

Q 1	Asked by: Councillor Cecilia O'Lone
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor about plans for public toilet provision at Glasgow Green during the anticipated three-year closure of the People's Palace and the Winter Gardens?
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Thank you for the question, Cllr O'Lone.

We are working on a proposal to put in place toilets in Glasgow Green following the closure of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens for its refurbishment.

We have currently identified some funding of £50,000 from the Place Fund. Officers are working through the technical details just now, alongside looking at if we require additional sources of funding to complete this work.

I will be happy to provide local elected members with a further update when this scoping work has been completed and the next steps are in place.

Q 2	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor why the brown bin permit scheme has been implemented with no flexibility?
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>The collection of garden waste is not a statutory service. Where councils choose to offer household collections, the law allows them to set a reasonable charge – and this has been the approach taken by many councils in Scotland for some time. Glasgow agreed to introduce a permit to remove garden waste as part of the 2023/24 Budget.</p> <p>The new brown bin permit scheme commenced on October 1, 2023 and the first year is valid until September 30, 2024. An annual charge of £50 is now applicable for each brown bin presented for collection. When applying its is made clear that the full fee is applicable, regardless of when the permit is purchased within the year. There is no option to pay in instalments due to the administrative challenges, which is line with similar Council payments schemes including parking permits and with the approach taken by neighbouring local authorities, where payment is also on an annual basis.</p> <p>If a resident does not wish to purchase a permit, they can continue to use the brown bin for food waste only. Brown bins only used for food waste will continue to be collected, and residents who continue to use the bin for food waste only are not required to undertake any action.</p> <p>Residents are under no obligation to use this service to dispose of garden waste. They can still take waste to one of our Household Waste Recycling Centres or compost waste in their own garden.</p>	

Q 3	Withdrawn
Tabled Question	N/a
Responder	N/a

Q 4	Asked by: Councillor John Carson
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor if there are any allowances or procedures in place for blue badge holders who receive a parking ticket due to not displaying their badge correctly?
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Yes, Blue Badge holders can appeal to the City Council if they have been issued with a penalty charge notice on the basis that their badge was not displayed properly.

Blue badge holders should though always refer to the Scottish Government guidance - "The Blue Badge Scheme – rights and responsibilities of a blue badge holder in Scotland":

The guidance specifically advises on "how to display your badge" and states that when a badge holder is parking, to use the benefits of the badge they must place it on top of the dashboard or on another place where it can be easily read through the windscreen. And that it should face upwards. If the badge becomes unreadable through wear and tear the advice is to return it to the local authority for replacement so they can be issued with a new one.

In terms of enforcement, if a parking attendant cannot properly see a blue badge, then they would issue a penalty charge notice.

Q 5	Asked by: Councillor Blair Anderson
Tabled Question	To ask the Education Convenor/City Treasurer how they plan to support the 45 primary schools which are set to have only the headteacher uncommitted during the school day?
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years

<p>Thank you for the question, Cllr Anderson. As a starting point I should state that the basis of the question – that we will have 45 primary schools where only the head teacher is not class committed - isn't entirely the case since it uses figures from the early stages of a much longer exercise.</p> <p>In April, a tabletop exercise was carried out to ensure that all schools could develop structures which allocated both non-class contact time to teachers and management time to promoted staff. This was carried out at a juncture when the absolute minimum levels of staff had been allocated. Those staffing levels have since changed, as I'll come to very shortly. The staffing allocation when the exercise was carried out was also based on projections of pupil numbers made by Headteachers for January 2024.</p> <p>Since April, as happens every year, between 300 and 350 probationers have been allocated across the city with a teaching commitment of 4 full days a week. They are a core part of the staffing establishment and been since the teacher induction programme started.</p> <p>This is in addition to the staffing that was allocated when the tabletop exercise was completed. Furthermore, schools were invited to submit a business case for staffing based on their individual circumstances. In a few cases additional staffing or additional probationers were allocated, while at the same time additional teaching staff purchased by schools using their own PEF allocation was not included.</p> <p>Additionally, the pupil-teacher ratio in Glasgow has been below the national average for some years and is still likely to be closer to the national average in the coming year, indicating that staffing in our schools is no better and no worse than the national average.</p> <p>I hope this goes some way to allaying fears about levels of uncommitted time in schools.</p>	

Q 6	Asked by: Bailie Seonad Hoy
Tabled Question	To ask how the Gaelic Language Plan will be implemented and reviewed in the absence of a Gaelic Development Officer.
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, Business Manager and Convener for Open Government

Following the retirement of our very valued Gaelic Officer; the Council has an opportunity through service reform, to ensure that responsibility for service provision for Gaelic is spread more effectively across the Council Family and within Chief Executive Department.

As well as appointing a new officer to support the Gaelic Plan implementation; this work will be lead, as previously through the Gaelic Language Officer's Group, now chaired within the Chief Executive Department. The creation of this Gaelic Language Officer post will ensure that we retain language competence and proficiency; that both meets our service reform requirements, and our need to have a Gaelic speaker.

The Gaelic Language Officers Group includes officers from across the Council Family, including Education Services as a key partner in the delivery of GME, and will extend to other relevant partners where required.

We are confident this provides a better governance structure through which to share responsibility for the promotion and implementation of the language plan.

The resourcing, support and delivery of the statutory Gaelic Language Plan remains a priority, and this new sustainable structure prioritising Gaelic within our Service Departments; also provides an opportunity to enhance aspect of our outcome delivery, through better links to our Communities Team and our Open Government network.

Q 7	Asked by: Bailie Patricia Ferguson
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor what action is being taken to discourage fly-tipping in the city?
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

Colleagues within NRS carry out various environmental enforcement functions including Community Enforcement Officers who tackle environmental incivility; Technical & Enforcement Support Officers who investigate and issue fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping; and Commercial Waste Enforcement Officers, who ensure businesses comply with their obligations to manage and present their waste appropriately.

Enforcement action includes fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping (currently at £500), issuing Section 34 Notices requiring businesses to have a commercial waste contract to uplift and dispose of their waste, and Section 80 Abatement Notices that are served on owners for waste issues in domestic communal back courts. In the year up to May 1st, almost 500 penalties were issued for domestic and commercial waste and fly tipping offences.

Environmental Tasking and Coordinating groups bring key officers together to problem solve emerging issues, including analysis of fly-tipping data to identify hot spots and allow a more proactive focus to the problem. Resources are deployed with engagement, education, enhancement and enforcement in mind.

Analytical data allows NRS to target known locations and work with housing providers, local Policing teams, voluntary sector organisations and residents through Weeks of Action. And we encourage residents to report any incidents of illegal dumping they witness. This is often vital in targeting those responsible.

Crucially, engagement routinely takes place with SEPA and Police Scotland in dealing with certain aspects of fly-tipping where organised crime is a factor.

Civil penalties for fly-tipping recently introduced by SEPA can be of higher monetary values than the criminal £500 fixed penalty notices issued by the Council and we have four such cases in progress with SEPA for fly-tipping in the city. This work is at an early stage but is a promising additional means of dealing with more serious cases of fly-tipping.

Partnership working with Zero Waste Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful who support the Scottish Governments Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy has allowed us to participate in cross border local authority work to tackle fly tipping. And lastly, the introduction of bin hubs for domestic waste reduces missed collections and increases frequency of collection which allows officers to more effectively monitor fly-tipping.

Q 8	Asked by: Councillor Holly Bruce
Tabled Question	To ask the Health convenor for an update on the council's response and action in relation to changes in gender-affirming healthcare and the issuing of puberty blockers?
Responder	Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care and Caring and Older People

<p>The decision to pause the use of puberty blockers, in light of the Cass Report was made by senior clinicians within NHSGGC and NHS Lothian and supported by the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.</p> <p>Whilst the Sandyford Clinic would make referrals for young people to paediatric endocrinology, the prescribing of puberty blockers for young people has never sat within the authority of the Sandyford.</p> <p>Therefore, since this was not a matter over which the Health and Social Care Partnership or the Integration Joint Board had any direct involvement in, no view has been taken on this issue. I might add that the Council itself has taken no view on the matter. One of the key Cass Review's recommendations was:</p> <p><i>Clinicians should apply the assessment framework developed by the Review's Clinical Expert Group, to ensure children/young people referred to NHS gender services receive a holistic assessment of their needs to inform an individualised care plan. This should include screening for neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism spectrum disorder, and a mental health assessment. The framework should be kept under review and evolve to reflect emerging evidence.</i></p> <p>And this is really at the heart of the type of service we need to be providing to patients who present with gender related distress. As the review underlines, these young people are individuals, and they are entitled to care which reflects their individual needs.</p> <p>I understand that the Health Board has agreed to participate in the York University study that has been commissioned via the Cass Review and that this may form part of the next stages for clinicians in relation to a wider response to the review.</p> <p>Within the HSCP there is a Gender Services Programme Board which is co-chaired by the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Chief Officer for Adults. It has representation from all key stakeholders, including Primary Care and any decisions regarding service development are taken via this forum and they will be looking to see how a more holistic type of care and support can be provided to patients seeking gender affirming care.</p> <p>Finally, although in the interim all new referrals to paediatric endocrinology were paused as of 18th March 2024, patients can still be referred to the Sandyford for support.</p>	

Q 9	Asked by: Councillor Leodhas Massie
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant convenor if they are aware of any assessments that have been carried out to measure the extent of tick and flea pesticide pollution (such as Fipronil and imidacloprid) in the Clyde and its tributaries.
Responder	



	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets
<p>SEPA is the national regulator for the water environment in Scotland and the responsibility for assessing and managing pollution in the River Clyde would sit with them.</p>	

Q 10	Asked by: Councillor Laura Doherty
Tabled Question	To ask the Leader of the Council what progress is being made towards Grand Challenge 1, Mission 4 of the City's 2022-27 Strategic Plan to <i>'Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant'</i> ?
Responder	Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

<p>Colleagues who have been paying attention will know that since the launch of the Strategic Plan in 2022 a refreshed Vision for Glasgow Libraries, Glasgow's Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2030 and Glasgow's Culture Strategy have been presented to the appropriate policy development committees and submitted to CAC for approval and adoption by the city.</p> <p>These should hopefully be followed in the coming year with the development of Glasgow's Events Strategy, Glasgow's Community Learning and Development Plan and Glasgow's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, all of which will enter the committee cycle for approval.</p> <p>And while it is good to know that we are coming forward with ways to improve the city for the future, it is good to also see how others see us now. I was delighted to see acknowledgement this month from Adobe Express that they had ranked Glasgow 7th among European cities for those considering a creative career: recognition I'm sure you'll agree of a city that is 'active and culturally vibrant'.</p> <p>There we were placed only behind London in the UK, and in the same ballpark as cities like Vienna and Stockholm, and ahead of Zurich and Barcelona. That's the type of company we like Glasgow to keep – we know ourselves that we live and work in a great European city so it's good to hear others say it to.</p> <p>The presence of great art &amp; design schools in the city, along with our thriving museums was cited as the reason for this ranking: these are institutions that draw people to our city, and also keep them here.</p> <p>This city's graduate retention rate – second only to Bristol among core UK cities – is a sometimes overlooked factor in driving our economy. That people in creative industries are now seeing the opportunities we have in Glasgow can only bring this on further.</p>	

Q 11	Asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	To ask the Convenor for Waste & Resources if there will be a Winter Waste Strategy published?
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

<p>The public holidays, weather, and the significant increase in household waste make the winter period a particularly challenging time for waste management and recycling.</p> <p>To ensure services are managed effectively during this period NRS prepare a Festive delivery plan, including a communication plan to inform residents on changes to collection dates and available services; reviewing resources and priorities; putting in place an Operational Delivery strategy; adapting opening hours of Household Waste recycling centres; and learning lessons from previous years.</p> <p>The plan is currently being developed and it is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of September.</p>	

Q 12	Asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	Can the relevant Convenor provide an update on how is the Scottish Government's local connection policy influencing the rate of homeless applications in Glasgow, and what measures are being taken to address any challenges arising from this policy?
Responder	

	Councillor Allan Casey, Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
<p>The Homeless Persons (Suspension of Referrals between Local Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2022 came into force on 29th November 2022 and from this date onwards, local authorities no longer have the power to refer a household back to their 'own' Scottish authority where they are assessed as having no local connection. However, for a number of reasons, it is difficult to assess how this Order is influencing the rate of homelessness applications in Glasgow.</p> <p>Bailie Siddique should be aware that a full update has been provided to all parties on the council at the recent meeting of the homelessness emergency cross party update group but I am happy to share again that since the introduction of the order 244 households have presented to Glasgow from other local authorities and this is clearly having an impact on our services however it is worth noting at this point we do not know how many Glasgow households have approached other local authorities for assistance.</p>	

Q 13	Asked by: Bailie Seonad Hoy
Tabled Question	To ask how the Council is supporting Glasgow Community Food Network's and Glasgow Food Policy Partnerships Full of Beans campaign and how this will impact on procurement and provision of school meals.
Responder	

	Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years
<p>Thank you for your question about how the Council is supporting the Glasgow Community Food Network's and Glasgow Food Policy Partnership's "Full of Beans" campaign and how this will impact on procurement and provision of school meals.</p> <p><b>You will be aware the "Full of Beans" campaign is a collaboration between the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP), Glasgow Community Food Network and the Climate Action Team. The work of the GPFF is supported by the Council across a number of services.</b></p> <p>Food for Life Scotland (FFL) and the Council are partnering to get more beans into school meals. To this end, the Council's Catering and Facilities Management team has been working with the Soil Association's 'Food for Life Served Here' team to develop a new bean-filled menu for school children.</p> <p>In April this year FFL hosted a training session at Notre Dame Secondary School with staff members from the Council Catering Team on sustainable food, with a focus of seasonality and beans. The overall aim is to create simple recipes that will feature on secondary menus launching in August 24 and primary menus in April 25.</p> <p>Our colleagues at Procurement have confirmed that any increase in usage of beans will be covered under current contractual arrangements.</p>	

Q 14	Asked by: Councillor Eunis Jassemi
Tabled Question	To ask the relevant Convenor what discussions it has had with the Scottish Government in tackling poverty?
Responder	Councillor Ricky Bell, Deputy Leader and City Treasurer and Convenor for Financial Inclusion

The scale of families living below the poverty threshold in Glasgow and the ongoing impact of the pandemic, alongside the cost-of-living and inflation crises, requires us to embrace new and radical approaches– and to strengthen our partnerships. The Scottish Government is a key partner and one with who we have a strong record on collaborating on anti-poverty initiatives. The time constraints today won't allow me to do justice to that work but colleagues within Financial Inclusion are, as always, on hand to brief members.

In short, the primary engagement recently has been via the Child Poverty Pathfinder & work has included:

- Aligning and integrating policy areas across local and national government, the third sector, health and social care partnerships and social landlords - and doing so through formal governance structures.
- Hosting visits from the First and Depute First Minister and Depute First Minister and senior civil servants to highlight cross policy work and address any deficiencies.
- Transformation of the Children and Families Division in HSCP and reducing the numbers of children and young people taken into care.

This collaboration is shifting the dial towards prevention and early intervention, allows us to better use of, and share, data, and to design, deliver and commission funding models. We've made real progress in increasing funding flexibilities aligned to specific policy agendas.

Most significantly, eradicating child poverty is now the single priority of the city's Community Planning Partnership. Glasgow's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, published in February, places child poverty at the heart of our collective city agenda. The Scottish Government is a key partner at the Community Planning Partnership and will also participate in shaping the performance framework that will underpin our collective efforts to eradicate child poverty.

Q 15	Asked by: Councillor Sean Ferguson
Tabled Question	To ask the Leader of the Council whether she is aware that Newlands was voted one of the best places to live in the UK and why this is so?
Responder	Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council

What so many folk who haven't lived here don't quite get is that Glasgow is a city of neighbourhoods – not defined only by its urban core, but by the plethora of places and identities that make up our rich tapestry.

The awarding newspaper called Newlands a 'southside garden suburb...with wide, tree-lined avenues radiating from one of the city's most beautiful small parks', and those who know it can't dispute that it's choice of outdoor activities is difficult to beat.

But the newspaper goes on to emphasise the strengths of surrounding neighbourhoods to Newlands in the Southside, and for those of us lucky to represent this part of the city it was a delight to see that diverse and distinct number of locales that make up our People's Republic of the Southside being given this recognition.

Glasgow's population is rising because it's a great place to live – and this City Government is determined to ensure that those who want to live & work here can keep doing so. Ensuring that neighbourhoods like Newlands continue to thrive is a massive part of that.