

Q.1	Asked by: Councillor Jill Pidgeon
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor how many teaching jobs will be lost as a result of the recent budget?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years
<p>"Can I start by welcoming Cllr Pidgeon to her new role as the Labour Group's spokesperson for Education. I look forward to the same constructive engagement with her on the education of our young people as I have enjoyed with her predecessors Cllrs Brown and Ferguson.</p> <p>It's important to place the education savings in this year's budget within the context of the constant fluidity around staffing in schools. Teacher numbers are never static and they change every year based on the number of pupils in each school. The process of staffing schools takes place between January and the summer and is currently ongoing. Any staff who are declared surplus from a particular school are then redeployed where there may be a rising roll, for example. It is worth restating that Glasgow City Council continues to have a 'no compulsory redundancy' policy so no current member of staff will be forced to leave the Council.</p> <p>Over the past couple of years, the school roll has been falling within our primary schools but rising at Secondary level. The demand at Secondary is also determined by the subject choices pupils make each year.</p> <p>The savings which were required due to an overall budget gap of almost £108million means a likely reduction in teacher numbers of around 172 in 2024-2025. That is to achieve a saving of £6.75million. This figure will be achieved through a change to the staffing formula and may be met through normal staff turnover. At this stage it is too early to say as that staffing exercise is currently ongoing."</p>	

Q.2	Asked by: Councillor George Redmond
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what considerations were given to those budget items hidden under review in the budget option 24CE40, especially MCR Pathways, Glasgow MELA and Merchant City Festival?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, City Treasurer
<p>When I presented my parties budget this year, I made it very clear that the 3-year budget allowed for a different approach to be taken to identify savings that could be found through service redesign and reform, and that this work would be overseen by a cross-party group.</p> <p>The work of that group is expected to begin immediately after Council recess. I am grateful that you have now submitted your nominations for this group. Financial decisions made on the basis of that group's discussions and recommendations will be treated as budget adjustments and therefore reported to CAC for a decision in the usual manner. Your request in that respect is no different from the scrutiny and accountability process already in place in the Council.</p> <p>The whole point of this process is that final decisions on this particular set of savings options were not made on budget day and no conclusions will be drawn before the cross-party group has done its work and made its recommendations. This is a more inclusive and transparent process of oversight than for any previous budget, even accounting for the significant reforms to the process already put in place, to allow all political groups to have access to and collectively discuss proposed options from officers on an equal basis.</p> <p>Members of your own group have taken part in that process and had every opportunity to report back to their colleagues.</p> <p>They will have known, for example that the MCR Pathways option put forward by officers was for a review of the delivery model used by the Council for the past 10 years, with a view to identifying potential efficiencies.</p> <p>Likewise they will know that the changes to the MELA and Merchant City Festival are around income generation rather than changes to frequency.</p>	

Q.3	Asked by: Councillor Lilith Johnstone
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor what action will be taken in response to the recently published EIS Survey on pupil behaviour?
Responder	QUESTION WITHDRAWN

Q.4	Asked by: Councillor Audrey Dempsey
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor about their plan to address homelessness and provide support for those affected?"
Responder	Cllr Allan Casey, Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
<p>"The Council and the HSCP are continuing to progress a number of actions to address the challenges that the city faces in responding to homelessness. Since the declaration of the Housing Emergency, I have worked with Officers across the Council and HSCP to take forward measures that will support the city in tackling the housing and homelessness emergency.</p> <p>These measures are set out in our action plan that the city Government has drafted following the announcement of the Housing Emergency.</p> <p>The Action Plan sets out a comprehensive set of measures to improve access to housing in the city. The measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining opportunities to expand access to emergency homelessness accommodation. • Continuing to work with the city's RSLs to continue to work together to respond to the housing emergency, including bringing empty homes back into use and acquiring properties in the private sector for use as social rent. • Continue to work with colleagues within the third sector to prevent homelessness wherever possible and alleviate its impact. • Work with the UK and Scottish Government's to ensure that the city accesses support from Government to address the challenges faced in relation to housing and homelessness. <p>Cllr Dempsey may also be aware that I convened the first cross party update group on the housing emergency two weeks ago where myself and officers provided a full detailed briefing which was available to all political groups on all of the actions the council are undertaking to address this really crucial issue."</p>	

Q.5	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant convenor what timescale the Council are working towards in enacting enforcement against illegal pavement parking in terms of CGI’s back-office work for enforcement timeline for this month, & for exemptions by May, as per the response of the Convenor’s response to December’s Full Council?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

“Thank you, Lord Provost.

As Bailie Carroll is aware, the Council is committed to enforcement of the national prohibition on pavement parking. As I noted at a previous Full Council meeting, the necessary changes to our back office systems and enforcement processes could only be instructed by the Council following the finalisation of regulations by the Scottish Government in December.

While our ICT contractor at that point had indicated a target date of March for this work to be finalised, the latest estimate from CGI is for September for this to be complete. The department is currently engaging with CGI to understand the reasons for this delay and whether it will be possible to accelerate this. I’ve certainly impressed upon officers my desire to see this complete as soon as possible.

In terms of any exemptions, as I touched on last time an audit is required of all streets in the city to identify streets where an exemption may be required. While it was originally intended that this be procured externally, in the interests of expediency this will now be conducted by NRS in-house.

The first phase of this audit is a network audit, currently underway, to identify streets where exemptions are very unlikely to be required. This includes restricted parking zones, streets where other parking restrictions already apply, and streets which meet the width requirement to allow safe passage of a fire engine when cars are parked on both sides of the street.

This network audit will be complete by the end of March, and will identify the remaining streets which will require an individual assessment. Once the scale of this task is known we will be able to estimate a final completion date for the assessment process, but it is likely that the assessment of individual streets will be undertaken in multiple stages.

It is estimated that assessments will take several months but we will be able to give a more accurate estimate once the network audit is complete. Any exemptions following the assessment process come before the relevant Council committee.

In terms of enforcement timescales, enforcement of dropped kerbs and double parking will begin as soon as back office systems allow. At this point, full enforcement of pavement parking will also commence on streets where no further assessment is deemed to be required. Enforcement of any and all other streets will begin once the assessment process for that street is complete and outcomes from that process have been agreed and implemented.

I should also note, Lord Provost, that as previously advised at Full Council, in advance of being able to begin full enforcement the Council has been issuing warning notices in hotspot areas to advise illegally parked driver of the national ban on pavement parking. Areas where pavement parking issues have been reported to the Council have been prioritized, but the intention is to issue warning notices to drivers in all parts of the city in order to raise awareness of the ban and encourage behaviour change.”

Q.6	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor for an update on a governance group to consider school transport?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>Thank you, Lord Provost.</p> <p>As previously indicated, a Travel to School working group to facilitate engagement, communication and collaboration on road safety, active travel and related issues around schools has now been set up in conjunction with the Glasgow City Parents Group.</p> <p>Two initial meetings have now taken place, the second of which was this week, to discuss membership and terms of reference. Any outputs from this group will be reported regularly to relevant Council committees.</p>	

Q.7	Asked by: Councillor Dan Hutchison
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask the relevant convenor for an update on the agreed actions following the agreement at the December council meeting on the motion on John MacLean. Specifically, how is work to rename the square in front of Langside Halls in John MacLean's honour and the invitation to the Secretary of State for Scotland to present a public apology progressing?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>“Members will be aware that much of the public space in front of the Halls was previously part of the now road revised junction between Pollokshaws Road and Langside Avenue.</p> <p>We would advise that this space has not previously had a formal name and the properties around this are addressed from the original streets.</p> <p>Officers are currently assessing the correct procedure to adopt to implement the Council's decision.”</p>	

Q.8	Asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor if the Council is on track to meet its 2030 emissions target, given the Climate Change Committee's scepticism about the credibility of the Scottish Government's 2030 target?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
<p>"Glasgow's net zero carbon target is ambitious and, we have always been clear, aspirational in nature. We have already made significant progress in leading the city towards net-zero by 2030, with a 42% reductions in emissions against baseline as of 2021, the year with the last reported data by the department of Energy Strategy and Net Zero.</p> <p>There can be no doubt that reducing our carbon emission is an increasingly challenging task, especially as the amount of investment and infrastructure required to tackle the most difficult areas of emissions, namely heat and transport, is significantly beyond the means of Glasgow City Council alone. It is also a task that Glasgow City Council cannot achieve in isolation, being dependant on our ability to work in partnership with our city stakeholders to drive, support, and enable change.</p> <p>As was discussed at the last Climate Plan update to Net Zero committee, there remains much further work to do in order to meet the 2030 target. Our recent approval at the City Administration Committee to spend £4M establishing a Climate Investment Team that will deliver the necessary delivery and investment vehicles illustrates the Council's commitment to identifying and securing the necessary partnership and finance to make the ambition set out in the Climate Plan and our LHEES, to name but a few, a reality and as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The Net-Zero Routemap work that is currently underway will also set out the pathways to net-zero and shows us exactly what the City needs to prioritise to achieve a net-zero emissions position as quickly as possible. This work is due to be completed by October.</p> <p>The total emissions reduction required to achieve a net emissions position of zero is not yet completely quantified as work continues to quantify the amount of the city's carbon emissions being sequestered. The work of the Forest and Woodland Strategy will provide granular detail on the number of trees, their age and species type, thus giving us an amount of carbon being naturally sequestered and subsequently informing us of the absolute emissions reduction required to achieve that net position."</p>	

Q.9	Asked by: Councillor Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	<p>"To ask the relevant convenor for details of action being taken to ensure that women who are homeless, including asylum seekers, are safely accommodated in temporary accommodation, and are not having long stays in hotels which is harmful to their life chances?"</p>
Responder	Cllr Allan Casey, Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
<p>"The HSCP is committed to continuing to ensure that women affected by homelessness access the accommodation and support that they require.</p> <p>The Council continues to provide single emergency accommodation that reflects the distinct needs of men and women. It is also important to remember that 74% of homeless households are accommodated in either temporary supported accommodation or furnished accommodation within community settings. Whilst we continue to have a reliance on bed and breakfast due to the level of demand the for emergency accommodation the HSCP works to minimise the length of stay within this type of accommodation and women with particular needs are prioritised for supported accommodation, this includes women who have received leave to remain.</p> <p>In light of the increased use of bed and breakfast hotel accommodation we are reviewing our approach to safeguarding, this will include supporting women who are accommodated in bed and breakfast type accommodation. The HSCP also continues to invest resources to ensure that women have access to gender sensitive services and that trauma informed practices are delivered through a gendered lens."</p>	

Q.10	Asked by: Councillor John Daly
Tabled Question	<p>“To ask the relevant city convenor for specific details on when the stakeholder application process will open for Firework Control Zone (FCZ) community requests to ensure there will be FCZs in place by bonfire night 2024, and, if relevant colleagues will accept the invite from Dogs Trust and accompany me to visit their premises to engage with Dogs Trust regarding the FCZ process?”</p>
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>Thank you for the question Cllr Daly, I can confirm that the website for community requests will be available from the 8th April 2024.</p> <p>I am happy to accept your invitation to meet with the Dogs Trust regarding the FCZ process.</p>	

Q.11	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor what assessment has been undertaken on the accessibility of Glasgow's schools for students, parents, and visitors?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years
<p>Ensuring that all Glasgow's children and young people, staff, parents and carers and visitors can access our education estate is a vital part of being a nurturing and inclusive City. If buildings are a barrier to inclusion, and that also means feeling included, then that's an issue we need to do everything which can be reasonably expected of us to resolve.</p> <p>Our vision to be a world-class learning City founded on nurture principles means having buildings that are accessible to all.</p> <p>The reality of Glasgow's education estate however ranges from the Victorian parish schools to the very modern buildings such as North Kelvinside Primary School and Riverbank Primary School. Many of our buildings, even some of those dating from the later part of the 20th century, simply weren't built to incorporate the variety of needs reflected in our communities and which more modern schools are equipped to facilitate. We constantly need to adapt them to meet the needs of those who use them.</p> <p>In response to the specific issues within the question, access audits are operational assessment based on the needs of the users at any particular point. There is no standard response on access. The nature of an aging estate means assessments have to be on a case by case analysis of what is reasonable. The fact that we need to keep the using old school buildings decades after they have become out of date in terms of the ever-improving regulatory access standards means that assessments are regularly carried out</p> <p>The fundamental right of access under Disability Discrimination Act has within it a test of reasonableness rather than a prescriptive set of rules. This test of reasonableness applies to many school settings. For example, if access to an assembly space couldn't be provided then a video relay could be considered.</p> <p>This is an operational as well as an estate issue as a large part of what is deemed reasonable is how we as a Council engage on the issues. We are always prepared to explore alternatives and engage with architects or Facilities Managers to come up with a physical solution to remove a barrier for access on a case by case basis. Crucially, we're committed to being able to demonstrate that we have exhausted every reasonable remedy.</p>	

Q.12	Asked by: Councillor Eunis Jassemi
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener what steps the City Administration is taking to support families with childcare costs?"
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years
<p>"Thank you for the question, Cllr Jassemi. The Council administers the national funding which delivers one thousand one hundred and forty hours of free nursery care per year to all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds. It's worth stating that eligibility is largely based on deprivation-related criteria. The 1140 funded hours are also available to children whose parents choose to defer entry to primary school. What this means for many parents and carers is that if a child is eligible for funding at 2 years old, that child could have up to 4 years of fully funded nursery provision under the current entitlement. The funded entitlement includes a free meal and snack per day.</p> <p>For families who purchase hours over and above the 1140 hours or whose children are under 3 and not eligible for funding the Council's nursery charging policy applies. Within that, all Glasgow residents receive a reduction of 50 pence per hour on the standard rate for 3 to 5 year olds – reducing it to £4.50 per hour. And a £1 reduction on the standard 0 to 2 year old rate – reducing it to £3.00 per hours.</p> <p>In addition, further reductions apply for families where the main earner is a student or in training and also for families who have more than 1 child in nursery.</p> <p>Where families get into financial difficulties, the Council offers payment plans allowing parents to pay off childcare costs over an extended period and can also make the discretionary decision to waive all or an element of any fees owing where circumstances merit it."</p>	

Q.13	Asked by Bailie Linda Pike
Tabled Question	"To ask the Leader of the Council her thoughts on the recent ranking of Glasgow as Europe's leading large city for strategy in attracting overseas investment?"
Responder	Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council
<p>"Thank you, Cllr Pike.</p> <p>This recognition by world-leading business experts FDI Intelligence is not only testament to the impact of this city's strategies on our capacity to attract inward investment – approaches which continue to successfully transform our regional economy – but it is a huge platform on which to keep bring high-quality jobs to this city and generate the growth all Glaswegians can share in. This is recognition with both substance and impact.</p> <p>For members who maybe aren't aware, this is an annual survey of almost 400 European cities and our 'large cities' category includes those with a population of more than half a million. What FDI do is provide industry-leading insight and analysis on global investment activity with rankings based on the economic, financial and business strengths of European cities and regions.</p> <p>Glasgow and our City Region is, as I'm sure most of us know, increasingly recognised internationally for strong sectors such as FinTech, Space Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences and Energy - all supported by the world-class research and graduates of the city's universities and colleges. We shouldn't underestimate the role of Glasgow City Council in helping facilitate that, with investment in our innovation districts or the input from colleagues in Economic Development and the City Region who've built the expertise to inform those decisions.</p> <p>The strengthening partnerships between Council, business, academia and civic society have also been pivotal in securing these outcomes. We should be better at recognising that we're actually pretty good at this stuff, Not for nothing has the City Region secured around three hundred and fifty million pounds in under two years to boost our innovation sectors.</p> <p>In addition, the City Council's Invest Glasgow team has helped attract overseas investment which has brought over 6000 jobs in the past five year. The team have helped to bring such investment from major companies such as Barclays, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Merck KGaA, Planet DDS and Spire Global to the city.</p> <p>Taken with our recent ranking as the world's 61st best city for global investment attractiveness – and the best in the UK outside London - Glasgow can take real encouragement from how the world increasingly sees us."</p>	

Q.14	Asked by: Councillor Holly Bruce
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor what actions will the Council take, in conjunction with Police Scotland, to prevent any repeat of the incident in which cyclist Emma Burke Newman was killed, including enforcement of HGV vehicle checks, enforcement of drivers entering cycle safe zones at junctions, and limiting access by HGVs in areas where they are more likely to encounter vulnerable road users?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

“Thank you, Lord Provost.

Can I first of all again reiterate my condolences and I am sure those of the entire chamber to the family and friends of Emma Burke Newman.

The Council works closely with Police Scotland to reduce the number of road traffic collisions on Glasgow’s roads as well as providing education to all road users through various road safety campaigns as well as engagement with fleet haulage companies. As we continue to roll out our road safety campaigns and driver behaviour messaging, the Council is certainly open to working with Police Scotland colleagues to consider any opportunities to tailor these messages to HGVs.

The legislative powers to carry out vehicle checks and enforce moving offences are limited to Police Scotland, but the Council regularly checks the statutory signage and road markings to permit enforcement, as well as introducing new Traffic Regulation Orders, in conjunction with the police, where improvements are identified. This can include the prohibition of HGV’s where there are restrictions in terms of height, weight, width and length.

Drivers of Council HGVs are required to under Driver Certificate of Professional Competency (DCPC) training, which is a continuous 5-year training cycle where within each 5 year window they must receive 35 hours of tuition in a classroom environment on various topics that we update after each 5 year cycle to ensure that the information being taught is relevant. The DCPC provided to Glasgow City Council drivers currently includes tuition on vulnerable road users, which includes cyclist awareness.

The best way to improve safety for people who cycle is to progress the introduction of segregated cycle infrastructure, which the Council is committed to advancing across the city.

As reported to committee earlier this year, the upgrading of cycle segregation on the Broomielaw and George V bridge is being taken forward subject to funding in the next financial year and is currently at the design stage.”

Q.15	Asked by: Councillor Keiran O'Neill
Tabled Question	"To ask the City Convenor for Workforce what the Council's position is on the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023?"
Responder	Cllr Allan Casey, Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
<p>"I can confirm the City Government's position is obviously clear; this legislation is a direct attack on workers. Its not something that we are supportive of, it is a direct attack on our workers and the trade union movement and its not something that we are supporting.</p> <p>I welcome the Scottish Government's intervention on this matter to say that they would also not be looking to enact that legislation, or the secondary legislation at Scottish Government level either.</p> <p>You will have noticed that there was a motion from Councillor Hutchison on this exact topic today, and we clearly didn't put an amendment in, and we were clearly happy to support that motion.</p> <p>I've seen that there were some amendments from the Labour Group as well on this issue.</p> <p>The Labour Group, and Labour MPs as the government in waiting, are mirroring the Tories at Westminster. This is one area where they do shy away from the Tory Government's position and I've welcomed that position, that they will reverse that legislation at a UK government level. I'm sure the SNP MPs will be supportive in that process as well to make sure that this legislation is discontinued".</p>	

Q.16	Asked by: Bailie Elaine Gallagher
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant convenor what measures are being put into place to address the rising incidence of Islamophobic hate crime?"
Responder	Councillor Anne McTaggart, Convener for Communities and Equalities
<p>"At the meeting of full Council on 27 October 2022, a motion which adopted the All Party Parliamentary Group Definition of Islamophobia was passed.</p> <p>In addition to recording that it welcomes, endorses and adopts the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, the motion also recognised that Glasgow has been home to a significant Muslim population for generations and that our Muslim citizens are an integral part of all aspects of city life.</p> <p>Following adoption of the definition, Glasgow City Council amended its Bullying and Harassment Guidance to include reference to Islamophobia specifically as an example of inappropriate behaviour under Religion or Belief. This work formed part of a wider review of the materials which will shortly be signed off; with publication anticipated in the summer, and this will also include specific reference to Islamophobia during its introduction and rollout.</p> <p>The Council also convenes a regular multi-stakeholder Hate Crime Working Group, chaired by Councillor McSporran and supported by officers in NRS, which considers a number of matters of which Islamophobia and any incidence of criminal behaviour towards Muslim members of the community are highlighted."</p>	