that the Scottish Government would find more difficult to deliver because it cannot borrow money in the same fashion – has not only been given directly to English regions for transformative infrastructure projects, but in a way which deliberately avoids Barnett consequentials.

So the challenge is their for our Glasgow MPs – and I hope Labour colleagues across the chamber could help us in this regard – show us what you can do, put your head above the parapet the way that the MP for Glasgow North West has done this week on benefit cuts and do what you can to deliver this level playing field for Glasgow.

Q.12	Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener if they agree with me that plans by Reform leadership in England to prevent new staff from joining the local government pension scheme and threatening to cut the pay of existing staff would be disastrous for recruitment and retention for crucial public services?"
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer

Yes, I fully agree with Cllr Hutchison. The proposals from Reform UK to block new staff from joining the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and to cut the pay of existing staff are not only economically reckless but socially damaging. These plans would severely undermine recruitment and retention in vital public services, making careers in local government far less attractive.

Unions have rightly condemned these proposals. UNISON described them as "scribbled on the back of a beer mat," warning they would worsen the recruitment crisis. GMB called the plans "cruel, performative nonsense" and reported a surge in union membership in Reform-led councils as staff fear attacks on their pay and conditions.

Instead of dismantling strong pension schemes, we should be championing them. The Strathclyde Pension Fund is one of the most generous and secure in the UK. It is the second largest in the UK and the largest in Scotland, offering a defined benefit pension that provides stability and dignity in retirement. It is also well-managed and financially robust, delivering long-term value for both employees and the public sector. I encourage all Glasgow City Council staff and councillors to join and support this vital fund.

Q.13	Councillor Zen Ghani
Tabled Question	"To ask the City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use for an update on how the Council is protecting the city's built heritage?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

To live in Glasgow is to be reminded every single day of what an incredible cultural asset our Built Heritage is: but also what a burden it can be if it is not responsibly handled. Glaswegians know all too well how our collective stewardship of this privileged asset has not always met their expectations: that was the principal reason that my colleague and predecessor the late Cllr McLean set up the Built Heritage Commission, which I have been glad to attend under Cllr Ghani's co-chairship.

We know that while we cannot shirk from the mistakes that have been made in the past, its also important that the people that live here know what we are doing with some of the city's most beloved buildings, the bottom line is that this council has spent over a quarter of a billion pounds on our heritage assets over the last decade: as our Heritage Asset Plan 2019-2029 which came to the Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods Committee in March stated this is spent on:

- Maintenance and preservation of heritage assets.
- Refurbishment and re-development opportunities
- · Promotion of community use.
- Partnership working opportunities with other public or private sector organisations.

GCC manages 97 operational heritage properties used to support the delivery of public services, high profile examples of which includes this building we are in, Kelvingrove Art Gallery or the Kibble Palace.

What about non-operational properties?

The council manages 83 heritage properties that are non-operational – buildings like the St Vincent Street Church, Elder Park Farm, and Kings Park Courtyard. I have been glad to see that Officers have agreed with me that the most important thing is to bring these buildings back into productive use for the city, and to ensure that Glaswegians can enjoy them long into the future.

The prime example of this is the Martyr's school. When it was announced earlier this year that it was the Council's intention to market this commercially, we were attacked with the same sort of sensationalist reporting that I'm afraid we've come to expect when it comes reporting on our Built Heritage, despite the fact that both myself and officers were clear that there were always going to be strict conditions linked to any sale, ensuring that this unique example of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's early work would be preserved.

I'm glad to say this strategy paid off, when it was announced earlier this month that we would be entering into an agreement with the Bishop's Conference of Scotland to host the Scottish Catholic archive and a public museum of Scottish Catholic archives to house artefacts and artworks.

I could not have thought of a better outcome for the Martyr's School: a vital heritage asset is preserved into the future; an organisation is agreeing to put its own money into the asset; and our city's cultural offering is enhanced in a way which also allows us to showcase the contribution that the Roman Catholic community has made to our public life over 850 years.

This is something I'd like to also do with the Egyptian Halls: while not a Glasgow City Council property, we are continuing with the CPO process on the building, and as we saw in CAC last week we have secured funds to reassure any potential investor in this property that the council will be an active partner in its restoration.

For too long, City Administrations were content to sit back and allow our Built Heritage to literally crumble before our eyes: I am determined that this will not happen on my watch.

Q.14	Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	"Can the relevant City Convener explain to users of Tollcross Park why our world-renowned Rose Garden has been allowed to become overrun with weeds and debris, and what steps will be taken to prevent this from happening again?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Glasgow's International Rose Garden at Tollcross is a cherished and significant feature of our parks estate. A recent inspection of the rose beds has been completed, and an improvement schedule is now being implemented to address any issues identified. This includes deploying operational staff to restore the beds to their internationally recognised standard.

As part of our ongoing maintenance, we will continue the annual dressing of the beds with 200 tonnes of mushroom compost. This natural fertiliser is essential for supporting the health and vibrancy of the roses.

In line with recent budget approvals, we have also launched an extensive recruitment drive for additional parks staff. New recruits will be strategically deployed to key areas, including the Rose Garden, to help maintain the high standards expected by both the local community and international visitors.

This effort complements our Climate Ready Modern Apprenticeship programme, which offers young residents the opportunity to earn while they learn, building careers within our valued parks estate.

While the beds are no longer used for show trials, we remain fully committed to their upkeep. We recognise their importance both locally and globally and are dedicated to ensuring they continue to enhance the Tollcross environment and uphold their international reputation.

Q.15	Councillor Jill Brown
Tabled Question	"Could the relevant City Convener clarify whether Friends of Groups require permission to carry out maintenance in the parks they support, and if so, could you please explain the reasons for this requirement?"
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Glasgow's NRS Parks, Greenspace and Biodiversity team has developed a strong and valued partnership with over 70 Friends of Groups, who are active across our parks and several city cemeteries. These groups play a vital role in enhancing our green spaces by organising events, raising funds, and creating volunteer opportunities that benefit both their members and the wider community.

To ensure all volunteer-led maintenance or improvement activities are carried out safely and appropriately, groups are asked to engage with the NRS Greenspace & Biodiversity Team in advance. This ensures the necessary permissions are in place and that activities align with our operational standards.

We have an established "Permission to Use" (PTU) process, which has been developed in collaboration with Friends of Groups and the Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum. This light-touch process ensures the governing team is aware of planned activities and can provide support where needed.

While most volunteer tasks fall comfortably within the PTU framework, certain activities—such as the use of power tools like chainsaws—require additional scrutiny. In these cases, early engagement with the Greenspace team is essential to assess the proposed work, confirm appropriate training, insurance, and risk assessments, and ensure the safety of all involved.

We are proud to support the incredible work of our Friends of Groups, who are a valued extension of our Parks Operations team. Their contributions are essential to the care and vibrancy of Glasgow's green spaces, and we remain committed to working closely with them while prioritising safety for all park users.

Q.16	Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on proposals for road user charging in the city, following the Scottish Government's recent commitment to empower councils to introduce schemes?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

As Cllr Anderson is aware, the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 grants local authorities discretionary powers to implement local RUC schemes, though additional primary legislation is required to enable practical implementation.

We welcome the commitment by Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government to undertake a legislative/regulatory review to establish how this process could be clarified for local authorities to take forward, and this is a matter I have engaged with officials and other Councils on via COSLA.

The Council currently has no specific proposals to introduce Road User Charging (RUC) in Glasgow. However, members will be aware that the Council has repeatedly stated its interest in further exploring the possibilities around an at-city-boundary congestion charge and potential tolling of the Clyde Tunnel, both with exemptions for Glasgow residents, and we will engage with the coming legislative review to ensure Glasgow is well-positioned to consider any developments. Council officers continue to engage with Transport Scotland and COSLA, particularly in relation to national commitments to reduce car vehicle mileage and the potential role of RUC as a travel demand management tool. Transport Scotland has expressed interest in Glasgow and Edinburgh taking a lead role in exploring RUC, and we anticipate further discussions with City of Edinburgh Council on establishing their interest.

Transport Scotland has recently advised that no regulations on this matter will be laid before the Scottish Parliament until after the 2026 elections. In the meantime, the Council will continue to monitor developments and engage constructively with national partners.