

Q.1	To be asked by: Councillor Stephen Docherty
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant Convenor what further engagement will take place with the joint trade unions regarding implementation of the new Pay and Grading Structure?"
Responder	Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services
Engagement with the joint Trade Unions continues as we move towards implementation of the new pay and grading structure. This has been a long and complex process, and throughout it our focus has been on creating a pay system that is fair, transparent and free from discrimination. That is not only essential for the organisation, but for the workforce who deserve the confidence of knowing they are being paid equitably for the work they do. We also recognise that, for some employees, the proposed changes may result in detriment and can create real uncertainty and concern. That is why all staff have received their individual offers and why management will continue to engage directly with those affected to explore the options available to them, including, where appropriate, redeployment opportunities, early retirement and voluntary redundancy. Alongside this, engagement with the Trade Unions continues the secondary and unique posts that are still to be finally assessed. We remain committed to working constructively with staff and Trade Union representatives to support employees through the transition and to ensure the successful implementation of a pay structure that is fair, sustainable and fit for the future.	

Q.2	To be asked by: Councillor Catherine Vallis
Tabled Question	“Audit Scotland's report concludes that governance, performance management and financial planning require further improvement before Glasgow City Council can demonstrate Best Value, while 17 high-risk Grade 1 audit recommendations remain outstanding. After almost a decade of SNP leadership of the Council, why is Glasgow falling short of the standards set by Scotland's local government watchdog?”
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer
Thank you for the question. It is important to recognise that the Best Value report prepared by the Controller of Audit is based on the Annual Audit Reports produced by EY, the Council's external auditor, covering the three-year period from 2022/23 to 2024/25. As such, it is primarily a reflection of the Council's position up to March 2025 and does not fully capture the progress made since that time. The Council was already taking action to address many of the areas highlighted by the Accounts Commission before publication of the report. In particular, City Administration Committee approved the replacement of the current Pay and Grading Structure on 20 August 2026, which addresses one of the most significant issues identified in the report. In addition, members recently considered a Financial Outlook report from the Executive Director of Financial Services which, while focused on the next two financial years, also provided a longer-term view over the next decade to support future financial planning. With regard to the outstanding audit recommendations, it is important to provide some context. Of the 17 recommendations identified as outstanding, five arose from the most recent Annual Audit Report and were always expected to remain open until they could be reviewed by EY through the current audit process. Officers have continued to work closely with EY to demonstrate progress. Based on discussions to date, evidence has been submitted that is expected to allow nine recommendations to be closed. Work is also progressing on a further seven recommendations and it is anticipated that a significant number of those will also be concluded following EY's review. Only one recommendation is expected to remain outstanding beyond the current cycle due to the nature and scale of the work involved. This relates to the cataloguing of the Council's heritage assets, a substantial exercise with a projected completion date of 2029. The Council fully accepts that there is more work to do and remains committed to continuous improvement. The findings of the Accounts Commission will be considered formally by elected members, with the Best Value report due to be presented first to the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and then to Council on 10 December. That will provide members with the opportunity to scrutinise the findings and monitor the actions being taken in response.	

Q.3	To be asked by: Councillor Lilith Johnstone
Tabled Question	“Given that parents are legally required to register the birth of a child within 21 days, can the relevant Convenor advise whether Glasgow City Council is currently able to offer birth registration appointments within that period and, if not, what action is being taken to address this?”
Responder	Christina Cannon, Council Business Manager and City Convener for Open Government
The Registration Service is fully aware of the impact that delays to birth registration appointments can have on families. We recognise that waiting longer than expected to register a birth can cause inconvenience and frustration, and we appreciate the concerns that are raised by new parents. Although births can be registered at any registration office in Scotland, Glasgow registers a significantly higher volume of births than any other local authority due to the presence of two large maternity hospitals within the city. This places considerable demand on the service and has contributed to the current waiting times. At present, the waiting time for a birth registration appointment in Glasgow is approximately five weeks. However, appointment availability can fluctuate across Scotland depending on local demand, staffing levels, service pressures and other operational challenges affecting individual local authorities at any given time. For this reason, some councils may be able to offer earlier appointments than others. Information regarding appointment timescales is published on the Council's website, along with advice that parents may choose to register a birth with another local authority should an earlier appointment be available elsewhere. However, it is acknowledged that the current waiting times are not acceptable and are not the standard of service that the department strives to provide. Having spoken with the Director of Legal and Administration I have been assured that Glasgow Registration Service is working hard to address these challenges and reduce waiting times. They are actively exploring a range of measures to increase capacity, including the provision of additional appointments during weekdays, weekends and public holidays. These measures are intended to improve appointment availability, reduce waiting times and bring registration timelines more closely into line with statutory expectations.	

Q.4	To be asked by: Councillor Robert Mooney
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor explain what engagement the Council has had with Housing Associations regarding reports of damaged back court fences and poor garden maintenance, and whether it considers it acceptable for such issues to be treated as a low priority by landlords?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Deputy Leader and City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
The maintenance of backcourt fences, gardens and other shared spaces is primarily the responsibility of the relevant property owners and landlords, including Housing Associations where they own or manage the properties concerned. It is therefore not a function of the Council to carry out these repairs or routine maintenance works. That said, the Council works closely with Registered Social Landlords across the city and raises concerns where environmental conditions are having an impact on local communities, public health, or the delivery of council services. This includes situations where overgrown gardens, damaged infrastructure or accumulated waste affect access for staff carrying out essential services such as refuse collection. Where issues are identified, Council officers engage directly with the relevant Housing Association, factor or owner to seek resolution. Our neighbourhood liaison officers play an important role in maintaining these relationships and ensuring concerns raised by local residents or operational teams are brought to the attention of those responsible. Where conditions deteriorate to the point of creating a statutory nuisance or public health concern, the Council can take formal enforcement action. In 2025, 96 statutory notices were issued under Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in relation to domestic refuse and associated issues in backcourts. While it is for individual landlords to determine their maintenance priorities, I would be clear that issues which affect residents' quality of life, create environmental problems, or present health and safety risks should be addressed promptly. In our experience, Housing Associations generally respond constructively when such concerns are raised by Council officers, and it is rare that public health or health and safety matters raised by the Council are not acted upon. More broadly, maintaining clean, safe and well-kept backcourts is a shared responsibility. Residents, landlords and property owners all have a role to play in ensuring these spaces do not become a source of blight or a public health concern for the wider community.	

Q.5	To be asked by: Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on what support the Scottish and UK Governments have offered the Council to help tackle our homelessness emergency and funding crisis in wider HSCP service provision?”
Responder	Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services

Thank you for the question, Councillor Reid-McConnell.

Alongside colleagues, I met the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing last week, and Councillor Kelly will provide further detail on that discussion later in the questions section.

In terms of engagement with the new UK Government, there has not yet been any direct discussion with the new Prime Minister Andy Burnham on this issue. However, in his early weeks in office he has signalled a renewed focus on homelessness, and I am hopeful that his experience of local government and the importance of place-based policy will help shape a more compassionate and effective response.

As Mayor of Greater Manchester, he that when a city develops a reputation for helping people experiencing homelessness, people will often travel there because they know support is available. Glasgow has that reputation too.

I don't see that as a criticism. Quite the opposite. If vulnerable people know that Glasgow is a city that will offer help, shelter and support in a time of crisis, that is something we should be proud of. No one chooses homelessness, and no city should be criticised for responding with compassion to people in need.

The challenge is that compassion alone cannot sustain a system under this level of pressure.

Support needs to be available consistently across the country so that responsibility is shared fairly, rather than falling disproportionately on a small number of cities.

We also need honesty about the causes of the pressure we are experiencing. Decisions taken by both the UK and Scottish Governments have a direct impact on demand for homelessness services. Delays in asylum decision-making and wider migration processes have created significant challenges, while Scotland's homelessness legislation rightly provides a vital safety net for those at risk of homelessness, but that comes at a cost.

That is why, in the coming days, I will be writing jointly with the new Leader of the Council to the Prime Minister. We will set out the scale of the challenge facing Glasgow and make the case for a properly funded, compassionate and sustainable system of support. Glasgow will continue to play its part, but we need both governments to play theirs too.

Q.6	To be asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the Leader of the Council what conversations have been had with national Governments to ensure financial support not only in resolving Equal Pay, but further supporting and mitigating the financial impact on workers in detriment?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition
I can confirm that the Council has been in discussion with the Scottish Government about the support needed to finally draw a line under Glasgow's historic equal pay liabilities. Members will be aware that sale-and-leaseback arrangements have played an important role in funding previous equal pay settlements. We have looked carefully at whether that approach could be used again, but the reality is that there are very few suitable assets remaining, making this neither a practical nor sustainable option for the future. That is why we have asked the Scottish Government to support the Council to fund the final resolution of these liabilities through capital borrowing. This would also require HM Treasury approval. We believe this is the most sensible and best-value way to address this long-standing issue, ensuring that those affected receive what they are owed while protecting the Council's ability to continue investing in the services and infrastructure our city relies on.	

Q.7	To be asked by: Bailie Paul McCabe
Tabled Question	"To ask the Leader of the Council for an update on city centre safety?"
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition
I believe that city centre safety is fundamental to Glasgow's success. People need to feel safe when they come into the city centre to work, shop, socialise, access services or visit Glasgow, and they need confidence that the city centre is a welcoming environment for all. There is no single solution to the challenges we face. Issues such as crime, antisocial behaviour, homelessness, addiction and wider social inequalities are complex and require a coordinated response, which is why I believe that partnership working between the Council, Police Scotland, the Health and Social Care Partnership, businesses and community organisations is so important. Significant work is already underway. The City Centre Business Improvement District has made creating a safer city centre one of its core priorities and is investing in measures including additional mobile CCTV, enhanced stewarding and security arrangements, and other initiatives designed to improve safety and confidence. The Council is working closely with the BID and Police Scotland to ensure this activity complements existing efforts, and I have arranged to meet with Chief Superintendent Croft, alongside the Chief Executive and the Depute Leader next week to discuss these issues with them directly. At the same time, the City Centre Task Force and its Operations and Events Subgroup continue to target resources where they can have the greatest impact. This includes enforcement activity, environmental improvements, cleansing operations, and practical measures that improve both actual safety and perceptions of safety. I have always believed that the physical environment matters too. A cleaner, better-maintained and more attractive city centre encourages activity, investment and footfall while helping people feel safer. As City Treasurer, I consistently argued that available investment should support these frontline services, and I will continue to do so as Leader of the Council. Improving the look and feel of the city centre is therefore a key part of our wider vision for Glasgow. The reopening of the western side of George Square has already given people a glimpse of the transformation to come when the full square reopens next month. Alongside completed projects on Cowcaddens Road, Dobbies Loan, Argyle Street West and South Portland Street, we are beginning to see the impact of this once-in-a-generation investment in the heart of our city. There is more to do, and I would not pretend otherwise. But I believe the right approach is to continue investing in partnership working, focusing resources where they will have the greatest impact and taking practical action that delivers real improvements. My ambition is clear: a city centre that is safe, vibrant and welcoming, and one that the people of Glasgow can be proud of.	

Q.8	To be asked by: Bailie Christy Mearns
Tabled Question	"To ask the relevant City Convener what progress has been made to improve night buses in Glasgow?"
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery
The Council recognises that a vibrant, safe and successful night-time economy depends on people being able to travel into and out of the city easily, affordably and reliably. Whether travelling for work, leisure or hospitality, access to dependable public transport is essential. We therefore welcome the establishment of the independent Night Time Economy Commission, which provides a strong platform to champion improved night-time transport and strengthen collaboration between the Council, SPT and transport operators. There has already been positive progress, including SPT's commitment to pilot extended Subway operating hours as part of its modernisation programme. We will also continue to encourage ScotRail and other partners to explore opportunities for later evening and overnight rail services where there is demand. However, buses will be central to any long-term solution. We recognise the calls from businesses, residents and campaign groups for a stronger night bus network, and the important role this can play in supporting both workers and the wider night-time economy. While significant work has been undertaken to develop the strategic daytime bus network, a fuller assessment of night-time provision is still required. Council officers are currently in discussions with SPT to build a clearer picture of existing services, demand patterns and gaps in provision. This work is also being considered as part of the Transport Vision and Legacy programme, providing an opportunity to take a strategic look at how transport can better support Glasgow's economic growth, city centre recovery and evening economy. Our ambition is not simply to add individual routes, but to help create a more joined-up night-time transport network that better meets the needs of residents, workers and visitors across the city and wider region.	

Q.9	To be asked by: Bailie Hanif Raja
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor provide an update on the Council's plans for the fire-damaged and now vacant sites at Albert Cross, following the devastating fires in 2019 and 2020 and the subsequent building collapse in July 2025?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Deputy Leader and City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
The Council is determined to see both Albert Cross sites brought back into productive use following the devastating fires in 2019 and 2020 and the subsequent partial building collapse in 2025. These prominent vacant sites sit at the heart of one of Glasgow's most distinctive neighbourhoods, and we have been pursuing an ambitious and innovative approach to unlocking their redevelopment. In August this year, the Council launched the Albert Cross Tenement Design Contest, following approval by the City Administration Committee. Rather than prescribing a single solution, the competition challenges architects to bring forward creative, deliverable and value-for-money proposals that maximise the potential of these sites while respecting the historic character of the surrounding area. What makes this particularly exciting is that the Council is not simply looking for a building design. We are seeking an exemplar tenement-led development that could become a model for how similar gap sites across Glasgow can be regenerated. The aim is to demonstrate how high-quality, high-density urban housing can breathe new life into vacant land, strengthen local communities and help tackle the city's housing challenges. The response from the architectural profession has been extremely encouraging, with early indications showing significant interest in the competition. That level of interest reflects both the importance of the site and the opportunity it presents to create something genuinely distinctive in one of Glasgow's most architecturally significant locations. Alongside the design competition, the Council is progressing the acquisition of both sites, including authority to pursue Compulsory Purchase Orders where required to overcome longstanding ownership complexities that have frustrated redevelopment. Through these parallel processes, our objective is to make the sites development-ready, with Council ownership secured and planning consent in place, creating the conditions for a developer partner to be appointed and construction to move forward as quickly as possible. This is one of the most significant city regeneration opportunities currently underway, and I am optimistic that the combination of architectural innovation, public sector leadership and strong market interest can help transform Albert Cross from a long-standing vacant site into a showcase for the future of Glasgow's tenement heritage.	

Q.10	To be asked by: Bailie Margaret Morgan
Tabled Question	“To ask What engagement has the City Convener for Housing and Development had with the Scottish Government about support for the Council to tackle Glasgow’s housing emergency?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Deputy Leader and City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
Alongside the then Leader, Depute Leader and City Convener for Homelessness, I met with the Cabinet Secretary a few weeks ago to discuss the support Glasgow needs from the Scottish Government to address the city's housing emergency. The Council is acting on several fronts. This includes our Scotland-leading work to bring empty homes back into use, our UK-leading programme of building new affordable and social housing, and our continued partnership with the Health and Social Care Partnership to support preventative approaches to homelessness. We are working across the Council family, alongside housing associations and other partners, to respond to the increasing pressure on housing services However, these actions alone are not enough. While we must continue to accelerate the delivery of new homes and ensure the right mix of housing is available, we also need additional support from the Scottish Government to help tackle the immediate pressures we face. We need greater flexibility and support to work across local authority boundaries to better match individuals and families currently living in unsuitable temporary accommodation, including hotels and B&Bs, with available housing across the wider City Region. Addressing a housing emergency on this scale requires a regional approach as well as a local one. I welcome recent contributions from the leader of Inverclyde who made a similar case. If we are to respond effectively to this emergency, we need to think differently and work collaboratively across all boundaries - including political - to ensure people can access stable, suitable housing and the support they need.	

Q.11	To be asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	"Can the relevant Convenor provide a progress update on the required refurbishment of Govanhill Library roof?"
Responder	Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations
Thank you for the question. Glasgow Life has been reviewing the condition of the roof at Govanhill Library and has taken a number of steps to identify the works required. A drone survey carried out in March 2025 identified a range of issues across the roof, including damaged roof coverings, cracked and broken rooflights, missing roof details, vegetation growth, debris and a number of areas requiring further investigation. Following that survey, Glasgow Life sought a quotation for a comprehensive package of roof repairs. Given the extent of the issues identified, the preferred approach is to undertake a planned programme of works that addresses the main defects together, rather than relying on ongoing temporary repairs. This will help ensure the building is made weatherproof and reduce the risk of further water ingress and damage. A formal quotation has now been received from City Building Glasgow. The estimated cost of the roof replacement and associated works is £373,679.11, excluding VAT, and does not include any asbestos-related works that may be required following further assessment. The next stage is to secure the necessary approvals, confirm the funding route and agree delivery arrangements. Subject to these matters being concluded, the intention is to progress the works as soon as possible in order to protect the building and support the continued use of Govanhill Library as an important community facility. The survey findings underline the need for these works, with 58 observations recorded ranging from minor maintenance matters to more significant defects affecting the integrity of the roof. Glasgow Life will continue to work through the remaining technical and approval requirements, including reviewing relevant asbestos information, before a start date and programme can be confirmed.	

Q.12	To be asked by: Bailie Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on progress of work to complete the new rent control assessment delivery process by May 2027?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Deputy Leader and City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use
The Council is making good progress towards delivering the new Rent Control Assessment required by May 2027. Officers have been actively engaged with the Scottish Government and local authority working groups established to support implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025 and have helped shape the guidance that councils will use to assess local rent conditions. A revised draft of the Ministerial guidance has now been shared with local authorities and officers continue to participate in engagement sessions and sector workshops as the final framework is developed. The final guidance, along with a local authority-specific data pack, is expected from the Scottish Government by December 2026, with assessments due to be submitted in May 2027. Recognising the relatively short timeframe between publication of the final guidance and submission of the assessment, officers have already begun preparatory work. This includes reviewing available data on private sector rents, population change, demographics, earnings and wider economic conditions to identify key trends and support a robust evidence base. As with all local authorities, there are practical challenges associated with a new assessment process, including the availability of detailed local rent data and the need to evaluate the potential impacts of any future Rent Control Area designation on tenants, landlords and the wider housing system. However, early preparation and ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government mean the Council is well placed to complete a comprehensive assessment and meet the statutory deadline in May 2027.	

Q.13	To be asked by: Councillor John Daly
Tabled Question	“The Council’s Visitor Levy committee report estimates that the proposed 5% levy could generate between £15.9 million and £16.1 million in net income each year, with proposals for how the money will be spent still to be brought forward for approval. Given the serious concerns around crime, antisocial behaviour and disorder in Glasgow city centre, will the Council commit to ensuring improving public safety, with particular reference to the possibility of support for increasing visible police presence, within the city centre, when deciding how the levy revenue is allocated?”
Responder	Councillor Greg Hepburn, City Convenor for Financial Inclusion and City Treasurer
Thank you for the question. We fully recognise the concerns that have been raised regarding crime, antisocial behaviour and disorder in parts of the city centre. Public safety is fundamental to both residents' and visitors' experience of Glasgow, and I can confirm that it will be an important consideration as proposals for the use of Visitor Levy funding are developed. The approved Visitor Levy scheme has a clear objective of growing the value of tourism in Glasgow by delivering benefits for visitors, businesses, communities and the environment. In doing so, it aligns with a range of existing city strategies, including the Glasgow Tourism Strategy and the City Centre Strategy, which recognises public safety as a key component of a successful and welcoming city centre. However, it is important to note that the Visitor Levy will not go live until January 2027, with the first funds not expected to be received until June 2027. Officers are currently preparing detailed proposals for the use of levy revenues, which will be considered by the Visitor Levy Forum and subsequently brought to the City Administration Committee for approval. The approved spending categories are City Operations and Infrastructure, Culture and Events, and Destination Marketing and Management, and any proposals will need to demonstrate how they support the scheme objectives. Any decisions on future investment should therefore be evidence-led and focused on achieving the greatest benefit for residents, visitors and businesses. While increasing police visibility is one possible option, it is only one of a number of interventions that could improve safety outcomes, and the Council will consider all available evidence before determining how levy revenues are allocated.	

Q.14	To be asked by: Councillor Paul Leinster
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant City Convener for an update on efforts to improve the bus passenger experience in Glasgow?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Thanks for the question, Councillor Leinster.

Earlier this week, the £2 bus fare cap came into force across Greater Glasgow.

While it is still in its infancy, the initial response has been very encouraging, particularly given the potential it has to support households facing ongoing cost-of-living pressures. The cap means many passengers will now pay significantly less for their journeys across the region, helping to make public transport a more affordable choice for work, education, healthcare and leisure.

I warmly welcome the prioritisation of Greater Glasgow in the Scottish Government’s commitment to roll this out nationwide. When the £2 cap pilot was first announced last year, I wrote to the then Cabinet Secretary requesting it come to Greater Glasgow, and while the Highlands and Islands was the first region to benefit, I am delighted that the First Minister’s election commitment to bring the £2 cap here is now being fulfilled.

For many people, it will mean a straightforward saving every time they travel. At a time when household budgets remain under pressure, measures that put money back into people's pockets while encouraging more sustainable forms of transport are to be welcomed.

The cap is also an important step towards making public transport a more attractive option for those who may previously have found the cost of bus travel a barrier. If we are serious about reducing congestion, improving air quality and meeting our climate ambitions, we need a public transport system that is both affordable and accessible. The £2 cap is a positive contribution to that goal and I look forward to seeing the impact it has on passenger numbers over the months ahead.

Q.15	To be asked by: Councillor Allan Gow
Tabled Question	"To ask the Leader of the Council for his view on the Scottish Government's Programme for Government?"
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition
Thank you for the question. I welcome the publication of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government. It sets out a clear focus on tackling child poverty, growing the economy, responding to the climate emergency and supporting strong public services. The Programme also recognises the importance of sustainable economic growth, investment and job creation, all of which are vital to Glasgow's future prosperity. As Scotland's largest city, Glasgow has a key role to play in delivering economic growth and supporting the transition to a net zero economy. I also welcome the commitment to work with local government and other partners to deliver better outcomes for communities. Many of the challenges we face, whether on poverty, economic development, housing or climate change, require close collaboration between national and local government. While there will be areas where Glasgow will continue to press for further action and investment, the Programme for Government contains a number of commitments that have the potential to deliver real benefits for the people of Glasgow and Scotland as a whole.	