Q 1	Asked by: Councillor Catherine Vallis
Tabled Question	"To ask the Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations what qualitative and quantitative data has been collected on Glasgow Life venues across the city, including Linn Park Golf Course, to progress their reopening?"
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

We are all aware of the impact that the pandemic has had on the public and private sector, and businesses, in this city and across the globe. There's has been a significant impact on the operation of our community spaces that has challenged our traditional operating models, impacting on the ability to re-open some venues operated by Glasgow Life.

Throughout the lockdown of the city starting in 2020, Glasgow Life embarked upon recovery planning, identifying venues and services that potentially could safely re-open and re-start, operating within the Scottish Government's Route Map at the time, all of which were subject of outline business cases which assessed the costs, staffing requirements and impact of reopening/restarting, and the pre-Covid usage while meeting legislative restrictions and financial affordability.

Moving beyond the pandemic and following the allocation of £1.1million from the current budget announced in February 2022 which was then approved at the City Administration Committee in June, Glasgow Life implemented a consultation on the reopening of a number of venues which had closed during the pandemic but hadn't yet become operational again.

The community consultation process was informed by national and international guidance that promotes effective engagement and participation to enable communities to achieve more influence in decisions which affect them.

The consultation received nearly 400 responses from the public and over 350 responses from previous let holders and tenants for those community venues within scope for re-opening.

The criteria prioritised venues in areas of greatest need, previous usage and demand, and from the responses of that consultation emerging and future needs were considered, as well as accessibility, potential for growth and current contractual arrangements.

The 18 venues in scope for the consultation were identified by the Council and approved by the City Administration Committee as a priority were community centres and public halls, therefore Linn Park Golf Course was not part of that process.

Since the pandemic, well over 100 venues have fully reopened or are scheduled to reopen through core funding from the £1.1m budget allocation, with a further dozen or so opening under alternative arrangements. Due to the present financial position, two venues and 28 sports facilities, mainly bowls, golf and pitch-and-putt, currently have no scheduled reopening date.

As the member may be aware, Linn Park Golf Course is one such facility. Although it is not operating as a golf course it continues to be maintained on a reduced "open space" profile, which would allow for the reinstatement of the course should that be required.

Glasgow Life is working with the City Council to continue to explore alternative options, including via the People Make Glasgow Communities scheme which allows community-based organisations to take over ownership or management of facilities.

The PMGC team has received multiple expressions of interest in relation to Linn Park Golf Course but to date no formal proposals have been submitted for assessment.

Q 2	Asked by: Councillor Eunis Jassemi
Tabled Question	"To ask the Convener for Health and Social Care what the administration's response is to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde advising residents to avoid visiting A&E during winter and what communication has the Convener had with the Health Board and the Scottish Government?"
Responder	Councillor Chris Cunningham, Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Equalities

Can I thank Cllr Jassemi for his question, which unfortunately manages to misinterpret the message that the NHS is seeking to send to our fellow citizens.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde uses the Scottish Government Right Care, Right Place model for all emergency care. Its purpose is to ensure patients get access to the most appropriate care quickly and safely. It is also intended to protect our Accident & Emergency Departments (A&E) so they can look after patients with life-threatening conditions.

If Cllr Jassemi had looked at the relevant website, which I would encourage all members to visit at NHSGGC, he would see the range of options available for residents to guide them towards the most appropriate pathway, including primary care, pharmacies and minor injury units. I'm sure the Cllr would not wish to see patients presenting at A&E when they could have found treatment elsewhere within the system both more easily and indeed closer to home. I hope he would agree with me that making the maximum use of all pathways within the NHS is something we should encourage and not diminish by default.

I understand that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde intend to support this work with ongoing communications through different channels including social media, radio etc over the winter and there is also monitoring of its impact so that any messaging can be altered if needed.

As a member of the Health Board I can assure the Cllr that I have indeed been actively engaged in discussions on these matters, most recently at the Health Board meeting earlier this week when detailed discussions took place on winter planning, wider delivery planning and performance against targets.

Let me be clear, these are challenging times and we face a winter with a range of unknowns, from possible new Covid variations, the impact of the cost of living crisis and even the potential for industrial action.

But addressing all of those challenges will not be assisted by using lazy and pejorative language that implies that there is only one route for residents seeking assistance from our health service. I would hope that members would agree with me that our fellow citizens will be best served by all of us in positions of responsibility ensuring that they are directed to the right information at all times.

Q 3	Asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convener tell me at what stage of completion is the Council's Ash Dieback Disease Report and what are the funds secured for managing the outbreak?”
Responder	Councillor Ruari Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

NRS Parks & Streetscene are using the latest technology to undertake a comprehensive study of our parks’ estate and arterial road network to identify the extent of Ash dieback across the city. The information will be available from December this year and will be pivotal in terms of developing our short-to-medium term plans to address this important issue.

From there, we will develop an action plan which will include a programme of pruning, tree removals and indeed linked to our tree planting programme for the City.

A demonstration using the latest mechanical equipment is also being trialled in early November within one of our main parks and if successful will speed up the removal process of diseased trees.

We continue to engage with national bodies including the Tree Council, Greenspace Scotland and the Scottish Government to ascertain what external funding maybe available to assist with what is one of the priority areas for our parks for now and the coming years. A report will be brought to the relevant committee prior to summer recess next year.

Q 4	Asked by: Councillor Kieran Turner
Tabled Question	"The proposed route map on Bus Governance indicates that, at the earliest, a new system of bus governance would be in place in 2030. To ask the Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery if they believe that people in Glasgow can wait that long to realise our vision of a world-class, London-style integrated transport system?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

This administration was elected earlier this year with a commitment to explore opportunities for greater public control of our bus network, using powers being made available by the Scottish Government.

Our new Bus Governance Routemap looks to update the Council's position following the election and sets out the practical steps that we will look to take to advance this important agenda, and having been presented to ESCR earlier this month I am looking forward to bringing this to City Administration Committee next week.

The Routemap recognises the political desire that we hold within the Council to explore bus governance reform options such as franchising. It also makes clear that the Council must follow due legal process and a robust business case for change must be made before any decisions are made to progress new bus governance arrangements in the city.
Key elements of the 2019 Transport Act, around for example franchising, are still not enacted and may not be until next year at the earliest. Our Bus Governance Routemap sets out how we will look progress business case work on alternative bus governance options from next year onwards, subject to the enactment of legislation and receipt of requisite funding.

It is clear that this will take time and cannot happen overnight. Evidence from the Systra analysis on bus governance options prepared and published as part of the development Glasgow Transport Strategy suggest that introducing a franchising system could take at least seven years - that is a best estimate based on the experience of Manchester's journey, though it should be noted that a different legislative and local transport framework exists there.

Clearly we would want the business case process to progress as quickly as is practicable, and we will continue to advocate for the early publication of all relevant Transport Act regulations and for funding to progress business case development. But it is also imperative that the Council follows due legal process and proceeds carefully to ensure we get this right. We're also clear that we cannot simply sit on our hands while that work continues, and that we need to see improvements to our bus network in the short term. The Routemap provides the space for the Council to engage with the Glasgow Bus Partnership to explore a time-limited statutory partnership to lock in commitments for bus service improvement in the short-to-medium term, as we progress that wider bus governance work.

Any decisions about new bus governance arrangements, in line with the Routemap, will also require Council approval and will follow considerable engagement with key stakeholders at local, regional and national level.

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	"To ask the Education Convener to provide an update on actions the Council has taken to support staff and students since St Albert's Primary School was the target of vile white supremacist abuse on social media?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, Convener for Education and Communities

Thank you for the question Councillor Molyneux. Let me first just start by saying from the beginning that we as an Administration and as a Council fully support the staff and pupils at Saint Albert's Primary School who were subjected to vile, racist attacks online. We should be challenging anyone who directs racial abuse at anyone else, but for this to be directed specifically at children is absolutely disgusting and those who are responsible should be utterly ashamed of themselves.

In relation specifically to Saint Albert's, Education Services were in contact with the school over the weekend the racist abuse took place by both the Director of Education and the Comms Manager. This was then followed up during the week with the Director, the Head of Service and Quality Improvement Officer in order to ensure the Council were providing as much support as possible. As well as direct contact, various social media accounts linked to Education Services were used to **publicly** express support to the school and condemn the racist attacks.

The Council's Comms Manager with responsibility for education also facilitated media interviews at the school and print media to highlight the abuse and importantly, the way the school chose to deal with it. The Council also supported the Parent Council with any media interviews and throughout all of this, the message was clear: that racial abuse whether online or in person will not be tolerated. The Council also worked with the Head Teacher and the school to plan future *positive* stories about the work of the school community.

So the Council provided support as much as possible at that exact moment but we also want to continue looking at embedding an anti-racist approach in our education system to not only provide support if and when it happens, but ensure we are doing all we can to eradicate racism from our schools and wider society for good. Earlier this month, around 2 weeks after the main part of the online abuse took place, education had the long planned PARTIE22 event. Promoting Anti Racism Together in Education was a 3 day celebration of our diversity and a chance to share best practice on what we are doing to tackle racism and hate crime through education, both centrally within the Council and in individual schools. Multiple stalls on the 3rd day were run by children and young people from across Glasgow showcasing what they are doing in *their* own schools. Saint Albert's had a stall with their work on culturally sensitive curricular material including the books the children have written where they can see their names, their experiences and their lives reflected.

So it is important not only do we ensure our processes are fit to challenge and tackle racism, but that we make sure our schools are environments where difference and diversity is actively celebrated; and education is a powerful tool that can allow this to happen. If anyone is treated less because of who they are then we as a Council stand in solidarity with them. Our commitment to our children and young people is that we will constantly work to accelerate systemic change every single day.

Q 6	Asked by: Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what is being done to address capacity issues in the Parks Development service which is resulting in long delays to fix play equipment, to deliver projects funded via the Parks and Open Spaces Fund and utilise the Scottish Government play park renewal fund?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

A welcome £1.5 million Parks and Open Spaces Fund was committed in the previous and current years’ budgets – the spend associated with this continues to be agreed by Area partnerships.

Officers are currently finalising tender documentation for up to 300 projects put forward and agreed by the Area Partnerships, to ensure best value and in line with corporate procurement and governance rules.

Several vacancies within the team are currently in process of being filled which will ensure these and other projects are completed as soon as possible.

With regard to the Scottish Government Play Area Fund, a report will also be submitted to the respective committee in the new financial year providing a draft action plan of proposed improvements and allocation of funds across our play area estate. There will be a requirement thereafter for further consultation and engagement, especially with our younger citizens.

The staff resource requirement to achieve this wide-ranging programme will be part of the report presented next year.

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Kevin Lalley
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convener, how many vulnerable individuals receive a household grass-cutting service, considering the removal of the Assisted Garden Maintenance service in 2019?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Assisted House Garden Maintenance programme was an employability programme which involved participants undertaking a programme of house garden grass cutting activity. The programme was commissioned and funded by the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board, which in 2019 took the decision to withdraw their funding and support for the service following a final transition year, and the programme came to an end in 2020.

Work was underway for a replacement employability programme in 2020, but the onset of the global pandemic and the necessary restrictions which had to be put in place prevented either that or an AHGM programme from taking place. In late 2021, changes to COVID-19 restrictions allowed the Council to roll out a replacement programme, 'City Makers'. The Council has taken steps to re-focus the work undertaken by City Makers and rather than (focusing solely) garden maintenance, the programme has been carrying out a wide range of environmental improvements across a range of communities since last October.

A further City Makers programme commenced in September this year, continuing to support employability outcomes and undertake neighbourhood improvements.

On this basis and given that AHGM came to an end and remained suspended from 2020, there are no plans for an AHGM service in future years.

Q 8	Asked by: Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what support the Council has in place for small businesses who are already affected by a 'cliff-edge' in COVID-related licensing arrangements?”
Responder	Councillor
Question Withdrawn.	

Q 9	Asked by: Councillor Graham Campbell
Tabled Question	"To ask the Leader if she will welcome me in congratulating All Saints School for winning the Under 15 Boys World Schools Football Cup held in Barcelona earlier this month?"
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the City Council and Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition

Yes, absolutely. This is a fantastic achievement for All Saints School. Sides from Columbia, Spain, Portugal, Scotland, England and the United Arab Emirates were among the schools to travel to Spain for two days of football action with the best team at each age category crowned World Schools Football Cup champions.

They beat a side from Dubai in the final. I'm sure everyone in the Chamber would wish to pass on their congratulations to the team, coaches and everyone who supported them to get to Barcelona.

They are not the only award winners recently. My Climate Path was recently awarded a Bronze Award in Educational Excellence at the Global Good Awards earlier this month. The Global Good Awards recognise businesses, NGOs, charities and social enterprises of all shapes and sizes around the world, who are driving social and environmental change.

I would also draw to the Chambers attention the work of Girls at COP which won a prestigious international award for innovation and youth education. The Sister Cities International award recognised the work of the City Council, the Centre for Climate Justice and our own sister city, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on gender and climate.

Last week it was great to get along to Holyrood and Kings Park Secondary Schools and catch up with some of the girls who've been involved in the series. My colleagues Bailie Annette Christie and Cllrs Anne McTaggart and Christina Cannon have also been visiting schools across the city and there's still more to come.

Every secondary school in the city has taken part in Girls@COP26 and the programme wouldn't have happened never mind won an award without the enthusiastic participation and contributions from the girls. It's really clear that participating in the programme has helped unleash their passion for climate and gender justice. It's fantastic to see our young people win on a global scale.

Q 10	Asked by: Bailie Paul McCabe
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green New Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery for an update on the School Streets programme?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Can I thank Cllr McCabe for that question. The Schools Streets programme is an ongoing success of this Council administration and I am delighted to see it continuing to go from strength to strength.

We launched the Schools Streets programme with a pilot of School Car Free Zones in August 2019, focused on six primary schools initially.
The pilot saw a 69% reduction in vehicles identified outside those schools during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We also know from research conducted across Scotland by Edinburgh Napier University that school street closures can improve the number of children walking, cycling and wheeling to school without creating road safety problems.

The success of the pilot has allowed us to extend the programme in several phases, starting in October 2020 and aligned at that point with the Spaces for People initiative.
There are now a total of 48 schools with School Car Free Zones in place, the most recent of which were introduced in August at Blackfriars, Corpus Christie and St Marnock’s Primaries.

I am also delighted to confirm that as part of the established process of replacing the initial experimental traffic orders for School Car Free Zones with permanent TROs – and in line with our commitment to make Spaces for People measures permanent – we have recently authorized 19 School Car Free Zones from phase 2 to be made permanent.

Those schools are Battlefield, Blairdardie, Cadder, Carntyne, Dunard, Gowanbank, Hyndland, Kelvindale, King’s Park, Mosspark, Merrylee and Our Lady of the Assumption, Parkview, Scotstoun, St Angela’s, St Anne’s, St Bernard’s, St Fillan’s, St Paul’s Shettleston and St Paul’s Whiteinch. I am delighted that these schools will now benefit from the road safety protections offered by the Schools Streets programme on a permanent basis.
Finally, I can advise that we are also looking to identify where road safety interventions might be introduced for any schools which have been assessed as being unsuited to a full Car Free Zone treatment. Further details on this will be included as part of a wider report on progress on the Schools Streets programme which is due to be reported to committee in the coming weeks.

Q 11	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what changes in service have been made for the disposal of single use vapes considering the high use currently and the high volume of battery metals, specifically Lithium and Cobalt?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The disposal of batteries within the domestic waste and recycling streams is an increasing hazard and has been responsible for several fires across the waste and recycling industry. This is a national issue and in September a working group was convened, including representatives from the Scottish Environmental Services Association, Resource Management Association Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland, Scottish Government, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Glasgow is represented at this group by officers from the local authority Waste Managers Officer Network (WMON).

While the minute from that first meeting has yet to be circulated, an update from the WMON states that the discussion revolved around issues relating to batteries, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), emerging concerns about disposable vapes and other fire risks, and the role of communication and awareness raising and other potential mitigations. As yet there are no changes to Council services but of course cognisance will be taken of any guidance produced by the working group.

By way of additional information, Zero Waste Scotland continues to raise awareness of battery recycling via their social media channels, and this has been supported across the Council’s digital channels. This will be part of the Council’s Christmas recycling messaging, when the use of domestic batteries increases.

Q 12	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener for an update on the working group currently considering the social and environmental impacts of commercial events being held in Glasgow’s parks and public spaces?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Events Sustainability/Biodiversity Steering Group, whose membership includes officers from Parks Development (Biodiversity), NRS Events, Sustainable Glasgow and Glasgow Life has now been established and is working to develop guidance and conditions for all events in Parks in line with our Climate Plan objectives. It is anticipated that conditions and requirements around biodiversity and sustainability will be introduced in a phased approach, with initial changes occurring during 2023.

Q 13	Asked by: Bailie Hanif Raja
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Treasurer what steps are being taken to streamline payment options for those applying for various licenses, including Taxi licences?”
Responder	Councillor Ricky Bell, Convenor for Financial Inclusion/City Treasurer/ Depute Leader

As a result of Covid and the service desk closure, the licensing section had to adapt how it received and processed applications. Cllr Raja may be aware of the many measures put in place during that time to support the licensed trade*, particularly taxi and private hire drivers and operators. But in addition to these, online application forms were developed to ensure that applications could still be submitted and processed despite there being no face-to-face service.

As part of the ongoing move towards online applications, application and other fees can be paid by BACS transfer directly to licensing, by credit and debit card payment over the phone, and by more traditional methods such as payment by cheque.

The licensing section continues to process approximately one thousand applications and payments each month across a range of different licence types.

Work is currently ongoing to develop additional payment solutions for applicants. A new licensing database is also being developed which will enable a fully integrated system for applications and payments, which will allow the streamlining of processes and speeding up of applications.

Q 14	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	“Could the relevant Convener please advise why it costs £3,600 to put up a Christmas Tree in our communities?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The £3,600 charge for a Christmas Tree provided under the peripheral festive lighting programme covers the following costs:

- Purchase, delivery and removal of a 15-18ft Xmas tree by an external contractor, as well as a heavy-duty base to minimise the risk of it blowing over during high winds and Heras fencing.
- Dressing of the tree by City Building including the time required by a qualified electrician to check the electrical safety of the lights and to connect the lights to a nearby street lighting column. And then the reverse process at the end of the festive period.
- Allowance for replacing and / or repairing festive lights strings used to dress the Xmas tree.
- Weather risk including call-outs to respond to wind damage or the festive lights not working which could include the full replacement of the tree if very high winds occur prior to Christmas and the tree trunk snaps.
- Electricity and storage costs for the lights between each festive season.
- Contribution to Officer time to manage the complex peripheral festive lighting programme including liaising with Area Partnerships and procuring and managing contractors.

Q 15	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convener for an update of the Water Safety group's new coloured rope for Public Rescue Equipment & its sleeve design following calls for improvement in water safety from the Spiers family?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Following campaigning from the Spiers family, and work funded by the council and undertaken by The Glasgow Water Safety Group, every lifebelt in the city will now have a length of unique coloured rope fitted to it.

This rope was developed in partnership with Margaret and Duncan Spiers after the tragic drowning of their son Christopher. The Spiers Family chose purple (in tribute to Christopher) to be woven through yellow and orange rope, which makes it unique and easily identifiable.

Historically there has been an ongoing issue many lifebuoys-attached throw ropes being stolen. But trials undertaken by the Council between 2019 and 2022 have shown the ropes significantly reduce vandalism and theft of Public Rescue Equipment along the Clyde.

The Spiers Family have requested that a unique sleeve design, which secures the ropes looped end be added to the existing successful design.

It is important that all organisations represented on the Water Safety Group agree to this as the shared aims of the Spiers Family and the Group is to maximise its uptake, reduce vandalism and improve the outcomes of water safety incidents.

This request for the addition of a unique sleeve will be put to the Water Safety Group members at their next full meeting on November 24th.

Q 16	Asked by: Councillor George Redmond
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener how often any penalty clauses have been invoked in the Council’s contract with CGI?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

The initial term of the CGI contract ends on 31 March 2025, presenting the need and opportunity to review ICT delivery models. The Future of ICT project has been established to examine options beyond 2025 and, on 1 September 2022, the Strategic Business Case (SBC) for the future of digital and ICT services was presented to the CAC and approval was granted to proceed to the next stage of this process.

The next stage is development of the Outline Business Case (OBC), where each of the five short listed options will be scoped, analysed and tested, leading to identification of a preferred option that will be presented to CAC. This is expected to take around a year and officers are committed to working through this significant process as quickly as possible, with a target date of Autumn 2023.

The Future of ICT project will continue to reflect on the lessons learned from the current operating model and factor this into the OBC, with regular reporting through the Political Oversight Group.

In summer 2022, the ICT Governance Framework was reviewed and enhanced to provide a robust basis for ICT performance reporting and management, Council oversight, escalation of issues and holding CGI to account as our ICT provider. This included a review of the structure, each of the forums and meetings within it, and ensuring appropriate representation from the Council and CGI. The roles and responsibilities of each forum were confirmed to ensure clarity of purpose and effectiveness.

There are various mechanisms in the contract with CGI for managing performance such as key performance indicators, service credits and notifiable default provisions as would be standard in a ICT contract of this nature. The ICT Governance Framework provides the structure through which these mechanisms can be applied.

However, Members will be aware that details relating to third party contracts are subject to commercial confidentiality and cannot therefore be discussed in the public domain.

In addition, FASC see details of Internal Audit reports that include ICT, and OPDSC receive thematic performance reports that include references to ICT, usually references to ICT issues that are adversely impacting Service performance.