

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 11

14 MARCH 2013

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Heslop for answer by the Lord Provost at a meeting of the Council on 14 March 2013

Question

'To ask the leader what help and advice the Council will give in assisting veterans, their widows and relatives of the Arctic Convoys from Edinburgh in obtaining their much-deserved medals.'

Answer

The Arctic Star and Bomber Command Clasp are promoted on a dedicated web page on the Veterans UK website (http://www.veterans-uk.info/arctic_star_index.htm) along with links to the [eligibility criteria](#) and [applications forms](#).

Eligible veterans and next of kin are encouraged to apply using the relevant forms.

In line with the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant, officers in the Corporate Policy and Strategy Development Team within Corporate Governance have contacted the Edinburgh Garrison to discuss ways in which the Council can help promote this opportunity.

Subject to the outcome of these discussions, this could take the form of promoting relevant information and a link to the Veterans UK web pages on the Council Homepage and/or Edinburgh Partnership web pages.

Paul Kingham at the Edinburgh Garrison, tel 0131 310 5022, can also offer assistance.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2013**

Question

What measures are the Council taking to promote and encourage community renewables.

Answer

The recently established Corporate Policy and Strategy Team (CPST) is remitted to support the development of community energy co-operatives in Edinburgh and in doing so will promote and encourage community renewables.

CPST organised a successful first meeting of a new Edinburgh Sustainable Strategic Partnership on 18 February. As a specific action arising from this meeting the Edinburgh Community Energy Co-operative (EC)² undertook to convene an early meeting of community and council officer energy stakeholders, including officers with planning, housing, asset and finance remits. This will be taken forward by Changeworks under their existing energy project remit with the Council.

The purpose of this meeting will be to identify specific opportunities for the Council to facilitate the development and expansion of community energy projects across the city and to share information. The target date for this meeting is mid-April 2013, after the Easter break.

An important context for this meeting is the four main outcomes from the recent *Community and Co-operative Energy in Edinburgh: The Next Steps* seminar hosted by the Council in December 2012. These were:

- projects to promote the insulation of existing buildings;
- community-scale renewable electricity generating projects (e.g. urban wind turbines);
- microgeneration installations for domestic, community and local commercial buildings; and
- negotiating, managing and promoting bulk-buy collective energy purchasing deals.

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 March 2013

Question

What measures are the council taking to promote energy saving in the council estate.

Answer

The Council is committed to reducing energy consumption across its property estate and has delivered a number of associated projects over the past few years such as;

- Tyncastle High School - use of waste heat from distillery
- *Voltage optimisation installed across majority of High Schools
- Voltage optimisation to be installed in City Chambers in March/April 2013 following which City Chambers lighting review to be carried out
- **Electricity Capacity Reduction in 32 properties (saving circa £20k per annum) with ongoing investigation into other potential opportunities for capacity reduction
- Building Management Systems strategic review (survey and assessment) underway. This is seen as one of the key enablers in understanding, monitoring and controlling consumption and targeting efficiency projects)
- Fitted water, electricity and gas SMART meters to high consuming buildings to provide more accurate and real-time consumption data.

- Raised awareness amongst staff and building users to reduce consumption through their own actions such as switch lighting off when areas not in use and turning heating down before opening windows, etc.

Through the iPFM programme a lot more work in this area is planned over the next few years to reduce energy consumption by 20% and become an upper quartile performer. Initiatives include;

- Reviewing and updating the Councils energy policy and carbon reduction plan.
- Creating targeted annual 'invest to save' programmes to upgrade existing inefficient buildings such as heating, lighting, insulation and controls. Where possible secure other funding streams to complement Council budgets and therefore achieve more.
- Investment in micro generation where technically feasible and financial viable such as solar photovoltaic (PV) and biomass.
- Run more targeted and sustained energy awareness campaigns for staff and building users.
- Develop a network of 'energy champions' across the council
- Work with and learn from organisations with high levels of expertise in this area such as The Carbon Trust.

* Voltage Optimisation (technically this is voltage reduction - essentially most equipment runs at 230V and doesn't need the 240V supplied, by stepping down this reduces our waste)

**Capacity Reduction (technically CEC reviews and where appropriate reduces the "reserved" capacity it has on the network with resultant financial savings - no physical intervention in buildings required)