

Item 11**Questions on Notice with Answers****1. Status of Public Housing Redevelopment in the City of Sydney - March 2026**

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What Homes NSW sites is Council aware are currently proposed or under development in the Local Government Area (LGA)?

(Please list addresses of sites)
2. For each of these individual sites, what is their development status?

(For example, please specify if there is a development application under assessment, development approved, rezoning approved but no development application, pre-DA inquiries, construction underway, or construction complete)
3. Is the Council aware of any additional public housing sites with the NSW Government has investigated or has considered redeveloping, in the LGA?

(Please list addresses)
4. Following on from question 3, how did Council become aware that additional public housing sites are being considered for development, by the NSW Government?

(Please specific if the NSW Government has advised council of its intention through correspondence or a meeting, or has made pre -DA inquiries, has made a public announcement or through some other method)
5. Has Council undertaken any assessment to identify or suggest public housing sites to Homes NSW or the NSW Government, which could be subject of potential redevelopment?
6. If Council has undertaken an assessment of further public housing sites, why has it done this?
7. If yes, which sites?
8. If yes, was it at the request of the NSW Government, or initiated by Council?
9. If yes, what engagement or consultation did Council undertake with public housing tenants, who live on those estates?
10. If yes, what criteria did Council consider in its an assessment of further public housing sites?

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. No further developments since the similar Questions on Notice - 15 December 2025:
 - (a) D/2023/21: 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe. Landowner is Homes NSW. Approved development comprises 43 social housing units.
 - (b) SSD-51274973: 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern. Landowner is Homes NSW. Development comprises 4 new buildings for market housing, social (147 units), affordable (197 units) and specialist disability accommodation (11 including 1 carers unit), a community facility and commercial uses. The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was approved by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October 2025.
 - (c) SSD-93222706: Rezoning and concept SSDA for Waterloo Estate (South). Landowner is Homes NSW. The draft proposal to include at least 30% social housing. The applicant is currently preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal and has undertaken consultation with the City.
2.
 - (a) Onsite work has commenced; all buildings have been demolished.
 - (b) No onsite work has started. Bridge Housing NSW is reapplying for funding from the Housing Australia Future Fund.
 - (c) No onsite work has started. Stockland is nearing lodgement of an SSDA to modify the concept approval.
3. 13-21 Nicholson Street, 56-66 Nicholson Street, and 20-26 Forbes Street, Woolloomooloo.
4. Through the submission of 2 pre-Development Application requests.
5. Other than what is said in the Housing For All Discussion paper, no.
6. Not applicable.
7. Not applicable.
8. Not applicable.
9. Not applicable.
10. Not applicable.

2. Discount and Free Childcare Sessions

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

The 2025/26 Quarter 2 Review – Delivery Program 2025-2029 was reported to the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, on 16 February 2026. The Delivery Report provides an update to Council on a range of targets and measures on Council action and services, including discounted or free child care sessions.

1. Who can access Council's discounted or free childcare sessions?
2. How many discounted or free childcare sessions did Council offer in 2024/5?
3. How many discounted or free childcare sessions did Council provide in total, in 2024/5?
4. At which sites does Council offer discounted or free childcare sessions?
(Please list addresses of sites)
5. At which sites is Council offering discounted or free childcare sessions in 2025/6 (i.e. the current financial year)?
(Please list addresses of sites)
6. What childcare centres - at which Council offers discounted or free childcare sessions - have closed in 2025/6?
(Please provide addresses and close dates)
7. What were the reasons for the closures?
8. What is the target for the number of discounted and free childcare sessions Council will provide in 2025/6?
9. As of December 2025, how many discounted or free childcare sessions were provided?
10. The numbers are lower than projected for the year so far. Was this as a result of the centres closing, or another reason?
(Please provide details)

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Families who meet set criteria can access discounted or free childcare sessions at all 10 of the City of Sydney's operated education and care services. Families can access discounted or free sessions through:
 - the Federal Government's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) program. These subsidies include factors such as residency, the amount of care provided, family income, and the child meeting immunisation and age requirements. Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) may cover most or all fees for families experiencing hardship, supporting child wellbeing, or caring as grandparents.
 - The NSW Government's Start Strong program, which can also reduce preschool costs for 3–5-year-olds, providing annual fee relief on top of CCS for up to 600 hours per year of early childhood education. Some children qualify for higher fee relief amounts if they are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background, from a low-income family, or have disability or additional needs.
 - The City of Sydney's Relief and Fee programs, which enable families to access fee discounts or free places. Criteria include:
 - children who are trans and gender diverse
 - someone who lives with the child accessing the service, and is a person who is trans and gender diverse
 - children with a disability, developmental delay and/or behavioural challenges
 - someone who lives with the child accessing the service, and is a person with disability, including temporary disabilities from injuries, a chronic health issue, a mental health condition (can be either ongoing or episodic)
 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
 - children in Temporary Care Arrangement
 - family requiring support with parenting skills
 - low-income families not eligible for CCS or families living in social housing
 - families experiencing social isolation and requiring assistance in accessing service and resources
 - primary carer eligible for 85% CCS or above with only 24 hours per fortnight of care requirement
 - referral from a support agency, medical or allied health professional
 - at risk of serious abuse or neglect
 - families on refugee or humanitarian visas.
2. As reported in the Delivery program 2025-2029 annual progress report 2024/25, we offered 16,951 discounted or free childcare sessions in 2024/25.

3. As reported in the Delivery program 2025-2029 annual progress report 2024/25, we provided 16,951 discounted or free childcare sessions in 2024/25.
4. The City of Sydney provides discounted or free childcare sessions at all 10 of our education and care services. These are Woolloomooloo Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), Redfern OSHC, Ultimo OSHC, Pyrmont OSHC, King George V OSHC, Surry Hills OSHC, Hilda Booler Kindergarten, Broughton Street Kindergarten, Redfern Occasional Care Centre and Eveleigh Early Learning and Preschool. Address details can be found on our [website](#).
5. In 2025/26 we continue to provide discounted or free childcare sessions at all 10 of our education and care services.
6. No City of Sydney operated childcare centres closed in 2025/26 or prior.
7. No City of Sydney operated childcare centres closed in 2025/26 or prior.
8. There is no target for the number of discounted and free childcare sessions we will provide in 2025/26, as take up depends on the individual eligibility of each family for the relevant schemes.
9. As reported in the Delivery program 2025-2029 December 2025 progress report, we provided 7,218 discounted and free childcare sessions to December 2025.
10. This represents an 8.9% decrease compared with the same period last year (7,923). As outlined in the delivery plan, this reflects the recent change to Woolloomooloo Children's Program becoming a Child Care Subsidy (CCS) registered service in addition to offering free care for eligible families. Some families now receive CCS funding to cover the cost of sessions of care in place of the City offering discounted or free sessions for that family. This enables more families to access free and subsidised care through the service but does reduce the number of sessions of care being offered free directly by the City, in addition to those through the Commonwealth CCS program. This change was previously reported to Councillors via the CEO Update of 7 March, 2025.

3. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Support

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

There are increasing numbers of people sleeping rough in the Local Government Area (LGA). The 2025/26 Quarter 2 Review – Delivery Program 2025-2029 provided an update to the number of people exiting rough sleeping.

1. How many people is Council aiming to support, to exit rough sleeping and into housing, in 2025/6?
2. How many people has council been able to support, to exit rough sleeping:
 - (a) in 2023/4?
 - (b) in 2024/5?

- (c) to December 2025 (i.e. the first half of 2025/6)?
3. What are the key reasons or barriers that Council is seeing, which are preventing people being supported to move from rough sleeping and into housing?

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City of Sydney provides support to all people sleeping rough in our local area through direct support, advocacy and the programs we fund.
2. As reported in the Delivery program annual progress reports:
 - (a) 211 people were supported to exit rough sleeping as a result of a program supported by the City of Sydney in 2023/24.
 - (b) 230 people were supported to exit rough sleeping as a result of a program supported by the City of Sydney in 2024/25.
 - (c) 59 people were supported to exit rough sleeping as a result of a program supported by the City of Sydney to December 2025.
3. As reported in the Delivery program annual progress report and 20 February 2026 CEO Update provided to Councillors, reasons and barriers are explained that are preventing people being supported to move from rough sleeping and into housing.

4. Interest on Council's Cash Investments 2025/26

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What was the Council's cash investment position (i.e. total amount of cash reserves), at the start of the 2025/6 financial year?
2. In the City of Sydney's current Long Term Financial Plan and annual budget, how much interest on its cash investments did Council estimate it would receive over the financial year 2025/26?
3. In the City of Sydney's current Long Term Financial Plan and annual budget, how much interest on its cash investments did Council estimate it would receive by February 2026?
4. How much did Council estimate it would have in unrestricted cash reserves, by February 2026?
5. Council's cash investments held as at 28 February 2026 were reported to council at the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on Monday 16 March 2026.
 - (a) What is the amount of Council's cash reserves as of February 2026?
 - (b) What is the amount of Council's unrestricted cash reserves as of February 2026?

6. Are there updated estimates for the amount of Council's cash reserves, projected to the end of 2025/26? Is yes, please provide details.

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City held cash and investments of \$765.0M.
2. The City has budgeted to receive \$30.4M for 2025/26, as shown in the Long Term Financial Plan.
3. The City budgeted to receive \$20.3M to the end of February 2026.
4. Restrictions are calculated on a quarterly basis and shown in the Quarterly Reports to Council. At the end of Quarter 2, restricted cash amounted to \$373.2M. As noted in the Quarter 2 Report the annual forecast as at 30 June 2026 was \$338.7M for restricted cash and \$365.1M for unrestricted cash.
5.
 - (a) The City held cash and investments of \$706.5M at the end of February 2026, as noted in the February Investment Report.
 - (b) The City held unrestricted cash and investments of \$333.3M at the end of February 2026, as noted in the February Investment Report.

The unrestricted balance of cash and investments represents working capital, and funding required for the City's operating and capital expenditure commitments, including much of the City's forward capital works program as outlined in the Long Term Financial Plan.

6. The current projection for cash and investments at the end of June 2026 is \$703.8M.