



# Council Meeting Wednesday 20 July 2022

## Public and Councillor Questions and Responses



Derby City Council



**COUNCIL – 20 July 2022**  
**PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

	Questioner	Respondent	Subject
<b>Public Questions</b>			
<b>A</b>	Patric Harting	Cllr Hassall	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
<b>B</b>	Lucy Giuliano	Cllr Hassall	Active Travel Fund
<b>C</b>	Simon Bacon	Cllr J Pearce	Bins left out on streets
<b>D</b>	Cecile Wright	Cllr Barker	Fossil fuel pension investment
<b>E</b>	Pauline Inwood	Cllr Hassall	Climate Change Committee report
<b>F</b>	Brendan Connelly	Cllr Smale	Council Tax increase
<b>G</b>	Ruth Coates	Cllr Hassall	Support for bus services
<b>H</b>	Clare Wood	Cllr J Pearce	Use of harmful pesticides
<b>I</b>	Sassi Stark	Cllr Hassall	Planning regulations
<b>J</b>	Simon Bacon	Cllr J Pearce	Waste strategy
<b>K</b>	Pauline Inwood	Cllr J Pearce	Forest for the Future
<b>L</b>	Brendan Connelly	Cllr Barker	Attendance at Cabinet Meetings
<b>M</b>	Ruth Coates	Cllr J Pearce	Public recycling bins
<b>N</b>	Clare Wood	Cllr Hassall	Climate change advice
<b>O</b>	Sassi Stark	Cllr Hassall	Preservation of heritage properties
<b>Councillor Questions</b>			
<b>P</b>	Cllr A W Graves	Cllr Smale	Swimming lesson payments
<b>Q</b>	Cllr Prosser	Cllr Smale	Council Tax enquiries
<b>R</b>	Cllr Martin	Cllr Webb	Health inequality
<b>S</b>	Cllr Skelton	Cllr Smale	Sale of Allestree Hall
<b>T</b>	Cllr Lind	Cllr J Pearce	King George V Pavilion
<b>U</b>	Cllr Naitta	Cllr Smale	Reducing energy demand and prices
<b>V</b>	Cllr Shanker	Cllr Hassall	Becketwell Arena
<b>W</b>	Cllr Repton	Cllr Eyre	Libraries
<b>X</b>	Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr J Pearce	Compactor Days
<b>Y</b>	Cllr Peatfield	Cllr J Pearce	Relocation of the Forest for the Future
	Cllr Care		
<b>Z</b>	Cllr S Khan	Cllr Smale	Shaftesbury Sports Centre
<b>AA</b>	Cllr J Khan	Cllr Webb	Assured Tenancies
<b>BB</b>	Cllr Care	Cllr J Pearce	Use of Glyphosate
<b>CC</b>	Cllr A W Graves	Cllr J Pearce	Alvaston Park Waterside Cafe
<b>DD</b>	Cllr Martin	Cllr Barker	Appointment waiting times
<b>EE</b>	Cllr Lind	Cllr Eyre	Public Protection Officers
<b>FF</b>	Cllr Shanker	Cllr Smale	City Centre market offer
<b>GG</b>	Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr Williams	Holidays Activity Fund

<b>HH</b>	Cllr Peatfield	Cllr Smale	£150 Council Tax payment
<b>II</b>	Cllr Care	Cllr Hassall	Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>JJ</b>	Cllr A W Graves	Cllr J Pearce	Use of fireworks
<b>KK</b>	Cllr Martin	Cllr Webb	Workforce Retention and Recruitment Fund
<b>LL</b>	Cllr Shanker	Cllr Smale	2021/2022 Revenue Budget
<b>MM</b>	Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr J Pearce	Raynesway Household Waste Centre
<b>NN</b>	Cllr Care	Cllr Webb	Advice to minimise the spread of infections
<b>OO</b>	Cllr A W Graves	Cllr Hassall	Active Travel Funding
<b>PP</b>	Cllr Care	Cllr Hassall	Impact of the Forest for the Future
<b>QQ</b>	Cllr A W Graves	Cllr J Pearce	Bonfires
<b>RR</b>	Cllr Care	Cllr Poulter	Levelling Up consultation

# Public Questions

**a) Question from Patric Harting to Cllr Hassall**

**The 2017 Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy sets out the government's ambition to make "cycling and walking the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of longer journey."**

**(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy>)**

**To achieve this goal, local authorities are urged to prepare a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), "to take a more strategic approach to improving conditions for cycling and walking in order to support increases in travel on foot and by cycling."**

**(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-technical-guidance-and-tools>)**

**LCWIPs are viewed as a key tool for local authorities to "make the case for future investment." The LCWIP for Derby is being developed at the D2N2 level. The LCWIP Process has six stages, from Determining Scope to Application.**

**What is the current stage of the D2N2 LCWIP?**

**Derby Cycling Group, campaigning for a city where everyone wants to cycle and everyone can, wants to work closely with the council to develop the LCWIP. On the 1st of September 2021, Nottinghamshire County Council approved proposals for a public consultation on the D2N2 LCWIP.**

**What are Derby's plans for public consultation, in terms of scope and timing?**

The D2N2 LCWIP was the only plan that was funded by Government to be developed by a Local Economic Partnership. This had the benefit of providing a network strategy at a significant scale. It is also fair to say that the process of developing a plan for such a wide area, has not been as quick as I would have liked to see.

The plan has been through the long statutory process of development, which was led by the consultant appointed by D2N2, and included extensive stakeholder engagement to determine the routes selected. Derby Cycling group were heavily involved in this process, including the on-site examination of routes.

The LCWIP is currently being updated to

- reflect routes and route improvements that have been delivered since 2019
- Any changes because of the publication of revised guidance (LTN 120)

Full public consultation for the whole D2N2 will be led by the consultant and I hope that this will be available later this year. The consultation will of course be open to everyone, and Derby Cycling Group will have the opportunity to make further comments and be involved in the next stage of development.

Outline draft information is available on both the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire websites which includes Derby and Nottingham information.

**b) Question from Lucy Giuliano to Cllr Hassall**

**According to air quality data compiled by Imperial College London, where I live in Derby, I breathe toxic air every single day that exceeds three World Health Organisation's limits and increases the risk of lung disease, cancer, and stroke. Transport accounts for a significant proportion of our city's carbon emissions and therefore contributes to this air pollution. Could you please explain why the council did not apply for any funding in tranche 3 of the government's Active Travel Fund to enable and prioritise walking and cycling?**

The Active Travel Fund was initially set up by Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to support social distancing for cycling and walking. The Council was successful in the first round of this emergency funding and went on to receive more in tranche 2, not least because of the quality and ambition of our first bid.

Colleagues and fellow Councillors will recall that in the first-round of this funding, consultation was not a requirement, but we took the decision that we would do this. Our decision was vindicated because in the second round, Government made it a requirement because of the very public challenges made in other areas against the changes that were implemented.

Under the Transforming Cities Fund, the city was successful in a £161m joint bid with Nottingham City Council of which Derby received approximately £60m for improvements to walking, cycling and infrastructure to support public transport. We have been working on developing the strategic proposals made under the original bid to turn them into schemes with full business cases. This work has been complicated by having to adapt to the dramatic impacts of the pandemic and the uncertainties in our national economy.

The invitation to bid for tranche 3 was published in Summer 2021 with a short window to submit a bid. The criteria were primarily aimed at major corridor improvements with well-prepared schemes. In Derby, this type of scheme was already within our Transforming Cities Fund proposals, and it was clear that Government would not support schemes that were already funded elsewhere.

We were also still delivering tranche 2 schemes, being mindful of the need to handle these sensitively and not to rush implementation.



**c) Question from Simon Bacon to Cllr J Pearce**

**Bins left out on streets in many wards of the city blight communities causing access issues on pavements and in the case of recycling bins an increased risk of contamination. In my community of Normanton ward this is a long-standing issue the council have failed to address. When will the council be targeting this troublesome bin related issue?**

Thank you, Mr Bacon for raising the issue of bins on streets. It is an issue that impacts communities and one that residents have made contact about.

The Director of Public Protection and Streetpride, along with a Service Manager from Streetpride, visited the area last week and identified some areas where action is required and has asked for a number of officers from the services, including the waste advisors to work together to carry out some targeted work to improve the issue.

Residents who need help or support managing their waste can contact the service online, by email or phone. The information is available at <https://www.derby.gov.uk/contact-the-council/>

**d) Question from Cecile Wright to Cllr Barker**

**Antonio Guterres recent speech to the Major Economies Forum, a climate change conference organised by the White House in the USA, stated:**

**“We seem trapped in a world where fossil fuel producers and financiers have humanity by the throat. For decades, the fossil fuel industry has invested heavily in pseudoscience and public relations – with a false narrative to minimise their responsibility for climate change and undermine ambitious climate policies.**

**“They exploited precisely the same scandalous tactics as big tobacco decades before. Like tobacco interests, fossil fuel interests and their financial accomplices must not escape responsibility.”**

**“Nothing could be more clear or present than the danger of fossil fuel expansion. Even in the short-term, fossil fuels don’t make political or economic sense.”**

**In other words, Antonio Guterres, articulates the green washing of the climate change issue.**

**Given that the continuing investment in the fossil fuel industry is the biggest driver in climate change, will Derby City Council mandate our delegates to the Derby and Derbyshire Pensions Committee to support divestment of pension funds from any companies which promote the use of fossil fuels?**

The risks associated with climate change are wide-ranging, and climate change is an issue for all sectors of the economy. We recognise that it is essential that all participants in the economy, both on the supply side and the demand side of energy, adapt their business models for the transition to a low carbon economy.

Within this context, fossil fuels are expected to remain an important aspect of the energy mix for many years.

I can confirm that Derbyshire Pension Fund has a policy of engaging with companies to influence behaviour and enhance value rather than adopting a divestment approach, as set out in its Responsible Investment Framework.

The Pension Fund continues to engage with fossil fuel companies, and this enables the Pension Fund to influence companies as they adapt their business models to a low carbon economy. This approach is supported by collaborative and co-ordinated engagement with other like-minded investors. The fossil fuel companies are major producers of renewable energy solutions.

Divestment is a one-off action which doesn't have an impact on real world carbon emissions. It potentially risks putting fossil fuel investments into the hands of less accountable and less transparent investors with a different level of concern about the transition to a low carbon world.

Investor engagement has encouraged companies to improve the quality of their climate-related disclosures and to commit to targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We have seen the major gas and oil companies from the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Norway and the Netherlands having all now committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

As a responsible long-term investor, Derbyshire Pension Fund is in a good position to provide support to companies right across the economy during the energy transition, influencing corporate behaviour through engagement to achieve real world reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

**e) Question from Pauline Inwood to Cllr Hassall**

**The Climate Change Committee recently reported to the government on its 2022 annual assessment of UK progress in reducing emissions, finding that ‘tangible progress is lagging the policy ambition’. Has the report and its recommendations been read and considered for Derby? In particular, with regard to the report’s recommendations, what are our processes for measuring and reporting on emissions, and will we take on the recommendations in the report to reduce car demand by not building roads or supporting road building projects?**

The Council will consider the report of the Climate Change Committee as part of local policy development, although it is important to recognise that this report was to Government with recommendations for Government action.

Measuring and reporting emissions is a difficult area, where there is a need for a national approach, as well as consolidation of the variety and range of models available. I believe there is a recognition within Government on this. We continue to work on our carbon footprint data and have been clear when we published our action plan this year, that this currently covers scopes 1 and 2 only. We are not the only Local Authority or organisation to be at this stage because of the complexity of understanding and measuring scope 3 emissions, but again we continue to work with those organisations that are supporting our sector.

I understand that declaring an end to road building and maintenance may appear to be a simple solution. However, roads are an important asset and play a fundamental role in how our society and economy functions. Essential goods and services travel by roads. Roads support public transport and provide space for cycling and walking. They connect our families and enable emergency services get to where they are needed. These are not simple issues and a whole range of things must be considered to determine what infrastructure is required.

**f) Question from Brendan Connelly to Cllr Smale**

**Why was our Council Tax raised by the maximum legal amount in April 21 when you've just said there has been an underspend of several million pounds for the year?**

Council Cabinet, at their meeting of 13 July 2022, considered the Final Accounts 2021-22 Outturn Report.

The report details an underspend position of £2.836m but only after use of planned reserves and additional income received. These reserves and additional income are non-recurrent and were reported during the year as part of the overall management of the Council's financial position

In setting the budget the Council sets out its plans for a balanced budget including the need for any Council Tax increase. The recurrent service activity of the Council overspent by £1.265m in 2021/22 supporting the need for the required Council Tax increase for the 2021/22 financial year.

**g) Question from Ruth Coates to Cllr Hassall**

**As I'm sure you are aware, the bus company Trentbarton has stopped running several of its services. Given the very small window of opportunity we have left for fighting the climate emergency, I find it incredible that this is being allowed to happen. It seems obvious to me that if you take away convenient bus services, people will choose to use their cars instead.**

**As a resident of one of the areas affected, namely Spondon, I have first hand experience of the detrimental impacts that this is having on our community. The alternative services through Spondon, whilst helpful for people living near the main roads, are not a good alternative for the very many people who don't. In addition to the serious consequence of encouraging increased car use, the cancellation of the Spondon flyer is having devastating social and economic consequences. Spondon is a large village and for many elderly and disabled people the bus which used to go right round the village was a lifeline. It enabled them to get to the village centre for shopping, to get into town to get buses onwards to hospital appointments, visiting friends etc. As a result of the bus being cancelled these people are becoming increasingly isolated and local businesses are suffering due to the loss of their customers.**

**I (along with many other people) have e mailed Trentbarton, and I know a petition signed by thousands, has been sent to them. Their argument that the service was underused is just not true. As a visually impaired person myself, reliant on buses, I can vouch for the fact that it was usually very busy.**

**I realise that Trentbarton is a private company and therefore not the responsibility of the council, however serving the interests of the people of Derby IS the responsibility of the council. What is the council doing to either put pressure on Trentbarton to restore these bus services, or support them to keep them running?**

The bus market is deregulated and, as the questioner says, bus operators in Derby are commercial businesses and are therefore outside of the control of the Council. As such, we have virtually no legal powers to intervene and so in this context, operators will make commercial decisions. The current market is fragile, and those decisions are being driven by:

- Passenger numbers not recovering to pre-covid levels (approx. 80%)
- Rising fuel costs and significant driver shortages
- Loss of emergency funding from Government, which ends in September 2022

The Council has done everything during the pandemic to ensure that Government grants have been available to operators. We have worked with Derbyshire County Council to ensure that payments through the Concessionary Fares scheme have been maintained, within budget, but at the same level as in 2019 regardless of the actual passenger journeys.

Like most urban local authorities outside of London, however, we have very little revenue funding available to provide direct financial support for bus services. We do have some capital funding to support services by making route improvements, providing new bus shelters and information systems, as part of Government funding through the Transforming Cities programme. Whilst I acknowledge that these measures alone do not address the fundamental concerns raised in the question. I do assure you that the Council is providing the support it can with the funding available.

#### **h) Question from Clare Wood to Cllr J Pearce**

**A motion was passed by Derby City Council in 2021, which stated that the ‘Council agrees to stop the routine use of pesticides in the wider environment where practicable (such as glyphosate for weed suppression)’ in order to reverse the decline in insects in our soils. A recent Freedom of Information request revealed that 2,200 litres were going to be used during 2022. How much of a reduction in routine use is this compared to previous years, and when does the Council plan to stop using these harmful pesticides completely?**

Derby City Council uses registered herbicides approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) which remain the most efficient and cost-effective method for the broad-spectrum treatment of common weeds.

We routinely explore new technologies to further reduce our use of herbicides, most recently including flame and hot foam techniques, although they are costly, inefficient, and largely ineffective.

We benchmark ourselves against similar authorities to ensure best practice and in 2021, 24 authorities responded to the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)’s network query of “Does your local authority currently use herbicides containing glyphosate?”. All respondents replied stating they used herbicides containing glyphosate.

At present, we currently limit weed control activities to spraying and sweeping the city’s streets and highways, kerbsides/wallsides, public furniture, obstacles on our 375 parks as well as private premises and other quotable works.

The products we choose are carefully selected to be as safe, effective, and cost efficient as possible and the potency of their active ingredients, such as glyphosate, are as low as possible whilst remaining effective. We have introduced some products that have a much lower glyphosate content than conventional herbicides helping to reduce their concentration.



Without these treatments, allowing weeds to grow unchecked in unwanted areas, can affect the:

- Appearance - weeds detract from the overall appearance of an area and trap litter.
- Safety - weed growth can interfere with visibility for road users and obscure traffic signs. Weeds in kerbs or around drains can prevent or slow down drainage. Their growth on pavements may damage their surface causing broken and uneven slabs.
- Weeds can also become slip and trips hazards.
- Structure - weed growth can destroy paving surfaces, force kerbs apart and crack walls, increasing our maintenance costs.

The Council endeavours to deliver an effective weed control programme within the city and will continue to keep its use of approved herbicides to as low as reasonably practicable.

**i) Question from Sassi Stark to Cllr Hassall**

**In a recent article for Derby Telegraph, the council commented saying it was considering new rules around planning, whilst not specifically mentioning the Article 4 Instruction. It seems the council is reluctant to implement Planning Regulation, when not having it only benefits a minority of developers and has an overabundance of negative impact for the rest of the community as a whole, owner-occupiers in addition to tenants (backed up by studies produced by local councils up and down the country). This is a change of use that is not easily reversible, as a residential mortgage is no longer applicable for these properties. When will this be discussed at length; and if the Article 4 instruction is taken on, how soon can we implement it?**

An Article 4 Direction is a special planning regulation that gives extra planning controls within a stated area. It can remove permitted development rights for specified actions. This means works would require planning permission, even though normally they wouldn't need consent. They are often used in Conversation Areas.

National Planning Guidance explains that Article 4 Directions should be limited to where it is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area. The case for an Article 4 must have very strong justification, based on robust research and evidence, because it withdraws nationally permitted development rights. Any Article 4 Direction is assessed by the Secretary of State.

Planning policy takes time and must stand up to rigorous scrutiny through a formal inspection process, this gives any policy weight and status. At the beginning of this year, we started work on a new Local Plan. This, along with national policy, is the bedrock against which planning decisions are made. Any changes will be most effective if they are considered through the Local Plan making process.

**j) Question from Simon Bacon to Cllr J Pearce**

**The next waste strategy is due to be put in place in around 2026. Where is the council currently in relation to preparing the new waste strategy and how will they engage the public in this journey noting previous strategies gave the city the Sinfen incinerator?**

The City Council has a joint waste strategy with Derbyshire County Council and has four years left of the current strategy. The City Council will be working with the County Council to review the current strategy and develop the approach to preparing a new strategy.

Within the current strategy, the Council is committed to recycling more and is refreshing its efforts to increase participation in recycling and reuse. Public engagement is important to increase recycling and any campaigns will be accompanied by a communications and engagement strategy.

**k) Question from Pauline Inwood to Cllr J Pearce**

**Well over £150,000 of Derby's climate fund money is being spent on the 'Forest for the Future' project. Please explain how the decision was made to spend so much climate funding in this way, which is basically moving trees around, when that money could have been spent in a number of alternative ways with much better value for the climate e.g. improving the active travel network, or providing grants for insulating homes, or grants for adding solar panels to rooves. What alternatives were considered and why were they discounted?**

The Forest of the Future is a project developed by the Grounds Maintenance Team. The team were seeking to increase tree coverage in the city and wanted to create a city centre green space to improve the vibrancy of our city centre, for people to enjoy and to encourage biodiversity. The trees are then to be planted in parks across the city.

The bid was specific to the project and did not present alternative options. The Council's Cabinet recently approved a Climate Action Plan, and we will be working with our partners on city-wide Climate Strategy, which we hope to consult on by the end of the year.

**I) Question from Brendan Connelly to Cllr Barker**

**Can you please confirm if attending Cabinet meetings is an expectation of all party leaders that are paid an additional responsibility allowance?**

The Independent Remuneration Panel takes a broad range of factors into consideration when making recommendations on the levels of allowances paid to those councillors who hold special responsibilities, such as Group Leaders. These include the time commitment required to undertake their duties and the level of individual accountability associated with the role.

The Council Cabinet Procedure Rules permit opposition spokespeople to speak at Cabinet meetings, but not vote. It is for individual Group Leaders to decide the extent to which they exercise this entitlement; it is for Council to determine whether the level of allowances paid to Group Leaders represents good value to local taxpayers.

**m) Question from Ruth Coates to Cllr J Pearce**

**Whilst on holiday in Italy recently I was impressed to see that in public places there were recycling bins as well as general waste bins. On reflection I realised I have seen this in some places in this country. In Nottingham, in the town centre I have seen double bins, one side for recyclable waste. Why haven't we got these in Derby?**

The Council has a small number (around 20) of dual-purpose residual and recycling bins in the city, and these are well used. Officers are looking at ways to increase recycling and will be looking in the future at increasing the numbers over the coming years.

There are other councils which have more recycling bins in their cities and towns, and the team will be contacting them for best practice to try to avoid contamination.

**n) Question from Clare Wood to Cllr Hassall**

**Heatwaves, flash floods, wildfires and droughts show that we're already experiencing climate change. Given that we're in a climate emergency and are heading towards climate catastrophe unless drastic action is taken, when will Derby City Council start giving advice and warnings to citizens about behaviour changes, such as reducing car use, stopping engine idling, reducing water use, etc?**

This is a very important and challenging issue to address. As you probably know, the Council has recently adopted its own Action Plan which sets out approximately 100 projects as we try to tackle climate change.

This will be complemented soon by a city-wide Climate Change Strategy where the Council will act in an enabling role, recognising that no single organisation has the remit, expertise, or resources to address climate change on its own.

Our Derby Climate Strategy will have a communications plan to support it, which will contribute to many of the things you suggest that can help to raise awareness and change behaviours of local people in a positive way.

In doing this, I must however, remind everyone that the Council is only one player in this space and that Government, the business community, local voluntary groups, the mass media, and all of us as individuals, all have an important part to play.

**o) Question from Sassi Stark to Cllr Hassall**

**What are we actively doing as a city to preserve our heritage properties and ensure that property owners and landlords maintain the external characteristics of the property?**

Our heritage buildings add character to our city and, particularly in streets like the Strand, provide a unique environment that many visitors are delighted to discover. Our current conversation with the city about the future of our city centre highlights this, and our initial research set out in our 'ambition' document, suggests that it is a much-loved asset that we should make more of. I would encourage everyone to go to the Let's Talk Derby section of our website and join our conversation.

In our day to day work we consult with heritage and conservation specialists on a full range of planning applications that affect designated and non-designated Heritage Assets; including those affecting the World Heritage site and its setting, Listed buildings, development within conservation areas and locally listed buildings. Recently this has included high-profile projects including the Museum of Making, Market Hall, Middleton House and the Museum and Art gallery. In recent years the Council worked closely with Heritage England and operated a grant support scheme to help deliver new shop fronts and property renovation in Conservation Area streets.



# Councillor Questions

**p) Question from Cllr A W Graves to Cllr Smale**

**One of my constituents had money taken from her account on the 1<sup>st</sup> June for swimming lessons that stopped the first week of May. As at the 26<sup>th</sup> June she was still struggling to get the money back.**

**Despite several complaints which the council upheld on the 21<sup>st</sup> June she still hadn't been refunded.**

**And as she said "it might only be just over 25 pounds but times are hard enough as it is."**

**Firstly, it is unacceptable that the council took without good cause £25 from this lady's account. Maybe the council could advise how many other suffered this oversight?**

**Secondly despite taking the money by direct debit, ie. Directly out of their account a refund is sent via a cheque. A cheque! Do we send all money by cheque? Cheques cost considerably more than bank transfers and is therefore a waste of council taxpayers money. Maybe the council could tell the chamber how many cheques are normally issued each year and at what cost?**

**Not only that, once received (if the Royal Mail actually receive a letter with a cheque in) the recipient has to trapse off to the bank and hopefully 2 days later the cheque is cleared. More delay and inconvenience for the customer. Running a business, as many do, I know that refunds can be almost instant by paying through the bank. Can the council explain why they do not do this, as I am sure everyone would like to know what the policy is for this?**

Following the closure of Queens Leisure Centre, swimming lessons have been transferred to Moorways. The previous Leisure System did not contain sufficient information to allow BACS refunds. The decision was made to make the refund by cheque as the leisure system contained the required information and was the most effective way of ensuring timely payments to individuals. 600 cheques were raised. The 600 refund cheques cost just under 11p per cheque, so the total production cost was £64.08. Total cost including envelope and postage was £430.

For context, the Council issued 1,706 cheques in total during 2021/22.

**q) Question from Cllr Prosser to Cllr Smale**

**I was contacted by a resident who told me he had made repeated attempts over 4 months to get his council tax sorted. I emailed the council tax department on his behalf using the advertised details and after three weeks I had still not had a response. I then directly emailed the staff member and his situation was swiftly remedied.**

**This situation is not unique to the council tax department. I've been told that the customer service department is currently working with an uncertain structure and resource due to budget pressures. This makes running the departments and providing the appropriate service very difficult. The change in population habits, with telephone queries rising dramatically, has not been appropriately responded to and our level of service is now woefully inadequate.**

**What is the council doing to resolve this issue?**

Over the past few years, many of the City's residents have availed themselves of the ability to contact the Council digitally and as a result have their claims processed or information given in a timely fashion. I am happy to take up individual case queries with Councillors where response times have been sub-optimal.

In responding to this question, I ask the Councillor to take into account additional demands on the service such as the Energy Rebate mandated on Councils by the Government which led to a sharp spike in demand without sufficient lead in time to flex resource accordingly.

**r) Question from Cllr Martin to Cllr Webb**

**Derby has some of the highest levels of health inequality in the country and these have been accentuated by the impact of the pandemic. What is the Cabinet Member doing to address this problem?**

Health Inequalities are a long standing and complex issue, which require a system level response to tackle. There is a programme of work under the Integrated Care System (ICS) to develop a Derbyshire Wide Health Inequalities Strategy, which is led by our Director of Public Health. This includes a plan for tackling the NHS England priorities along with the wider determinants of health.

As the ICS and strategy are developing, we will ensure that there is alignment with the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Our Public Health team are also working closely with Community Action Derby as co-chairs of the Derby Health Inequalities Partnership, to work directly with our communities to understand the issues and develop an appropriate response focussed on local need.

**s) Question from Cllr Skelton to Cllr Smale**

**In light of the fact that the sale of Allestree Hall has fallen through, please give details of initial plans and ideas you have for the Hall and the Golf Course?**

The exclusivity element for the initial buyer has now fallen away. The Council is considering future options, including the remarketing of the Hall and any opportunities for refurbishing, or repurposing the Hall linked to the exciting plans for Allestree Park, rewilding, Education Provision, and alternative uses.

At this stage we are not being prescriptive over the future use or mix of uses for the site and will seek to deliver the optimum future use for the city and the park.

**t) Question from Cllr Lind to Cllr J Pearce**

**Please can the relevant cabinet member tell me if only emergency repairs are being carried out on the Pavilion and if so, why?**

Thank you for your question.

The building is on the same repair and maintenance regime as all other operational parks buildings. Repairs are reported through the Property Services Portal and prioritised by the maintenance team who raise the orders.

There are no outstanding repairs currently showing on the portal and all routine and planned servicing is being carried out. A condition survey was carried out in February 2022 and works required will be prioritised by Property Services alongside all the other corporate repairs.

**u) Question from Cllr Naitta to Cllr Hassall**

**In six months, cold weather and fuel poverty will be the issue, not overheating. What is the Council doing now to help Derby residents and businesses to reduce energy demand longer term to reduce the impact of future fuel price increases?**

I share my fellow Councillor's concerns about the current cost of living crisis. Ofgem are predicting that energy bills will be typically £2,800 a year from October, when the energy price cap is up for review. That's an increase of £1,400 from the average in October 2021.

There is, of course, a great deal of work going on across the Council every day in the services we provide to support vulnerable people and this situation will be reflected in the care and support our teams provide every day.

Derby Advice, for example, offer a benefit check for any Derby resident to ensure they are claiming all the benefits they are entitled to. They and other teams in Derby Homes and DCC can assist residents with applications to the Household Support Fund. The Money advice team can give debt and budgeting advice to Derby Homes tenants and can refer into several schemes run by energy suppliers.

Derby Homes, DCC and Community Action Derby are working together to make sure Derby Residents get timely communication around available grants and other support. A micro website and single phone number for Derby residents to access all support and information around Cost-of-Living issues will go live shortly, hosted by Community Action Derby.

Some other areas to highlight are where we have worked with Derbyshire County Council and the University to help small and medium sized businesses save costs and become more sustainable.

The DE-CARBONIZE team work closely with individual businesses and look at how they can achieve more efficient use of energy in lighting and equipment, increase their use of renewable energy, reduce waste, reduce carbon in areas like transport and support positive energy saving, and carbon reducing behaviours. The project has been funded by the European Regional Development Fund and, as this funding comes to an end, we hope to secure on-

going funding because this has been a hugely successful project and we know how much it is needed.

The Council is also working with and encouraging technology providers / developers that will provide a more stable, locally sourced energy provision for local resilience.

At the same time, we are investing heavily in our housing stock to make our homes more thermally efficient. Colleagues in Derby Homes are leading the way in increasing insulation as well as installing newer technology like air source heat pumps. We are also starting to tackle the private sector, and work has started in Mackworth to engage local landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties, which will contribute immediately to the pressure on people's bills.

The Climate Change Commissions' Housing Action Hub is also intelligence gathering to inform a city-wide retrofit strategy which will be essential in helping us target resources in the future.

You will also be aware of the Government commitment to provide a £150 energy cost rebate to eligible households, which the Council carried out earlier this year. Such dramatic figures for energy costs, however, need national solutions both to help vulnerable people in the immediate crisis and continued investment in renewable energy that will increase our energy security in the UK.



**v) Question from Cllr Shanker to Cllr Hassall**

**Could you please provide an update on Cost, Timescale & Scope for the Becketwell Arena?**

The Becketwell Performance Venue project is developer-led, with St James Securities (SJS) delivering the new venue for a fixed price (£45.8m) and the Council funding the project.

The project is being delivered in line with the agreed budget, programme, and scope.

The project has just passed through the design gateway for the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 3. Both the Council and ASM Global are involved in regular project progress meetings and have fed into the design process. RIBA Stage 4 design has commenced and is scheduled for completion in January 2023.

Key milestones in the project's delivery are as follows;

- The demolition of properties on Colyear Street has commenced on site and due to complete in the Autumn.
- Construction is due to start early in 2023 with the new venue opening in Spring 2025.

**w) Question from Cllr Repton to Cllr Eyre**

**What is the minority Conservative administrations current stance on libraries?**

Thank you for your question, Councillor Repton.

The Conservative Administration supports library services being co-designed and co-created with the active support, engagement, and participation of their communities so services are accessible and available to all who need them in the context of available resources.

Ultimately, libraries provide important services, libraries need to change to meet the changing nature of public use and so Libraries will be reviewed to assess what changes are needed.

**x) Question from Cllr Dhindsa to Cllr J Pearce**

**In January 2022 the Communities Scrutiny Board, that I Chaired, resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Streetpride and Public Spaces that the Council considers reintroducing compactor days. As you know compactor days were popular in all wards and provided a much needed service to our citizens; not to mention the benefit of keeping our streets environmentally clean and reducing fly tipping. Cutting the Compactor days budget was short sighted and unhelpful. Can I ask the Cabinet Member why the delay in responding to this resolution and what action is going to be taken to reintroduce a valuable service?**

The decision taken to reduce the budget used to deliver compactor days was taken in the context of the Council having to make difficult decisions to balance the budget in a challenging financial landscape.

There is still the ability to deliver compactor days using neighbourhood board budgets.

I have asked officers to provide me with a report showing data before and after the change to enable the Cabinet to consider the Communities Scrutiny recommendation. Once officers provide this report, I will be able to discuss this with the Cabinet.

**y) Questions from Cllr Peatfield (i) and Cllr Care (ii) to Cllr J Pearce**

**(i) How will the decision on the re-location of the Forest for the Future trees be made?**

**(ii) When the temporary 'urban forest' is dismantled, can local schools, community groups and others ask to rehome trees and shrubs to add value to all communities in Derby (noting that this was not a 'key decision')?**

The Council's Arboriculture team regularly review tree coverage to determine where replanting is needed and work with the parks team to ensure tree maintenance is managed effectively.

Whilst the team do have plans for where the trees should be replanted, they will happily take suggestions from schools, community groups and residents.

The services can be contacted by emailing [trees@derby.gov.uk](mailto:trees@derby.gov.uk).

**z) Question from Cllr S Khan to Cllr Smale**

**What reassurance can you give me that the exercise to dispose of Shaftesbury Sports Centre will be carried out fairly and equitably?**

The potential disposal of this, or any council (fixed and qualifying) asset is protected by statute. We will adhere to the law and ensure the Council meets its obligations and duties when any qualifying disposals are carried out.

**aa) Question from Cllr J Khan to Cllr Webb**

**Will you confirm publicly that Derby City Council supports and will continue to support assured tenancies across all our housing stock?**

Derby City Council does not offer Assured Tenancies.

New council tenants are usually offered Introductory Tenancies. These usually last 12 months and are like a 'trial' period and usually become secure (Lifetime Tenancies) after 12 months.

**bb) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr J Pearce**

**How has the use of glyphosate on Council-owned land (highways, parks, Derby Homes, etc.) changed in the 12 months since the Council passed a motion to avoid the routine use of pesticides in May 2021? What further changes are planned in the next 12 months?**

The products we choose are carefully selected to be as safe, effective and cost efficient as possible, and the potency of their active ingredients, such as glyphosate, are as low as possible whilst remaining effective. We have introduced some products that have a much lower glyphosate content than conventional herbicides helping to reduce their concentration.

Previously, the main herbicide of choice was Roundup Pro 480 which contains 480g/l potassium salt of glyphosate. This year we've moved to Roundup Pro 360 which has 360g/l, so a reduction of 120g/l. So, while the litres bought is on par with previous years, the glyphosate used has decreased. In essence, we've reduced glyphosate use by 25% this year on our city's streets, highways, kerbsides and wallsides. It's also worth mentioning that the cost of herbicides has gone through the roof, as much as 300% so we can't afford to buy more really.

We routinely explore new technologies to further reduce our use of herbicides, most recently including flame and hot foam techniques, although they are costly, inefficient and largely ineffective.

We benchmark ourselves against similar authorities to ensure best practice and in 2021, 24 authorities responded to the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)'s network query of "Does your local authority currently use herbicides containing glyphosate?". All respondents replied stating they used herbicides containing glyphosate.

The Council endeavours to deliver an effective weed control programme within the city and will continue to keep its use of approved herbicides to as low as reasonably practicable whilst trialling new weed control technologies as they come to market.

**cc) Question from Cllr AW Graves to Cllr J Pearce**

**Why has the Waterside café on Alvaston Park now stopped selling day tickets for the fishing on Alvaston Lake?**

**Moreover, why has no one informed or consulted the local councillors over this matter?**

**I understand that the council did not take any commission for this activity and that this may be the reason for the change of heart. How sad that the council decides it does not provide this public service.**

**It is also sad that as a business the council could not see that purchasing tickets from the café actually resulted in purchases of café products, such as teas, coffees, cobs and confectionery.**

Thank you for your question.

Following a recent Audit of the Waterside Café it was advised that the Council should not retain or handle monies and other items of potential value that belong to third parties. The number of tickets sold at the café was low and it was felt most appropriate for this operational matter to be discussed with the Angling Club.

Discussions with the Club and catering colleagues are ongoing and alternative options are being explored such as how to promote the sale of tickets from the café linking to the club's website and fishing tackle shops within the area.



**dd) Question from Cllr Martin to Cllr Barker**

**What is the waiting time for an appointment to register a death?**

The current wait time is approximately two to three days.

**ee) Question from Cllr Lind to Cllr Eyre**

**Please can the relevant cabinet member tell me how many successful prosecutions the PPO team have brought in 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 to date and breakdown of the figures by each ward.**

Our Public Protection Team manage fly tipping and other environmental demands in a number of ways, prosecution is one aspect. Other tools include Fixed Penalty Notices, Community Protection Warnings and Community Protection Notices. All of which follow education and advice.

In terms of court prosecutions, we have the following data available:

**2019** – Information not held

**2020** – Information not held

**2021** – 3 Prosecutions successful in Normanton Ward- see below break down.

07/06/21 – Fly Tip: Fine £100 – Cost £262 – Clean Up Costs £46 – Victim Surcharge £32

07/06/21 – Fly Tip: Costs £265.92 – Clean-up Costs £55 – Fine £200 – Contribution Costs £150 – Victim Surcharge £32

21/06/21 – Fly Tip: Fine £400 – Legal Costs £225 – Victim Surcharge £40

**2022** – Awaiting court dates – these have not been to court yet.

**ff) Question from Cllr Shanker to Cllr Smale**

**What is the current Market's offer to Derby residents in the City Centre?**

Derby Market Hall is scheduled to open in the first half of 2024. The current Market Offer is delivered from the Eagle Market.

**gg) Question from Cllr Dhindsa to Cllr Williams**

At Executive Scrutiny Board last week, I asked Officers how many children eligible for the Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) programme benefited from this. I was informed that out of 11,425 entitled to Free School Meals were eligible. In the last programme, delivered in Easter 2022, 3878 (34%) accessed the offer. Can the Cabinet Member: 1. Confirm whether the children attending were individual children or number attending all sessions; 2. Is this a good return for the funds allocated and what plans are in place to connect with the 7547 (66%) of eligible children who went without?

1. Confirm whether the children attending were individual children or number attending all sessions
  - 3,878 relates to individual children
2. Is this a good return for the funds allocated and what plans are in place to connect with the 7547 (66%) of eligible children who went without?
  - Based on the Summer 2021 HAF, (the only none Covid interrupted HAF programme) 616,000 children, nationally attended, funded by HAF and 498,000 were eligible for free school meals. There are 1.9m children eligible for free school meals therefore this equates to 32.4% (HAF funded attendances) 26.2% (free school meal eligible attendances) nationally.
  - Derby's work to date is comparable to the national picture for HAF delivery and attendances.

Plans to connect with the 66%:

- Appointment of a HAF Coordinator, responsible for the direct engagement and partnership with education establishments to reach eligible and vulnerable children.
- Continue to grow and develop the number of localised providers with our delivery partner, Community Action Derby, across all areas of the city. Providers that have well developed and trusted relationships with the target audience.
- Develop strong and collaborative partnerships between local education establishments and providers to improve not only an increase HAF reach and attendance, but also to develop holiday to holiday provision and support.

- Targeted and coordinated marketing and communications plan have been developed and implemented.
- Introduction, by Community Action Derby, of a digital platform to live track registrations and bookings for HAF activity to further allow for targeted communications.

**hh) Question from Cllr Peatfield to Cllr Smale**

**How many residents have now received their £150 Council Tax payment?**

The number of households which have received the Council Tax Energy Rebate to date is 82,699.

**ii) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Hassall**

**It has taken three years to agree a Climate Change Action Plan for the Council. How long will it take to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan, as requested in May last year? Note that although there are references to biodiversity in the Climate Change Action Plan this does not make it a Biodiversity Action Plan.**

We are working with Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park to produce a Natural Capital Study. This will help us understand our natural environment across the city, county, and the Peak Park. The work will set out the different habitats across the study area and provide an insight into the benefits these habitats bring, including economic and tourism benefits, as well as how each habitat helps address the impact of climate change.

The consultants carrying out the study have been commissioned by Derbyshire County Council and once concluded, they will produce a Nature Recovery Strategy. This will set out a strategic view of how habitats could be improved.

We expect this to be completed this autumn. Once we have this evidence base, Derby can start developing its own Biodiversity Action Plan, which will align with the Nature Recovery Strategy.

We are of course still waiting for the Government's response to the Secondary Legislation for the Environment Act, which should clarify what we must do once Bio-Diversity Net-Gain becomes mandatory in November 2023.

**jj) Question from Cllr AW Graves to Cllr J Pearce**

**This council has now placed 2 motions to full council about taking action on loud fireworks, one resolved to:**

- **Write to the relevant government Minister and the Members of Parliament for Derby North, Mid Derbyshire and Derby South urging them to introduce legislation to adopt ‘noiseless’ fireworks as a standard for distribution and retail sale to the general public;**
- **Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘noiseless’ fireworks for public sale and display;**
- **Engage with regular or annual fireworks events to consider the use of new technology at Firework events, such as drone light shows and ‘noiseless’ fireworks;**
- **Work towards a ‘fireworks charter’, that within the Derby City Council authority area, all retail outlets selling fireworks on general sale or storing fireworks commit to working with standards compliant manufacturers and the safe use and advertisement of those products**

**The first one from November 2020 resolved:**

- **To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be timely advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;**
- **To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;**
- **To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays;**
- **To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display**



**Yet to date the only thing the cabinet member has come up with is advice through a notice:**

### **BE A CONSIDERATE NEIGHBOUR THIS FIREWORKS SEASON**

**With Diwali and Bonfire Night approaching, Trading Standards in Derby are urging residents to think about the effects of fireworks on their neighbours and local wildlife.**

**There are some large, organised displays available in the city, such as at Derbyshire County Cricket Club but, for those planning their own display at home, there are a number of good neighbour tips to follow and some simple safety precautions everyone should follow:**

- Please tell your neighbours – whilst this is particularly important if your neighbours are elderly, have young children or pets, it is also important to remember not everyone is able to cope with unexpected loud noises**
- When buying fireworks try to avoid really noisy ones, particularly in built up areas, where the noise may bounce off close buildings. There are a number of reduced or low noise fireworks now available on the market which still have the same visual impact**
- Check to see if there are any farm animals nearby, as a startled animal can end up injuring itself**
- Keep your own pets and other animals safely away from where the fireworks are being set off**
- Read the safety instructions to ensure you're buying fireworks that are suitable for your garden; many fireworks have a safety distance of at least 8 metres but there are larger fireworks which require a safety distance of 25 metres – many homes do not have gardens long enough to use larger fireworks safely**
- Check the weather; in built up areas, a strong wind could blow a firework off course, potentially causing damage to neighbouring properties**

- **You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for:**
  - **Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight**
  - **New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am**
- **The law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places and it is against the law to carry fireworks in public if you're under 18**
- **Only purchase fireworks from shop premises and do not be tempted to buy fireworks from someone who is selling them in the street, from the back of a van or on social media**
- **Fireworks must have a CE mark and should have clear instructions and warnings in English**
- **Keep fireworks away from naked flames, including cigarettes**
- **Never use paraffin or petrol to light a bonfire**
- **Light sparklers one at a time, wearing gloves and never give sparklers to a child under 5. Children over 5 should be supervised and sparklers should be placed into water after use**
- **Keep fireworks out of the reach of children and animals, in dry areas away from flammable materials, including petrol, oil or paint**
- **Follow the instructions on each firework**
- **Light them at arm's length using a taper**
- **Stand well back and never go back to a lit firework**
- **Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw fireworks**
- **Have a full bucket of water handy for any emergency, and for putting used sparklers into**
- **Make sure that the fire is out and the surrounding area is made safe before leaving**

**Government has had ample time to change legislation to protect society from the worst effects of fireworks whilst keeping the tradition alive. Like many issues that concern Derby residents and those further afield, it seems the cabinet have done very little despite one of the motions coming from them.**

**Why have you spectacularly failed on this issue?**

Central Government received a petition around July 2021 asking for fireworks to be made quieter, and to review and reduce the decibel limit on fireworks. The petition is now closed and received 13,212 signatures. The Government responded on 25 November 2021, acknowledging that some people have strong feelings about Fireworks but when used responsibly, they are a source of enjoyment for many people.

It appears that Government is therefore unlikely to change the legislation in the near future in respect of this. However, that doesn't mean we won't continue to work towards the promotion of quieter fireworks in Derby City.

The response goes on to mention the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS). Trading Standards work closely with the OPSS on all safety matters. The response also mentions that the OPSS have been carrying out a programme of work on fireworks in response to concerns raised by the public and they continue to commission research and use evidence to inform their work.

The full response can be viewed on the following link:

**<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/590838>**

Although there doesn't appear to be a strong appetite for the sale of only "noiseless" fireworks i.e. those with a maximum decibel limit of 90db or lower from some retailers, the promotion of such products through media messaging by the OPSS, the Council and Charities alike, has already started to encourage some of the larger chain supermarkets to only stock those quieter fireworks or, ban the sale of fireworks from their stores completely. This is encouraging news in respect of the motions passed.

In Derby, there has also been a significant reduction in the number of premises licensed to store and sell fireworks. Over the past 4 years the number has dropped by nearly 50% and we will continue to monitor this, as the pandemic may also have had a part to play in that reduction.

Trading Standards also carry out a programme of underage sales activities to prevent the sale of fireworks to those under the age of 18 and their likely subsequent misuse. Last year out of the 6 premises tested, only one shop failed, and action was taken to bring them into compliance.

Regulations on safe storage and labelling also make it difficult for just anyone to sell fireworks and any reports of unlicensed or illegal sales would be investigated. There are also limits on the times when Fireworks can be used.

There is of course still more to be done to promote the use of quieter fireworks, and both Trading Standards and Licensing teams will be reviewing the best, most efficient, and cost-effective way to do this going forward, both in terms of the promotion, sale, use and public displays of Fireworks.

**kk) Question from Cllr Martin to Cllr Webb**

**Social care staff were eligible for a retention payment bonus this winter from the government through its Workforce Retention and Recruitment Fund. How many social care staff employed by the Council did not receive that bonus and why not?**

The Council and Joined Up Care Derbyshire agreed to a winter retention payment during Winter 2021/22, which was in addition to a range of grants made available by Government toward recruitment and retention issues in front line social care services. In terms of Council employees, there were 132 staff who were potentially eligible to receive the payment, and 84 staff have received the payment to date. Staff were not obliged to receive the payment, and the 48 eligible staff who did not receive the payment were those who did not meet the criteria that the Council had set.

## **II) Question from Cllr Shanker to Cllr Smale**

**Without the reliance on reserves did the 21/22 Financial years revenue budget underspend or overspend?**

On 13 July the Cabinet received and approved the out-turn report for 2021/22.

In 2021/22 the costs of services before use of reserves were £1.265 million overspent.

After the application of reserves and other additional funding, reported through the quarterly monitoring, the Council's final financial position was a surplus of £2.826 million.

Given the ongoing impact of Covid in 2021/22 and emerging economic pressures this is a good outcome.

**mm) Question from Cllr Dhindsa to Cllr J Pearce**

**Since April 2019 total visits available at Raynesway Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) for Derby Citizens have reduced from 27,429 to 12,576 in May 2022 – this is 54% reduction in service. During the same period total tonnage removed has dropped from 2,000 to 787 Tonnes – 61% reduction. Not surprisingly operating costs for the Raynesway HWRC have reduced from £185,700 per month (on average) to £86,129. Your Conservative administration’s Policy of continuing to persist solely with access through an online booking system has contributed to this reduced service whilst making massive cuts. As I have said many times Derby citizens are not getting access to the HWRC, especially those in deprived communities. Making cuts to fund your pet projects is more of a priority to you than providing an easily accessible service to our citizens. This means more household waste is being left on our streets and back alleyways causing environmentally unfriendly, unhygienic neighbourhoods. What actions are you going to take to correct this injustice for many of our Derby Citizens?**

The booking system ensures the customers we serve have fair access to visit Raynesway HWRC and dispose of their domestic waste properly. We continue to monitor and adjust availability to meet customers’ needs. Generally, booking availability exceeds demand, with available visits the same or next day. Booking online is easiest, but bookings may also be made over the phone, and should customers need additional help, the team would be happy to assist.

The booking system enables the council to restrict access to those with non-domestic waste who should not legally be using the site, as well as those from outside the city and county area. As a result, the Council is fulfilling its statutory duty at a significantly reduced cost with the savings contributing to a balanced budget and supporting essential services.

Removing these controls would see the Council take responsibility for these avoidable disposal costs. Access to site during peak demand would be unmanaged, which could lead to gridlock and inconvenience to our customers and local businesses.

We recognise that some residents may need support to be able to access the booking system online and will work with our communities, within their localities to better understand this. There also continues to be targeted work within neighbourhoods to help to solve waste issues such as clean up days.



**nn) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Webb**

**Covid has not gone away, and recent articles suggest it is showing no signs of evolving into an annual infection cycle like flu. What longer term advice and action is being proposed in Derby to help businesses, schools, and individuals to minimise the spread of infections, including Covid and the impacts of long Covid?**

National policy has now moved to a 'Living with COVID' strategy with a focus on the use of vaccination and individual awareness of respiratory symptoms.

Covid is still circulating within our population and we are relying on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) survey data, along with local hospital admissions to understand the local burden of infection.

We continue to emphasise the current national advice which includes:

- Taking up the offer of vaccination when eligible
- Using fresh air- open windows or meet outside
- Practise good hygiene:
  - wash your hands
  - cover your coughs and sneezes
  - clean your surroundings frequently
- Wear a face covering or a face mask when in crowded indoor areas with people you would not normally mix with.

We continue to offer an advice service to schools as needed. We will be working with our NHS colleagues to promote the Covid booster and Influenza vaccination campaigns in the autumn.

**oo) Question from Cllr AW Graves to Cllr Hassall**

**Can the council inform me as to why Derby did not apply for any of the Active Travel Funding for 2022-2023?**

**You may be aware that Nottingham and Leicester applied and received over £2m each.**

**There is no reason a good walking, wheeling and cycling scheme covering London Road could not be designed and installed. It would hugely improve the feel of the street, benefiting all residents, all local businesses and anyone passing through the area as well. The same could be said for other roads around the Allenton, Alvaston, Wilmorton areas- and of course much of the rest of the city, too.**

**Drivers as well as residents of nearby housing, workers in local businesses, pedestrians and cyclists benefit from well-designed active travel schemes: More people walking, wheeling and cycling short journeys means less congestion for people who still need or want to drive. This has been demonstrated across many cities in the UK and the world- Derby can benefit from the experience of others to install best-practice design.**

**Can I ask if Derby will be applying for any funding this year?**

As I explained in the previous question on the same subject, we had been successful in the previous rounds of Active Travel Fund, which had been set up in response to the pandemic. At the same time, we were working on our Transforming Cities Fund schemes.

It was clear that the tranche 3 fund was primarily aimed at major corridor improvements where schemes were already well-advanced, and this type of intervention was already part of our Transforming Cities Fund proposals. Our teams were already fully committed, and it was highly unlikely we would receive funding for the same sort of activity from Government.

**pp) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Hassall**

**Are any temperature and air quality measurements being taken to identify any impact of the temporary 'forest' in the Market Place?**

The Forest of the Future is made up of trees that will be planted in parks and open spaces across the city at the end of the temporary project. Due to the short-term nature of the city centre project, temperatures are not being recorded.

The Council recognises the wider benefits of planting trees and rewilding the city alongside carbon capture including: the regulation of local climatic conditions including shading and cooling, wildlife habitats and the important role they play in health and wellbeing.

**qq) Question from Cllr AW Graves to Cllr J Pearce**

**Can the cabinet member update me on the rules for bonfires in Derby.**

**I was advised that we are a smokeless zone and as such no bonfires are allowed without a permit.**

**Clarity would be useful to the whole of the city. Can you also provide contact details for residents if anyone is breaching the rules.**

The whole of Derby City Council area is a smoke control area, but this relates to smoke from chimneys and the requirement is to have an exempt appliance or only used authorised smokeless fuels.

Smoke control areas however do not relate to bonfires. We can however potentially take action on regular bonfires if the smoke can be classed as a statutory nuisance, and for this we will investigate to establish the amount of smoke, the frequency, duration, how unreasonable the activity is etc.

The Air Quality Action plan includes a Bonfires Policy, and this is currently under review.

Further information on both smoke control areas and bonfires is available on our webpages as below:

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/trading-standards-environmental-health/environmental-health/environmental-protection/air-quality/>

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/trading-standards-environmental-health/environmental-health/environmental-protection/smoke-nuisance/>

**rr) Question from Cllr Care to Cllr Poulter**

**Assuming that 'levelling up' continues as a theme under the next Prime Minister, what consultation will be done with the public to help identify potential bids from Derby?**

There are a number of funding streams linked to Levelling Up and we are undertaking appropriate consultation whenever possible, within the time constraints allowed.