

AGENDA ITEM 5iii

Question Time

Àm Ceiste

There are circulated Responses to the Questions on the Council Agenda which it was indicated would follow –

Member Questions

(3) Mrs T Robertson

To the Chair of Housing and Property Committee

“Artificial grass pitches are a significant source of microplastic pollution. The number of these is growing across HIGHLAND.

The weather, pitch maintenance and the shoes and clothes of players can dislodge and transport the microplastic granules away from the field. Each pitch requires replacement of up to 5 tonnes of micro crumb infill on a yearly basis to maintain the standard.

Microplastic pollution has an impact on the soil, waterways and ultimately the ocean.

What practical steps are being taken to reduce or prevent microplastic loss from artificial pitches across our estate?”

Synthetic playing surfaces allow much more hours of usage than grass playing fields and therefore contribute to the general health and wellbeing of school pupils and the wider community.

The Council has an inspection and maintenance contract in place for all synthetic surfaces which reduces the need for significant topping up of the infill material. High use areas, such as goalmouths, corners, and penalty spots, require more regular replenishment but this may only be a relatively small amount each year.