

Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee 18 September 2024 Enquiries from Elected Members		Item 1 23rd October 2024
	Responses to Questions	
Item 1	Responses to questions 21 August 2024.	
Question 1	Councillor Brown – Item 3, Question 4 – Councillor Brown requested clarification regarding the Noise Team and if there had been operational impacts as a result of attempts to come in line and on budget.	
Answer	In relation to the Commercial Noise team, following the recent recruitment, we are now at full complement of the budgeted team (which is 4 staff) to respond to any issues that arise in this regard. In relation to the Domestic Noise Team, the winding down and ultimate removal of the” out of hours” overnight team by 31 March 2025, was approved as part of the most recent budget and we are on target for this team to be removed by 31 March 2025. As a result there will be no nighttime presence, with any complaints being picked up by the daytime team, as recommended within the service reform budget option.	
Item 3 Question 2	Councillor Brown requested information on the length of time the current vacant properties in the commercial portfolio had been empty and if there was a target date for marketing for those properties not yet advertised.	
Answer	There are 4 vacant unit within the commercial Common Good portfolio: 63 Byres Road Vacant date - 27/6/24 - On the market 180 Dumbarton Rd Vacant date - 17/5/24 - On the market 427 Great Western Rd Vacant date - 27/5/24 - On the market 33 Riverford Rd Vacant date - 27/5/15	
Item 6	Internal audit reports.	
Question 3 – 6(c)	Councillor Brown – Pg 110 – Councillor Brown requested further information as to why a member of staff at one ES establishment had not yet been issued with an ID badge despite been employed for several years and how this was managed.	

Corporate review – Establishment visits	
Answer	We have spoken to the employee and they have clarified that they had been issued with an ID badge years previously when they worked in a different location. Their badge was lost at some point and when they moved to a new location a new badge was not issued – it is unclear why this was the case. They have confirmed that they have now been issued with a new ID badge.
Question 4 – 6(g) ES Payroll verification	Councillor Brown – Pg 138 – Councillor Brown asked for an update to be provide on the Education Services’ overpayments and details of how much had been recovered.
Answer	Of the £572k referred to in the report, approximately £309k has been recovered and approximately £262k has still to be received.
Question 5 – 6(j) NRS – LEZ – Charging and income	Councillor Brown – Pg 154, 3.6 – Councillor Brown asked if the issue with generating reports re the LEZ statistics was a failure in the original programme and if so have we learned lessons from this to ensure it doesn’t happen in the future. Had we received many complaints regarding being charged the wrong amount for penalty notices.
Answer	The Group Manager – Parking Services, stated that reporting was not included in the original specification for the system, however they have recognised that through lessons learned. They are working on a way in which they can extract all information required into the Council’s Business Objects platform. Re Complaints: the Group Manager – Parking Services stated that they have no management information to suggest that citizens have been complaining due to an incorrect charge.

This paper will be considered at the start of the committee agenda however requests for clarification on the answers can be made via the committee clerk in advance of the committee meeting.