

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 2

25 JUNE 2015

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Leisure Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 June 2015

Question

What progress has been made towards the council signing a lease for the Leith Theatre with the Leith Theatre Trust, since the decision to do so was made by Finance and Budget Committee on 6 June 2013?

Answer

Following the decision of the Finance and Budget Committee, the Trust and the Council engaged in discussions concerning the key principles set out in the approved motion. This included material matters such as the extent of the premises to be let, rent review provisions, responsibilities for utilities and repair and maintenance.

The Council's objective was to ensure that the agreed terms will be cost neutral to the Council as per the original Committee instructions.

Whilst negotiations have been protracted, the Trust appointed lawyers in February 2015 to take forward the detailed negotiation of the terms of the proposed lease with the Council.

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 June 2015

In relation to the Council's Waste Prevention Strategy:

- Question** (1) When was this approved by committee?
- Answer** (1) The original strategy was published in 2004/05.
- Question** (2) On what dates since its initial approval has it been reviewed by committee?
- Answer** (2) An overview of the strategy was provided to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environmental Committee on 25 November 2008 and was noted by Committee. Please see report [here](#).
- Question** (3) What changes to the Strategy have been made by committee?
- Answer** (3) While the strategy remains as the Council's main overarching policy document in this area, a large number of initiatives have been reported on and approved by Committee since 2008. These include:
- Managed weekly collections
 - Plastic kerbside collections
 - City wide kerbside food waste collections
 - Expansion of communal recycling facilities
 - Expansion of bring sites – e.g. Supermarket/ DIY store car parks
 - New kerbside recycling service – green bin
 - Opening of the Sighthill Community Recycling Centre.
- Question** (4) When will it next be reviewed by committee?

Answer

(4) The same approach to waste prevention is still used as that shown in the strategy developed in 2004/05, in particular:

- Recognition that the Council may not always be the best placed to deliver waste prevention, and that working with partners may be more effective.
- Funding and joint working with partners such as Bike Station, REMADE, Freshstart and Changeworks.
- Directly funding communities to deliver waste prevention initiatives as part of the Waste Action Grants Programme.
- Provision of facilities to allow segregation of reusable items at Community Recycling Centres (which are then made available to a network of partner operations).

In addition, the Council's Transport and Environment Committee continually scrutinises and reviews discrete elements of the strategy on an ongoing basis, and also regularly considers performance data.

During the current financial year, Waste Prevention will become part of the wider Waste Management Strategy and Committee Members will be consulted during this process.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 June 2015

- Question** (1) What are the costs to the council in each of the last five financial years of tackling dog fouling, broken down into following categories:
- a) Publicity campaigns / community engagement
 - b) Enforcement action
 - c) Removal / street cleaning / disposal
 - d) Any other costs associated with dog fouling not covered in the categories above
- Answer** (1) a) The costs listed below are citywide. Localised neighbourhood initiatives/campaigns are covered in answer d).
- 2010/11** = £0
- 2011/12** = £0
- 2012/13** = £250 (Dog Fouling post card)
- 2013/14** = £5286
- Clean-Up Edinburgh
- 12 month campaign launched in November 2013 with Keep Scotland Beautiful, focus on encouraging residents and businesses to clean up litter, including dog dirt. Neighbourhoods organised clean up activities to support the campaign. Costs were met within existing Waste budgets so no specific costs available.

Dish the Dirt campaign

Campaign run over summer 2013, in conjunction with the Evening News, to promote responsible dog ownership through encouraging the public to report instances of dog fouling.

Posters (printing costs) £46.00

Call Centre staff during campaign £2,500.00

Green Dog Walkers community engagement

Arm bands and Collars £1275.00

Licence £500.00

Poo Bags £420.00

Leaflet £395.00

Generic dog fouling postcard £150.00

2014/15 = £0

The above campaigns continue to run but at no extra cost.

- b) Enforcement activity in relation to dog fouling is carried out by Environmental Wardens. We cannot isolate the cost of specific dog fouling enforcement action amongst the wide range of enforcement and education tasks that the Wardens are responsible for.
- c) Dog fouling is removed as part of normal street operations therefore costs which are directly associated with the clearing of dog fouling are not available. Dog owners are encouraged to dispose of their dog waste responsibly by either using the nearest litter bin or disposing along with their normal household waste. A breakdown of actual disposals is unavailable as this type of waste is disposed of along with general litter and/or household waste.
- d) Each of the six local Neighbourhood Teams run localised initiatives and campaigns i.e. 'Don't Blame it on the Dog'. It is difficult to give an exact cost for each Neighbourhood per year. However, an approximate annual value would be £250-£270 per Neighbourhood. This covers the cost of street stencilling materials and localised poster/sticker initiatives and school education materials.

Question (2) What is the income to the council from fines and fixed penalty notices for dog fouling in each of the last five financial years?

Answer (2) 1 Apr 2014 – 31 Mar 2015 = £1360
1 Apr 2013 – 31 Mar 2014 = £4600
1 Apr 2012 - 31 Mar 2013 = £5680
1 Apr 2011– 31 Mar 2012 = £5280
1 Apr 2010 – 31 Mar 2011 = £5000

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 June 2015

On 1st January 2014 Scotland's Waste Regulations changed:

- Businesses are required to separate paper, card, glass, plastic, wood and metals for recycling.
- Businesses producing over 50kg of food waste per week must present it for separate collection.
- Where food collections are available, it is illegal to dispose of food into the public sewer.
- Businesses risk substantial fines if they do not take all measures possible to recycle their waste.

Question (1) Is the City of Edinburgh Council, and its catering departments , including schools and school meal service fully compliant with Scotland's Waste Regulations?

Answer (1) The catering service in the City Chambers, Lothian Chambers and Waverley Court is fully compliant.

Waste disposal in all other buildings is the responsibility of the building occupiers, many of which are partially compliant and have their own separate arrangements. However, as per the answer to Question 2, the Council is in the process of establishing what the waste arrangements are across the Council's estate with a view to bringing all properties into a fully compliant state. It should be noted that although all buildings may not have formal recycling services in place, many have informal arrangements.

Question (2) In which Edinburgh schools are fully segregated recycling facilities, to allow for the segregation of food waste, papers, card and plastic, available to young people in the school dining room at mealtimes?

Answer

- (2) A questionnaire has recently been issued to all schools to establish the existing waste management arrangements. This will allow the Council to identify those properties that require revisions to waste arrangements.

A working group has also been established involving officers from Trade Waste, Facilities Management and Corporate Policy and Strategy with responsibility for Sustainability matters with a view to develop a unified service across the Council estate, maximising participation and compliance with legislation.

In addition a presentation was made to the Council's All Party Carbon Climate Sustainability Member Officer Working Group on 24 June 2015, which presented the results of a recent audit, carried out by Resource Efficient Scotland (RES), of certain Council properties. The Council will be seeking additional support from RES in the near future to improve waste segregation.

Question

- (3) What steps have been taken to ensure that Council staff are aware that from 1st January 2014 it has been illegal to dispose food into the public sewer?

Answer

- (3) Staff have been made aware through various means of communication. A Waste Regulations FAQs document was issued in January 2014 to all Council premises managers. This information was also made available on the Orb.

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 25 June 2015**

Question (1) How many grievances by or against staff have there been within Children and Families between 2010/11 and 2015/16 (breakdown by year). Please include those currently subject to process.

Answer (1) Recorded Grievances within Children and Families between 2010/11 to date by financial year.

Financial Year	Number of Grievances Lodged
2010/11	35
2011/12	29
2012/13	12
2013/14	12
2014/15	10
April 2015 to date	2

Question (2) Have all the senior officers in Children and Families completed the key policy awareness training and signed the accompanying checklist which incorporates the Council anti-bribery policy and procedure, whistleblowing policy, disciplinary and grievance procedures and code of conduct?

Answer (2) Yes