THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 12

12 March 2015

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Balfour for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 12 March 2015

Question	**(1)**	What consultants have been hired in the last 5 years?
Answer	**(1)**	2009/10 -103
		2010/11-170
		2011/12 -170
		2012/13 – 133
		2013/14 – 131

The name/s of each consultant/consultancy are contained in the reports to:

Finance and Resources Committee:- August 2010, September 2011 and September 2012;

Finance and Budget Committee:- September 2013;

Finance and Resources Committee:- September 2014;

2014/15 – the name/s of consultants used will be included in the report to Finance and Resources Committee in September 2015.

Question	**(2)**	What have each been employed to do?
Answer	**(2)**	Project details for each consultant/consultancy are contained in the reports to:

Finance and Resources Committee:- August 2010,September 2011 and September 2012;

Finance and Budget Committee:- September 2013;

Finance and Resources Committee:- September 2014;

2014/15 – project details for each consultant/ consultancy used will be included in the report to Finance and Resources Committee in September 2015.

Question	**(3)**	What have each been paid?

Answer   **(3)**   Details of payments to each consultant/consultancy are contained in the reports to:

Finance and Resources Committee:- August 2010, September 2011 and September 2012;

Finance and Budget Committee:- September 2013;

Finance and Resources Committee:- September 2014;

2014/15 – details of payments to consultants will be included in the report to Finance and Resources Committee in September 2015.

Question   **(4)**   Is there a measure of their success ie demonstrable evidence of successful outcomes?

Answer   **(4)**   Consultancy management and performance monitoring duties have to date been undertaken by the relevant commissioning service.

Since 2012/13 the impact of each consultancy appointment on service delivery and/or outcomes has been included in the reports to the Finance and Resources/ Budget Committee.

QUESTION NO 2   **By Councillor Balfour for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 12 March 2015**

Question	**(1)**	In the last 12 months how much has each Convener billed to the internal catering service for refreshments, tea/coffee, biscuits and other foods?
Answer	**(1)**	The management information we currently have does not allow us to disaggregate between Conveners and Political parties however, the overall expected spend this financial year is £37,000 against a budget of approx £32,000. This figure includes other costs for example, food for Council meetings.
Question	**(2)**	In the last 12 months how much has each Political party billed to the internal catering service for refreshments, tea/coffee, biscuits and other foods?
Answer	**(2)**	The cost of internal catering is not broken down into political parties as it is all coded to one catering budget at this point in time.
Question	**(3)**	In the last 12 months how much has been billed to the internal catering service for refreshments, tea/coffee, biscuits and other foods for external meetings organised and attended by Councillors?
Answer	**(3)**	The catering costs associated with external lets are not recorded in the manner requested. As with questions 1 and 2, there is a catering budget to which all charges are made.
Question	**(4)**	In the last 12 months how much has each Director, including the Chief Executive billed to the internal catering service for refreshments, tea/coffee, biscuits and other foods?

Answer **(4)** In the last 12 months the spend for internal catering for the Chief Executive and Directors is as follows:

Chief Executive	£7,419.54
Director of Corporate Governance	£633.50
Director of Children and Families	£1,168.75
Director of Economic Development	£576.45
Director of Health and Social Care	£209.45
Director of Services for Communities (This includes £659.50 for long service awards which is charged to the Directorate's budget)	£1,032.55

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 12 March 2015

Question **(1)** How many agency staff are employed by the Council? Please show by division

Answer **(1)**

Service area	Number of agency workers on assignment
Children and Families	
Resources	1
Schools and Community Services	3
Support to Children and Young People	34
Children and Families Total	**38**
Corporate Governance	
Communications	1
Corporate Programme Office	1
Customer Services	106
Finance	12
Property Conservation	13
Corporate Governance Total	**133**
Economic Development	
Economic Development Total	**2**
Health and Social Care	
Older People and Disability Services	355
Chief Social Worker Division	12
Health and Social Care Total	**367**
Services for Communities	
Community Safety	28
Corporate Property	38
Environment	89
Housing and Regeneration	32
Transport	49
Services for Communities Total	**236**
COUNCIL TOTAL	**776**

Question **(2)** What is the cost of these staff to date?

Answer **(2)** Current year agency expenditure, to the end of January 2015, is £16.35m.

Question **(3)** How many are performing core functions?

Answer **(3)** A definition of the term 'core functions' is necessary to respond to this question. However, if the definition of 'core functions' is front-line service delivery then there are 600 agency workers identified in the answer to Q1 who are assigned to job roles with customer or public facing elements.

Question **(4)** How much greater is this cost to employing staff directly?

Answer **(4)** A number of factors determine whether directly recruiting to a post is more or less costly than engaging a temporary agency worker. These include pension scheme membership, agency assignment length and the type of role.

Question **(5)** Please provide details of contract lengths?

Answer **(5)** The length of current assignments are summarised below:

0-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months
404	152	86	134

Note:

- Assignments covering ad-hoc shifts are included within the 0-3 months banding.