

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 8

20 November 2014

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 20 November 2014**

Question

What further action has been taken to implement a proactive approach to the sweeping of leaves from footpaths and cyclepaths since the answer to my last question on this issue in November 2013.

Answer

I have attached my earlier Answer for ease of reference. In addition in November 2013, I agreed in response to a Supplementary Question by Councillor Booth to explore how a proactive approach could be taken to clearing leaves from priority footpaths and cycle paths in future.

The Acting Director has confirmed that leaves continue to be removed as part of regular street cleaning activity between September and December.

In addition, the introduction of Confirm Management System allows us to monitor requests for leaf removal from particular locations including footpaths and cycleways. Confirm highlights locations where leaf fall is more significant and resources are being utilised to remove high levels of leaf fall from any identified locations. With the introduction of Confirm we can now monitor which locations receive the most enquiries relating to fallen leaves. This will help us to prioritise leaf removal in the city.

Appendix

Question by Councillor Booth answered by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at the Council meeting on 21 November 2013

Question	What measures do the Council have in place to sweep a) footpaths and b) cycle paths of fallen leaves during the autumn?
Answer	Leaves will be removed as part of the regular street cleaning activity. However as the frequency that streets are cleaned varies depending the type of street (e.g. town centre, residential, rural etc...) we will target those areas which experience heavy leaf fall with additional leaf removal collections between October and December. This has the added advantage of allowing leaf collection to be separate from street litter which means it can be disposed of through composting rather than going to landfill. Footpaths are given a higher priority where higher levels of pedestrian traffic are present compared to outlying areas. Off road paths that can be used by pedestrians and cyclists are cleared of leaves using a mechanical sweeper as part of cleaning operations that also remove litter and glass. As with footpaths those parts of the off road cycle routes that have significant leaf fall will receive additional treatments as required.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Orr for answer by the
Depute Leader of the Council at a
meeting of the Council on 20
November 2014**

Question

With the Star Flyer due to reappear from the 21st of November, what assurances have been received that that the ride is safe i.e. that there will not be a repeat of the incident from December 2013 when one of the fibreglass seats fell off in mid air, and fortunately only landed on the box office roof below; an incident reported to have been “the scariest experience of my life” by the young lady who bought the ticket?

Answer

Industry assurance scheme

The fairground and amusement park industry has established the Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS) to improve and promote the safety of fairgrounds and amusement parks. This is recognized as a best practice scheme by the Health and Safety Executive.

ADIPS-accredited engineers issue safety certificates for each ride in Edinburgh’s Christmas every year, after checking the mechanical and electrical safety of the rides.

The Council’s Public Safety team checks that all rides are installed in the agreed locations, and that the rides have valid ADIPS safety certificates and Public Liability insurance. The operators test the running of each ride daily, before opening for business.

There are three examples of this Star Flyer model operating in the UK and many similar models operating in London and elsewhere in Europe. All of these Star Flyers have an excellent safety record – it is very rare for any incident to occur.

Details of the December 2013 incident

The incident in December 2013 was of course deeply regrettable.

The fibreglass cover shell of the back of one of the metal seats of the Star Flyer fell from a height of less than 10 metres onto the ride's ticket office roof. The seat itself remained in place.

The Star Flyer was immediately stopped and not reactivated until an ADIPS-accredited engineer examined the ride, recommended remedial action revising the fixing of the shell covers to the seats, and ensured this was carried out before the ride was restarted the following day. There were no further incidents following this action. In total, 62,000 people enjoyed the Star Flyer last year.

The revised design is now a mandatory part of the ride's certification and maintenance record and is in use this year

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 20 November 2014**

Question

Could figures be provided on an annual basis for the last six years for the following:-

- (a) the number of incidences of fly tipping, including on street?
- (b) the costs for clearing this fly-tipping?
- (c) the income received from bulk uplifts for the period noted?

Answer

- (a) The number of fly tipping incidents reported from May 2014 to October 2014 is 3,118. The Confirm Management System introduced in March 2014 records and manages reports of fly tipping. The Confirm system will enable locations and sites where fly tipping is a problem to be identified. Prior to the introduction of Confirm, figures are not available on the number of incidents relating to fly tipping.
- (b) Fly tipping incidents vary from one single item to large accumulations. The bulk uplift cost for fly-tipping amount to £155k per annum and account for approximately 45% of fly-tipping incidents. The remaining incidents are picked up as part of usual street cleansing crew activities and therefore costs are not detailed separately.
- (c) Special Uplift charges were introduced in 2010/11. The income received from customer booked Special Uplifts for bulky household items is:

2014/15	£160,002	(7months) (extrapolated to 12 months would give £274,285)
2013/14	£248,281	
2012/13	£235,769	
2011/12	£266,648	
2010/11	£289,054	

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 20 November 2014**

Question (1) How many times have the refuse collection vehicles been unavailable for scheduled work over the last year?

Answer (1) For the period 1st November 2013 to the 30th October 2014, refuse collection vehicles were available for scheduled work 82.18% of the time. Over this period the total number of days, across all vehicles, was 14,235. The 'lost days' due to vehicles being off the road amounted to 2,536.

Question (2) What impact has this had on collection times – and how many delayed or missed collections have been caused by this?

Answer (2) The service is designed to have a margin of spare capacity (additional vehicles) to allow it to deal with vehicle breakdowns and also has the ability to hire vehicles if demand for the spare capacity is exceeded. Any vehicle breakdown has the capacity to impact on service delivery. However being unable to run a refuse route due to lack of vehicles is not a regular occurrence and data specific to this eventuality is not recorded.

Recent records relating to refuse operations have been reviewed and one instance where a route could not run due to the lack of suitable refuse vehicle was identified. This related to a specialised vehicle, which serves the side loading communal bins, where it wasn't possible to source replacement parts at short notice.

Question (3) What is the cost in hiring vehicle cover to enable the service to be delivered?

Answer (3) The cost of hiring refuse collection vehicles is approximately £90,000 per year.

However, the Council has recently procured eight new refuse collection vehicles which will be delivered within the next two months. This will save the Council a minimum of

£90,000 per year in reduced costs of maintenance, breakdown repairs and temporary hire of replacement vehicles whilst improving operational efficiency.

Whilst breakdowns and vehicles being off road will impact on performance it should be noted that 99.8% of all collections are made as scheduled. This is in the context of 460,000 bin collections a week.

Question

- (4) Have any vehicles hired been staffed by Council staff or have we had to hire in vehicles with crews? If we have, have Council staff been redeployed on other duties?

Answer

- (4) Where a vehicle is hired in the vehicle is staffed by Council employees or contracted agency staff in line with our normal arrangements. The service does not routinely hire in vehicles and external crews. The only exception to this is over the festive period where the Council may be required to use additional resources (both vehicles and crews), via contract, to cover staff holiday periods. The external crews are however managed by Council employees.

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Aitken for answer by
the Convener of the Education
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 20
November 2014**

Question (1) What was the timescale for the Wisepay pilot?

Answer (1) The pilot in Edinburgh includes five schools – Sciennes, Currie, and Craigroyston Primaries and Firrhill and Balerno High schools. The focus of the project has been to improve the customer experience by introducing an on line payments system for an extensive range of activities requiring payments from parents including meals ,milk, trips, events, fundraisers ; an integrated communications system; and an integrated back office school fund management system.

By February 2014 all functionality at primary and secondary level had been tested.

Question (2) Has this now been completed?

Answer (2) Yes. The feedback from parents and schools has been extremely positive.

The pilot schools are continuing to use Wisepay pending detailed consideration of the next steps towards the wider application of an online payments system across the school sectors.

Question (3) If so, when can this or any other “integrated on-line payment” system be implemented throughout the school estate?

Answer (3) During 2014 Edinburgh has been closely involved in a national procurement process for online school payments, led by the Improvement Service/Scotland Excel. This work is now complete and a national framework agreement has been set up with three suppliers. The launch of the framework took place on 14 November 2014.

The initial next step (on the assumption that the Council framework is adopted) will be to evaluate each supplier and determine which supplier best meets Edinburgh’s user

needs. Price and affordability will also be critical in this assessment. Subject to this it would be anticipated that the roll out would take place in 2015/16.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Aitken for answer by
the Convener of the Finances and
Resource Committee at a meeting of
the Council on 20 November 2014**

Question (1) When will the Integrated Property Facilities Management Review be undertaken, given the pressures on the SSO (Service Support Officers) in the "Campus" model?

Answer (1) The iPFM programme is currently work in progress. The next stage includes a review of the Service Support Officers "Campus" model.

Question (2) Will a project team be reinstated to undertake the review?

Answer (2) Yes.

Question (3) If so, please can you provide definitive timescales for completion of this review?

Answer (3) Not at this point but it is anticipated that the revised Service Support Officer model will be completed by the end of March 2015 with overall implementation in Spring 2015.

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the
Convener of the Economy Committee
at a meeting of the Council on 20
November 2014**

Question (1) (a) How many contracts have been awarded since 2008 to Carole Claridge / C2 Management Consulting of Brighton, East Sussex?

Answer (1) (a) 10 contracts in total have been awarded over the last six years to C2 Management Consulting. No contracts have been awarded to Carole Claridge directly.

(b) What is the value of each contract/commission?

(b) The value of each purchase order is:

Order Date	Amount	Description
13/10/2008	6,000.00	Production of the Economic Development 3 year plan
11/05/2009	6,350.00	Review of progress against the 3 year plan
27/11/2009	2,255.00	The development of early policy work which eventually led to the setting up of the Scottish Cities Alliance
20/07/2010	20,247.44	Marketing Edinburgh Integration bringing together DEMA, the Edinburgh Conference Bureau and Film Focus. This involved a feasibility study and business case which was produced at the request of the DMA board, working to the board and Chairman.
26/07/2010	400.05	Preparation work for the Marketing Edinburgh Board away day.
23/02/2011	13,000.00	Development of the Strategy for Jobs
14/06/2011	1,450.00	Delivery of a Strategy Workshop for City partners on Monday 4 July 2011
18/10/2011	4,475.00	Delivery & write up of 2 econ strategy workshops on 31 Aug & 13 Oct.

Order Date	Amount	Description
01/05/2014	2,450.00	Development of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan
17/06/2014	7,000.00	Preparation of the Energy Services Company Business Case

(c) On how many of these contracts was a procurement exercise undertaken?

(c) As a result of the relatively low values of each commission these are not recorded on the Council's contract register. However the market was continually tested to ensure value for money for this type of work.

Orders since 2010 have been reported in the Council's annual report on consultancy spend. Orders in 2014 were approved through waiver reports in accordance with Contract Standing Orders and reported to Finance and Resources Committee on 30 October.

(d) What connection has the Council or officials with Carole Claridge / C2 Management Consulting of Brighton, East Sussex?

(d) The Director of Economic Development has contracted intermittently with C2 Management Consulting over a period of the last decade both here in Edinburgh and at the South East Economic Development Agency. The work provided by this company is well informed, consistent and is cost effective compared to the rates that would be charged by economic development consultancy houses elsewhere.

Question (2) (a) How many contracts have been awarded since 2008 to Ward Sparrow of Crowborough, East Sussex?

Answer (2) (a) No contracts have been awarded to Ward Sparrow directly. Effective Contracting Limited, a company which Ward was a Director of, were awarded 13 contracts in the period 2008-2012, with a total of 23 purchase orders being raised on these contracts.

Several of these have been a continuation of work in 2008/2009 to stabilise EDI, WEL and the other property companies during the credit crunch. The interim management arrangements with WEL and EDI were endorsed by the respective boards of the Arms Length Companies. Effective Contracting Limited helped avoid a loss of upwards of £60m on land investments, particularly at the Waterfront, as well as reducing the arms length companies running costs by £1m per annum.

(b) What is the value of each contract/commission?

(b) The value of each purchase order is:

Order Date	Amount	Description
29/07/2008	10,000.00	Interim management of arms length company WEL
04/08/2008	5,000.00	Edinburgh International Science Festival - Business Case Analysis which led to a Council saving of £50k
08/10/2008	19,143.00	Interim management of arms length company WEL
04/12/2008	16,044.09	Interim management of arms length company WEL
11/05/2009	7,678.72	Interim management of arms length company EDI
07/07/2009	25,000.00	Interim management of arms length company EDI
22/09/2009	25,500.00	Interim management of arms length company EDI
21/10/2009	36,165.00	Interim management of EDI for September to December 2009
21/01/2010	15,559.00	Physical Development Review (including restructure of Arms Length Companies)
02/07/2010	16,487.00	Audit of City Development wider economic support services
10/08/2010	4,320.00	Advice on financial engineering relevant to JESSICA Pre-call
04/11/2010	15,269.50	Providing support to Investment zones to develop business plans and future delivery options
18/08/2011	4,850.00	Review of Edinburgh International Climbing Arena - September 2011 50% of fee. This was on behalf of Culture and Sport
07/09/2011	8,170.00	Final payment for review of Arms Length property companies
12/10/2011	4,850.00	Review of Edinburgh International Climbing Arena - September 2011 50% of fee. This was on behalf of Culture and Sport

Order Date	Amount	Description
12/12/2011	18,000.00	To provide management support to and evaluation of the IOIT Open Innovation Project as per contract agreement. 40% covered from European funding. As a result, Edinburgh has benefited in income on this programme to the value of £800,000.
12/12/2011	1,635.96	Reimbursement of expenses incurred in fulfilment of IOIT Open Innovations Project contract. 40% covered from European funding. As a result, Edinburgh has benefited in income on this programme to the value of £800,000.
27/02/2012	1,800.00	Reimbursement of expenses incurred in fulfilment of IOIT Open Innovations Project contract. 40% covered from European funding. As a result, Edinburgh has benefited in income on this programme to the value of £800,000.
27/02/2012	18,000.00	To provide management support to and evaluation of the IOIT Open Innovation Project as per contract agreement. 40% covered from European funding. Edinburgh has benefited in income on this programme to the value of £800,000.
27/04/2012	7,200.00	To provide management support to and evaluation of the IOIT Open Innovation Project as per contract agreement. 40% covered from European funding. Edinburgh has benefited in income on this programme to the value of £800,000.
27/04/2012	580.4	Reimbursement of expenses incurred in fulfilment of IOIT Open Innovations Project contract. 40% covered from European funding. Edinburgh has benefited in income on this programme to the value of £800,000.
05/07/2012	1,800.00	Assessment of Splashback proposition on Leith Waterworld. This was on behalf of Culture and Sport
05/07/2012	4,700.00	Review of Economic Development service progress against the 3 year plan.

- (c) On how many of these contracts was a procurement exercise undertaken?
- (c) Effective Contracting Limited provided services under a framework contract which was awarded in 2009. Thereafter individual projects were awarded to the company with the most relevant experience. Where more than one of the companies had the appropriate experience, the work was awarded based on a further mini tender.
- (d) What connection has the Council or officials with Ward Sparrow of Crowborough, East Sussex?

- (d) The Director of Economic Development has contracted intermittently with Effective Contracting over a period of the last decade both here at the City of Edinburgh Council and at the South East Economic Development Agency. The requirement was for interim financial management and audit functions. The consultancy framework closed in 2012 and no further procurement has included Effective Contracting Limited since