Q 1	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	"To ask the Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations what assessment has been made of the possibility of using Glasgow Life run venues, including currently unopened venues, to support Cost-Of-Living Community Hubs with a programme of activities and spaces to cook warm meals through the winter months?"
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

At the time of preparing my response, the extent of UK Government support to households and to the public, private and third and sectors was – and remains - unclear.

But given the paralysis engulfing Westminster in recent months and the refusal of any candidate in the Tory leadership race to commit to a package of support, the Council and partners have acted rather than await the outcome of any announcement.

So, we have already been developing potential options to create a network of Welcome Places – facilities which offer respite for people enabling them to reduce their heating bills, build social connection and get easy access to advice and support. They will be designed around social activities that reduce the stigma associated with poverty.

In addition to the City Council and Glasgow Life, planning involves the Glasgow Council for Voluntary Services and Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership.
Glasgow Life buildings have greater potential to be a Welcoming Place through the availability of space and the provision services that support social connection, access to information, advice and other welfare services, including the opportunity to access hot food and drink.

A mapping exercise is identifying the network of venues while engagement is continuing with the Third Sector and faith groups to establish the capacity to deliver activity and welfare services at any identified venue. To be clear, even where a venue has not been designated as a Welcome Place, no citizen will be turned away from any open Glasgow Life building if they are looking for a warm space.

We're working towards the first Welcoming Spaces being active in October and given the short timescale these will be in venues that are currently open. The impact of the cost of living crisis and the level of demand will inform the scale to which they will be provided over the winter period.

Q 2	Asked by: Councillor Audrey Dempsey
Tabled Question	"To ask the Leader if the Council is concerned by the prospect of an increasing reliance on predatory lenders by those living in in-work poverty, and what actions the Council intends to explore to prevent this?"
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition

Yes, I am concerned and this Council has had long-standing concerns about the impact of illegal money-lenders in our communities. But, also of the unethical practices of commercial payday lenders.

None of us needs reminding of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the toll it is projected to take in the months ahead. Many of you will be aware of the work of the Intelligence Hub, which has predicted that across the City Region 95,000 households will be forced to rely on credit to get by.

Given the limited access many will have to regulated lenders because of their credit history many of those people will feel the need to turn to illegal lenders.

The scourge of illegal lending in Glasgow is, sadly, nothing new. In recent years the Council has become a founding member of Scotcash, a community lender-based offering loans to individuals who find it difficult to access mainstream lending and providing an alternative to high-cost lending, and, more importantly, illegal money lending.

Across 2021-22 Scotcash provided almost 2,500 loans worth over £1.2 million. The saving on a single loan is estimated at over £200 compared to commercial high-cost lenders. Four out of ten Scotcash customers were in employment and around half were in households with children.

Scotcash also offers a benefit checker service to all customers, whether they take a loan or not, helping ensure that benefit entitlement is maximised for both in-work and out-of-work households.

And as members may be already aware, the refreshed and bolstered Glasgow Helps service, which successfully worked on the frontline in communities during the pandemic, is now available to citizens.

A partnership with the Third Sector, Glasgow Helps is about early interventions and making sure citizens receive the right support and guidance, including on money matters. Indeed, since October 2020 it has assisted around 500 referrals in accessing financial support.

Importantly, officers are working with the credit unions that will allow them to offer their customers a referral pathway to the Glasgow Helps team for support on a range of issues.

Q 3	Asked by: Councillor Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener to update the Chamber on the latest discussions with the Scottish Government regarding the implementation of Buffer Zones around reproductive health facilities?”
Responder	Councillor Chris Cunningham

As members will know, the Scottish Government convened a summit in early summer to consider what action might be taken to protect women from harassment when they attend reproductive health facilities in the city.

A further summit was held on 29th August and the Council and HSCP was represented by both the Leader and by relevant senior staff from the Council and HSCP. Glasgow City Council have agreed to support the work that the Scottish Government are undertaking to gather evidence on the impact that these protests are having on the city.

As per previous updates in the Chamber, discussions continue about the legality of buffer zones more broadly and of the use of byelaws to implement them. The Supreme Court are currently considering this issue in relation to Northern Ireland and a decision on that case is due in the Autumn. That will then be used to progress thinking across the Scottish Government and COSLA about the best way to proceed.

As outlined in the Programme for Government, the Scottish Government will support Gillian MacKay MSP with the development and drafting of her proposed Members Bill which could put in place a national buffer zone – subject to the Supreme Court ruling.

Q 4	Asked by: Councillor Robert Mooney
Tabled Question	"In December last year, I was told by then City Convener for Environment & Sustainability that there were 403 traffic signals in the City Centre that did not have a tactile cone. I now note from press reports the figure is closer to 150. To ask the relevant City Convener how the Council has arrived at this new figure, and does this mean that those with Visual Impairments will be able to walk through the City Centre with confidence by the end of the year? "
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The figure of 403 traffic signals was reported as part of the Annual Status and Options report for 2021 and was made up of the best available officer information at the time. Since then, NRS have commissioned a comprehensive survey, which was conducted by Yunex (formerly Siemans).

They have concluded that because of maintenance work and capital improvements that have taken place over the last few years, that the figure of traffic signals which requires updating now sits at less than 150.

We spend about £2.5m each year on traffic signals and working alongside Yunex, NRS have prioritised these sites and work to upgrade them has commenced and the work will conclude as quickly as funding allows.

Finally, I am aware that Cllr Mooney has been in regular discussion with NRS officers to highlights sites that should be updated. Following this, work has taken place in locations on Hope Street, St Vincent Street, West George Street, West Regent Street and Renfrew Street.

I want to thank him for his engagement with officers which has helped to make the streets of our city safer for people with visual impairments.

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Jon Molyneux
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convener whether match funding has been secured to roll out default 20mph residential speed limits across the city, and if so, what are the timescales for this work?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre

I can confirm that the Council has secured funding to support our planned roll-out of default 20mph residential speed limits.

The estimated cost for the citywide roll-out is £4.5m and prior to the pandemic, we were successful in securing £2.6m in SUSTRANS funding on the provision that £1.9m of match funding be provided by Glasgow City Council from our general capital roads budgets. Earlier this year, as part of our Council budget agreement, we identified £2.1m from within our Climate Action Fund, which secures the delivery of the initiative and gives officers the financial certainty to move forward as quickly as logistically possible.

NRS are currently looking to appoint a consultant to undertake an assessment of all the roads in the city to determine which roads can be assigned the 20mph limit in line with the default 20mph principle, and to undertake the necessary legal, technical and logistical work required to implement it.

The current timetable for citywide delivery remains 2024/2025, which is in line with the distribution of funding from SUSTRANS which will be coming to us over three year period. However, as Convener I am keen to see this timescale accelerated as much as possible, as I am sure are colleagues across the chamber, and officers are actively exploring how this can be done.

Of course, Glasgow's ambitions to become a default 20mph city have also since been taken up at a national level and NRS are currently in discussions with Transport Scotland about the potential for Glasgow to be a pilot for that wider national roll out, with a view to seeing if we can get the programme rolled out within 18 months.

This engagement could be very valuable in helping smooth the processes required to accelerate delivery, and I am happy to update Cllr Molyneux as these discussions progress.

Q 6	Asked by: Bailie Elaine Gallagher
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener for information on the availability of translation services for Council business, especially to promote surgeries but also to provide information in commonly-spoken languages regarding public services such as waste collection?”
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, Convener for Open Government and Business Manager

Yes, the Council does provide translation services for Council business which is supported by the Health and Social Care Partnership. They can arrange the provision of foreign language interpreters in a range of language and dialects, and currently undertake this for services across the Council family, and a small number of external providers.

We have a list of sessional translating staff who are approached to undertake the assignments either in person, by telephone, or virtually as required by the requestor. In addition, we have access to a third-party organisation to provide any interpretation services out of hours, at weekends, or if we are unable to source via the sessional staff available.

Pre-pandemic the team have responded to requests from Community Planning to provide translation on behalf of elected members.

Additionally, member’s surgery notices are not translated into other languages as standard, but I have been advised that if members wanted their notices translated into other languages that this is something that could be considered.

Q 7	Asked by: Councillor Sharon Greer
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what assessment has been made of the ongoing revenue costs to maintain those capital projects to be funded through the NIIF?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Convener for Financial Inclusion/City Treasurer/Depute Leader

It is difficult to be precise in response to this question until decisions are made on what Capital Projects are chosen in each area. In general, ongoing maintenance for any capital works will be managed within the relevant ongoing maintenance budgets.

Q 8	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what work has been put in place to sign up new P1 & S1 students to Young Scot so they can enjoy free bus travel, along with other benefits with NECs?”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, Convener for Education and Communities

Education Services are working with colleagues in Glasgow Life and Jobs and Business Glasgow to facilitate the P1 & S1 rollout for National Entitlement Cards.

The Primary School process will be completed by the September weekend with schools directing parents/guardians to apply online using the Parents Portal online system through logging into a Parents Portal account, ticking a box and pressing a button to submit. For those parents who are unable to apply online for any reason, a simplified paper application can be completed and returned to the school who will record this application on SEEMIS (Scottish Education Establishment Management Information System). This data will then be extracted and formatted to prepare the child’s card. It is estimated that all cards will be processed and received by pupils by no later than mid-October.

Secondary School pupils can apply for their Young Scot Card using the national online portal and are being informed of this application process. To maximise take up of the cards Jobs and Business Glasgow will be conducting a series of visits to all secondary schools in Glasgow to facilitate an application and photograph collation exercise for S1 and prepare this information for the cards to be processed. It is anticipated that the school visits will commence later this month and last a period of 10 weeks. Cards should arrive with pupils by no later than 4 weeks after the school visit.

Education Services, Glasgow Life and Jobs and Business Glasgow have done a power of work more broadly on supporting access to Free Transport for Under 22s and to date 56,086 cards have been produced since January 2022.

Q 9	Asked by: Councillor Kevin Lalley
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what steps the Council are taking to ensure that unauthorised ‘A’-boards are removed and to minimise street clutter?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

We appreciate the challege that these obstructions can cause for people trying to get around the city. The NRS Roads team remove unauthorised A-Boards and taken action against people and businesses who place A-Boards that cause obstruction to the public footway.

As well as responding to complaints from members of the public, the team undertake proactive inspections in known ‘hotspots’ in the city.

Where someone is found to be in breach, enforcement notices are issued requesting that the obstruction is removed.

Q 10	Asked by: Councillor Thomas Rannachan
Tabled Question	“To ask the City Treasurer and Convener for Financial Inclusion what assessment has been made of the impact of rising inflation on those just above the threshold for Universal Credit, and what additional proactive steps the Council intends to take to identify and support those households?”
Responder	Councillor Ricky Bell, Convenor for Financial Inclusion/City Treasurer/ Depute Leader

In answer to what assessment is being made, through the Intelligence Hub we’re receiving present-time data on the impact of this crisis on those experiencing poverty, including in-work poverty.

We know, for example, that the last decade has been the weakest for pay growth since the 1930s, one reason why colleagues are today bringing forward a motion on the Real Living Wage. We also know that soaring inflation will push the proportion of in-work poverty household to 68%, that an additional 325,000 home across the city region will face fuel poverty by January and that benefits face a real terms cut. So, whatever our new Prime Minister announces today it will barely touch the sides of this crisis.

In February this Council created funds totalling almost £3million as part of the budget in response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis - including fuel support, debt and welfare advice, and purchase of household goods. Since then, there has been a significant increase in inflationary pressures, in particular Household Energy Costs.

But we continue to respond to this is whatever we can, including the recent use of £9.45Million Covid Recovery funding to support low-income households with the Gift Cards. And the successful Holiday Food Programme, introduced by this administration and now in its fourth year.

As every member of this Chamber is aware however, the significant levers to support all citizens are not within the gift of Local Government. That doesn’t mean we shirk our responsibilities. We will continue to target support to the poorest and most vulnerable but we simply don’t have the resources and powers to do so as we would want. And I hope we reach consensus in urging the UK Government to respond to the scale and urgency of this crisis in the necessary interventions it makes.

I will finish by saying, and I’m sure Cllr Rannachan agrees, how relieved I am to see the Scottish Government intervening with the limited powers and resources it has - increasing the Child Payment to £25 a week and extending it to 16-year-olds, as well as introducing rent and public transport fare freezes.

Q 11	Asked by: Bailie Roza Salih
Tabled Question	“The Summer 2022 Holiday Food & Activity programme has just concluded: can the City Treasurer provide any early insights as to how this has gone?”
Responder	Councillor Ricky Bell, Convenor for Financial Inclusion/City Treasurer/ Depute Leader

All the programmes which were awarded funding this summer are just now being evaluated. And when complete, that should tell us the numbers and the profiles of those who attended the programme, how the successfully the various organisations have delivered on the aims and objectives set out in their applications, project spend and match funding secured, and how organisations market and target their programmes.

I can though provide some insights from my own visit to the programmes run by the Govan Youth Information Programme in my own ward. GYIP saw 200 kids a day come through their doors for activities, wrapping up their biggest and busiest programme ever with an inflatable foam party. The team even made the telly, with the Positive Role Model scheme which has volunteers working with youngsters taking part in the food programme, making STV News. I’m sure that colleagues from across the Chamber who visited programmes in their wards will have had a similar experience.

Colleagues may also be aware that this summer’s programme was a little different from the previous three years because of the funding provided by the Scottish Government.
In total, the summer programme was delivered by 54 organisations covering all wards within the City. Previous programmes supported around 40 organisations each year. Officers are now exploring the most effective approaches to the roll out of the Holiday Programmes for the remainder of this school year and beyond with a paper on that due to committee next week.

I want to conclude on one point though. The impacts of the cost-of-living crisis have been all-too-familiar to many Glaswegian families for far too long. This City Government recognised the need for direct intervention with low incomes families the moment we were elected. Our approach is pioneering and inclusive and I speak for every member of this City Administration when I say how proud I am of this programme.

Q 12	Asked by: Bailie Hanif Raja
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener whether, with the continued expansion of Controlled Parking Zones throughout the City, they are confident that the parking permit system is fit-for-purpose and delivers the most effective service? Or, do they recognise the experience of many people with online applications being lost, not receiving a response or delayed while the permit is being processed?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for Climate, Glasgow Deal, Transport and City Centre

As members are aware, there is an ongoing programme to increase the number of Restricted Parking Zones across the city to shift non-residential parking away from residential areas, reduce emissions and encourage the use of public transport or active travel options. We are also working to amend existing zones in the city to ensure consistency across these schemes.

The Council recognises that there have been some delays in issuing permits where new zones are being introduced and where there are many renewals needing to take place at the same time within an existing zone.

The current system that is used by the parking team within CBS to process applications and issue permits is at the end of its life and is no longer fit for purpose. It is being replaced with a new system which will be operated by RingGo who currently operate the cashless payment system for metered parking within the city.

This new system should be in place by the end of the year and should provide an improved customer service and speedier response for those applying for a new permit or renewing an existing permit. The new system will also reduce the administrative burden on the back office and be flexible enough to support customers to obtain and renew parking permits both in existing and new Restricted Parking Zones.

Q 13	Asked by: Councillor Lillith Johnstone
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener if they are concerned by the number of outstanding Disabled Parking Bays to be painted, and what steps will be taken to remedy the backlog?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Yes. This was an area of service which was impacted by the pandemic, and steps are being taken to address the backlog.

At the beginning of the year NRS were in receipt of over 400 applications for a disabled bay. A small, dedicated team in Parking Services has been created to deal with these requests. They are also working with colleagues in the HSCP to see if we can streamline the process of approving them.

Using this approach, we have reduced the number of outstanding disabled bay applications by 40% and are continuing to work through the remaining applications as well as undertaking on-site assessment, producing working drawings and undertaking the necessary legal works.

As we approach the time of the year where laying road markings because more challenging, we have engaged both our first and second contractors for road markings to enable us to accelerate the programme.

The team believe that all current outstanding requests will be completed by the end of the financial year.

Q 14	Asked by: Councillor Eunis Jessemi
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener what steps the Council and its partners are taking to increase the uptake of First Aid training in the workplace?”
Responder	Councillor Allan Casey, Copnverner for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction

The Council’s Health and Safety arrangements are defined by various Health and Safety Management Standards. One of these covers the provision of suitably trained First Aiders. It is the responsibility of the relevant manager in each building as part of the annual Risk Assessment process to define that establishment’s requirements for First Aiders and then to ensure that this is provided.

In addition, there are certain high risk roles, for instance Arborists, where possession of a valid First Aid certificate is essential for all workers. While a Health and Safety requirement of being an employer, it is also recognised that this trained resource is a source of skill that is of use within the communities that our First Aiders are part of and in certain areas can be an important additional skill.

Training is provided from the HSCP’s Learning and Development resource and churn within the Council as well as the requirement for refresher training means that this requirement for training is essentially constant.

During the pandemic the Government allowed the relaxation of the requirements for trained First Aiders and in particular removed the requirement for refresher training. This was in connection with Covid related limitations on face to face contact. There is, thus, a significant difference between training provided pre pandemic.

In 2019 we trained 835 staff in all aspects of first aid. In 2022 we have trained 172 staff in first aid to date.

The net effect of all of this is a significant backlog. Discussions are, therefore, taking place to secure external provision from, for example, the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade.

It is also worth noting we are deeply conscious that not all health and safety risks are physical and as part of the NRS People Project, the concept of Mental Health First Aiders is currently being explored.

I hope that answers your question.

Q 15	Asked by: Councillor Laura Doherty
Tabled Question	"Can the City Convenor for Culture, Sport and International Relations update us on the work of the Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts?"
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

As colleagues will know Glasgow Museums agreed to return seven stolen artefacts to India.

The handover ceremony was hosted at Kelvingrove Art Gallery on the morning of 19th August 2022. It was attended by Shri Sujit Ghosh, the Acting High Commissioner for India in London and myself, Convener of GCC Repatriation and Spoliation of Artefacts Working Group who signed the documents necessary for the official transfer of ownership of 7 Indian Antiquities from Glasgow Life Museums to the Government of India.

The ceremony was witnessed by around 100 invited guests, including Glasgow Life staff members, members of Glasgow's Indian Diaspora, including representatives of the Hindu Temples and representatives of the Indian Consulate in Edinburgh and the Indian High Commission in London.

The agreement is very significant - this is the first repatriation to India from a UK museum - with more to follow elsewhere.

Six of the items, including 14th Century carvings and 11th Century stone door jams, were stolen from shrines and temples in the 19th Century.

The seventh object, a ceremonial sword or called a tulwar, with its scabbard, was stolen in 1905 from the collection of the Nizam of Hyderabad by his prime minister. This was brought from the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre for the ceremony and this along with the signing of the documents provided a focal point for press.

Two performances, one of song and the other a dance, by members of Our Shared Cultural Heritage, a partnership between Glasgow Museums and the British Council, added to this very moving and historically significant event. Following the event at Kelvingrove, the Acting High Commissioner's party and Shri Bijay Selvaraj, the Indian Consul General of Edinburgh, visited GMRC to view all 7 of the artefacts together.

Some of them are thought to be about 1,000 years old. Sujit Ghosh, acting Indian high commissioner, said at the ceremony: "These artefacts are an integral part of our civilisational heritage and will now be sent back home. We express our appreciation to all the stakeholders who made this possible, especially Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council."

This is not the first time Glasgow has returned stolen artefacts to their source nation. The process of repatriation of objects has been going on for a long time in Glasgow. "The first return of an object to the source nation was back in 1998, with the return of the ghost shirt to the Lakota nation.

These processes take a long time: establishing a relationship, establishing trust, establishing the background of the objects and being confident the objects in question were taken incorrectly. Followed by discussions where the details of repatriation are sorted out; processes that can unfortunately be quite protracted due to the rarity and fragility of some of the artefacts.

As noted by the positive press in local, national and global media – especially Indian - this is really a way of building new and stronger relationships: to co-operate, to improve our services, and support our visitors and the wider population in the understanding and appreciation of the artefacts and their stories, and to help build relationships with other countries and indigenous people regarding their cultural heritage.

Q 16	Asked by: Councillor Holly Bruce
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convener what mechanisms or plans are in place for communities who are directly impacted by large scale events, like those living next to Hampden Park, to meaningfully engage with the Council and its partners on issues like transport, litter and anti-social behaviour?"
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The process for events taking place on Council land including our parks and open spaces is, different than those which take place in private venues and stadia such as Hampden where the venue takes the lead on any discussions with the local community about the impact of events.

The Council can't compel a private entity to undertake a multi-agency approach to their community engagement around events planning, although multiagency meetings are led by licensing for health, safety and welfare arrangements for events.

We are working with venue operators and events organisers for stadia-based events to encourage and support them to adopt a similar approach to the Council led community engagement programme for park-based events, including holding of community debriefs to establish where any further mitigatory measures could be put in place to as to minimise disruption to local communities.