

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 10 March 2016

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Donald Wilson

COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken
Robert C Aldridge
Norma Austin Hart
Nigel Bagshaw
Jeremy R Balfour
Gavin Barrie
Angela Blacklock
Chas Booth
Mike Bridgman
Steve Burgess
Andrew Burns
Ronald Cairns
Steve Cardownie
Maureen M Child
Bill Cook
Nick Cook
Gavin Corbett
Cammy Day
Denis C Dixon
Marion Donaldson
Karen Doran
Paul G Edie
Catherine Fullerton
Nick Gardner
Paul Godzik
Joan Griffiths
Bill Henderson
Ricky Henderson
Dominic R C Heslop

Lesley Hinds
Sandy Howat
Allan G Jackson
Karen Keil
David Key
Richard Lewis
Alex Lunn
Melanie Main
Mark McInnes
Adam McVey
Eric Milligan
Joanna Mowat
Gordon J Munro
Jim Orr
Lindsay Paterson
Ian Perry
Alasdair Rankin
Vicki Redpath
Lewis Ritchie
Keith Robson
Cameron Rose
Frank Ross
Jason G Rust
Alastair Shields
Stefan Tymkewycz
David Walker
Iain Whyte
Norman Work

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 4 February 2016 as a correct record.

2. Questions

The questions put by members to this meeting, written answers and supplementary questions and answers are contained in Appendix 1 to this minute.

3. Leader's Report

The Leader presented his report to the Council. The Leader commented on:

- Welcome Councillor Ross as SNP Group Leader and proposed Deputy Leader
- Appreciation – Councillor Howat
- Best Value Audit – budget savings - gratitude to members, officers and staff

The following questions/comments were made:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Councillor Rose | - Congratulations to Councillor Ross |
| | - Resources to mitigate the risk to this Council by continued legal action |
| | - Meadowbank Project – minimising risks |
| Councillor Burgess | - Appreciation – Councillor Howat |
| | - Congratulations to Councillor Ross |
| | - New SNP Council Tax – concern at policy failure |
| Councillor Edie | - Appreciation – Councillor Howat |
| | - Congratulations to Councillor Ross |
| | - Scottish League Cup – Hibernian Football Club |
| | - Process of awarding grants from Children and Families |
| Councillor Ross | - Resilience of Capital Coalition |
| | - Edinburgh Airport - historic landmark of 100 years of existence |
| Councillor Griffiths | - Welcome the proposals for a new Meadowbank |
| Councillor Balfour | - Consultation on the proposed cyclepath from Roseburn to Haymarket |

Councillor Shields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congratulations to Councillor Ross - Appreciation – Councillor Howat - Foreign Direct Investment business awards - International Womens’ Day
Councillor Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Volunteering – welcome Joanna Lumley to Oxfams – Spark Something Good Campaign
Councillor Rankin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal privelege
Councillor Robson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St James Quarter - Employment and Outreach Programme – unemployment hotspots
Councillor Munro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scottish League Cup - Hibernian Football Club - Scottish Defence League and North West Infidels – static protest – parade of prejudice
Councillor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regeneration projects in Pennywell - congratulations - Total Craigroyston Project - commendation
Councillor Burns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Castlemills Works project
Councillor Tymkewycz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meadowbank Sports Centre - Hibernian Football Club - Council – sounder financial footing
Councillor Bridgman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edinburgh to Hampden – Charity Walk by Davy Fulton for Marie Curie
Councillor Cardownie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Composition of political groups within the Council
Councillor Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture and Sport Committee – Major Events Strategy
Lord Provost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – Congratulations for tour of Australia and New Zealand

4. Appointments to the Board of Smilechildcare

Details were provided on an invitation which had been received for Councillor Fullerton to join the Board of Smilechildcare which was an Edinburgh based affordable childcare provider.

Motion

To appoint Councillor Fullerton to the Board of Smilechildcare.

- moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Doran

Amendment

To take no action on the invitation.

- moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	45 votes
For the amendment	-	11 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Ross, and appoint Councillor Fullerton to the Board of Smilechildcare.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Children and Families, submitted)

5. City of Edinburgh Placing in Schools Appeals Committee - Appointments

Details were provided on the appointment of new members and the re-appointment of existing members to the City of Edinburgh Placing in Schools Appeals Committee.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Fred Bell, Stephen Harrold, Lisa Murray and Ron Waddell as independent members of the City of Edinburgh Placing in Schools Appeal Committee for the period to 31 March 2019, subject to satisfactory completion of pre-service training and PVG disclosure checks.
- 2) To re-appoint Brenda Devlin, Neil Clarkson, Pru Irvine and Iain MacGillivray as Appeal Committee Chairs for the period to 31 March 2019.

- 3) To re-appoint Christine MacGillivray, Olivia Ramage, Julie-Ann Sime, Carol Swan, Katherine Taylor and Jennifer Walton as Appeal Committee members for the period to 31 March 2019 (or until each member's youngest child leaves school, whichever is sooner).

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

6. Appointment of Depute Leader and to Committees etc

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

The Council had made appointments to Committees, Boards and Joint Boards for 2015/16. Following the appointment of Councillor Ross as Leader of the SNP Group and a number of resignations by members, changes to Committee membership etc had been proposed.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Ross as Depute Council Leader.
- 2) To make the appointments to Committees etc as follows:

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

Councillor Ross to replace Councillor Howat as a Committee member and as Vice-Convener

Economy Committee

Councillor Barrie to replace Councillor Ross as Convener

Councillor Ritchie to replace Councillor Ross as a Committee member

Regulatory Committee/Licensing Sub-Committee

Councillor Bridgman to replace Councillor Barrie as a Committee member and as Convener

Planning Committee/Development Management Sub-Committee

Councillor Lunn to replace Councillor Dixon as a member and as Vice-Convener

Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

Councillor Ritchie to replace Councillor Lunn as Vice-Convener

Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Bill Henderson to replace Councillor Bridgman as a Committee member and as Convener

- 3) To note that appointments to outside organisations by way of office would be adjusted accordingly, and that any further proposed changes would be reported to a future Council meeting.

(References - Act of Council No 2 of 24 May 2012, Act of Council No 9 of 25 June 2015, Act of Council No 5 of 22 October 2015; report by the Chief Executive (circulated))

7. Edinburgh Tram – Phase 1b & 1c Land Acquisition

The Council had agreed a number of recommendations in relation to proposals for moving the Edinburgh Tram Extension to the next phase.

The Council had not exercised its compulsory purchase powers to acquire land between Roseburn Delta to Granton Square (Phase 1b) or between Granton and Newhaven (Phase 1c). Details were provided on a way forward for land acquisition for Phases 1b and 1c.

Motion

- 1) To note that the Council's existing powers to acquire land for Phases 1b and 1c expired on 7 May 2016.
- 2) To approve exercising the existing powers before 7 May 2016 and serving the necessary General Vesting Declarations (GVDs) in order to protect the Council's position in relation to Phase 1b and 1c.
- 3) To approve the acquisition of land from third party landowners where third party agreements had been entered into and delegate authority to the Acting Executive Director of Resources to complete those acquisitions on terms and conditions approved by him.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment

- 1) To note that the Council's existing powers to acquire land for Phases 1b and 1c expired on 7 May 2016.

- 2) To agree to apply for new powers to acquire (if appropriate) the land in the future through either a new private bill or Transport and Works Order.

- moved by Councillor Nick Cook, seconded by Councillor McInnes

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	47 votes
For the amendment	-	11 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

(References – Act of Council No 5 of 10 December 2015; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

8. St James Quarter – Update on Progress

The Council had agreed a number of recommendations in regard to the regeneration of the St James Quarter and proposals for a new investment model known as the Regeneration Accelerator Model (RAM).

An update was provided on the working arrangements between the City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government and TH Teal Estate in the delivery of the Edinburgh St James development.

Decision

- 1) To note that Council had committed to the Growth Accelerator Model (“GAM”) Agreement with TH Real Estate under the delegated authority to the Chief Executive, which was approved by Council on 19 November 2015.
- 2) To note that the Council had committed to the funding agreement with the Scottish Government as part of the Scottish Government annual contributions to the GAM agreement, as approved by Council on 1 May 2014 and 19 November 2015.
- 3) To note that up to £61.40 million new potential borrowing for GAM works which would be maintained and repaid over a period of up to 25 years through a combination of public and private sector investment, all as approved by Council on 1 May 2014. To further note that the present GAM works budget had been reduced to £52.40 million.

- 4) To note that TH Real Estate (“THRE”) continued to seek a negotiated agreement to acquiring the remaining interests, in parallel with the Compulsory Purchase Process (CPO) and to note the CPO progress to date.
- 5) To note that the Minute of Agreement (Agency Agreement) with THRE, as approved by Council on 29 May 2014, was varied by the Council’s Chief Executive in March 2016 under paragraph A4 of the Council’s Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.
- 6) To note the past and future governance of the GAM works programme and the cross-party members oversight of the project as detailed in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

(References –Act of Council No 17 of 1 May 2014; Act of Council No 9 29 May 2014; Act of Council No 10 of 19 November 2015; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

9. Energy for Edinburgh

Details were provided on the progress made to establish an ESCo with draft legal documents completed, including Articles of Association and the Shareholders Agreement. A draft Business Plan had been developed which would require to be approved by the new Board once established.

Motion

- 1) To approve the establishment of an Energy Services Company.
- 2) To approve the Articles of Association.
- 3) To note that the appointment of Directors to the Board would need to be approved by Council at a subsequent meeting.
- 4) To approve the Shareholders Agreement between the Council and the Company.
- 5) To note the draft Business Plan which would need to be approved by the Company Board once established and submitted back to Council for further approval.
- 6) To note that a further report would be submitted to Council on progress within six months.
- 7) To note the amendment from the Conservative group opposing the incorporation of Energy for Edinburgh and therefore agree to replace the Conservative member on the interim Board with Councillor Chas Booth, an

experienced energy professional who supported the aims of the company and improving energy efficiency, driving down climate-changing pollution and tackling fuel poverty, subject to final approval at a future Council meeting.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment 1

To abandon proposals for the establishment of an Energy Service Company for reasons which included the following:

- The need for Edinburgh Council to focus on better delivery of services to the people of Edinburgh rather than expanding its field of operation incurring the need for further resources and resulting in unacceptable risk
- The changing energy environment, including a significant fall in traditional energy costs, leading to reduced fuel poverty and a reduction in the financial viability of renewable projects
- Changes in UK Government policy in relation subsidies and regulation

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Whyte

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the establishment of an Energy Services Company.
- 2) To approve the Articles of Association.
- 3) To note that the appointment of Directors to the Board would need to be approved by Council at a subsequent meeting.
- 4) To approve the Shareholders Agreement between the Council and the Company.
- 5) To note the draft Business Plan which would need to be approved by the Company Board once established and submitted back to Council for further approval.
- 6) To note that a further report would be submitted to Council on progress within six months.

- moved by Councillor Edie, seconded by Councillor Aldridge

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion	-	45 votes
For Amendment 1	-	11 votes
For Amendment 2	-	2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

(Reference –report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

10. Best Value Audit Report

The Council had presented its Best Value Audits to the Accounts Commission in February 2007 and May 2013 with a progress update presented to the Accounts Commission in December 2014.

Details were provided on the findings of the most recent Best Value Audit progress report which had been presented to the Accounts Commission in February 2016 together with an update on changes to the scrutiny of all local authorities' work programmes by Audit Scotland.

Motion

- 1) To note the findings from the report.
- 2) To note changes to Audit Scotland's work programme.
- 3) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further scrutiny and information.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ross

Amendment

- 1) To note the findings from the report.
- 2) To note that the exceptional reports from the Accounts Commission reflected concerns about the Council in 2013.
- 3) To note that the focus was not on additional areas of Council service delivery to the people of Edinburgh.
- 4) To note the continuing high level of risk.

- 5) To note the progress reflected in the Accounts Commission report.
- 6) To note that many of the areas of concern addressed in the report flowed from poor decisions taken by the current Administration and that the response had been too little and too late.
- 7) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further scrutiny and information.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Whyte

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	44 votes
For the amendment	-	13 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

11. Funding Package Proposal for a New Meadowbank

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had noted that the estimated overall project cost for a new Meadowbank Sports Centre had reduced and agreed that a report be presented on proposals to address any remaining funding gap.

Details were provided on the estimated total project cost which had reduced further, reducing the funding shortfall to £5.98m. Options to fund this gap were outlined.

Decision

- 1) To note that the estimated total project cost had reduced to £41.1m.
- 2) To note that capital receipts from surplus land sites A and B at Meadowbank were essential for the funding package for a new Sports Centre there.
- 3) To approve the transfer of sites A and B to the Housing Revenue Account, retaining ownership of the land, delivering 10% more affordable housing than was likely in an open market disposal and potentially generating ongoing revenue for the HRA and the General Fund.
- 4) To note that it was the intention to place site C at Meadowbank on the market for student accommodation.

- 5) To agree to ringfence the capital receipt from sites A, B and C for the new Meadowbank's funding package.
- 6) To approve a contribution of £0.7m from planned receipts due to be paid into the Strategic Investment Fund to develop the design to the end of RIBA stage 4.
- 7) To agree that once the detailed design at the end of RIBA stage 4 was ready, the Council would invite, receive and analyse tenders for the construction of the new Meadowbank, to provide certainty on the project cost and any remaining funding gap (currently estimated to be £5.98m).
- 8) To approve the principle of repaying £0.7m to the Strategic Investment Fund and covering the Meadowbank project's remaining gap through a realignment of the Capital Investment Programme using an element of the unallocated funding available in years 2019/20 and 2020/21, taking account of the project's anticipated expenditure and income cash flows.
- 9) To note that the outcome of the tender exercise, analysis of the expenditure and income cash flow, and revised estimates of total project cost would be reported to the Council, at which point the final funding package would be confirmed and a contribution from the Capital Investment Programme would be requested.
- 10) To agree, on the basis of the commitments given above, that the Council might now seek funding support from **sportscotland** towards the project costs.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 29 September 2015 (item 7); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Balfour, Booth, Doran and Lewis declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Board members of Edinburgh Leisure.

12. Governance Protocol for Community Council Elections

The Council had approved the current Scheme for Community Councils on 22 August 2013.

Details were provided on the protocol developed jointly by the Local Community Planning and Elections Team which provided a framework for community council elections and was complementary to the Scheme for Community Councils.

Decision

- 1) To agree the governance protocol for Community Council elections.
- 2) To refer the report to Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee for information.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 22 August 2013; report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

13. Annual Treasury Strategy 2016/17 – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for the Council for 2016/17 which included an Annual Investment Strategy and Debt Management Strategy, for approval.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17.
- 2) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 2 February 2016 (item 9); referral report by the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

14. SESPlan Governance Review and 2016/17 Operating Budget – referral from the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee had referred a report on changes to SESplan's governance framework which would expedite plan preparation and clarify governance arrangements.

Decision

To agree the changes to SESplan's governance framework.

(References – Planning Committee 25 February 2016 (item 5); referral report by the Planning Committee, submitted.)

15. Hibernian Football Club – Scottish League Cup Final – Motion by Councillor Munro

The following motion by Councillor Munro was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Council congratulates all at Hibernian Football Club on achieving a place in this year's Scottish League Cup final.

Council instructs officers to work with the club to ensure that Edinburgh can fully support them on cup final day, Sunday 13th March.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Munro.

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 10 March 2016)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 10 March 2016

Question

Despite the expensive processes to resolve outstanding statutory notice claims, the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman has, since November 2015, published findings in at least four cases against the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) on issues of scope enlargement and inadequate communication where there was a formal finding against CEC e.g.

- a. Case 201402088: ‘ . . . we were critical of the quality of their (CEC) communication throughout the project. . . ’
- b. Case 201407198: ‘ . . . we noted there were significant delays in the council issuing the final invoice. . . ’
- c. Case 210403736 ‘ . . . the council had acknowledged carrying out non emergency repairs under the emergency statutory notice
- d. Case 20105881: ‘We were critical of the council’s handling of the sizeable cost increase.’

What has been the Council’s response to these and other adverse findings since April 2015, including any others not yet published by the SPSO?

Answer

The Council has in all these cases complied with the SPSO findings and will consider a response to any future findings on a case by case basis.

Supplementary Question (1) Despite the expensive processes to resolve outstanding statutory notice claims, the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman has, since September 2015, published findings in at least four cases against the City of Edinburgh Council on issues of scope enlargement and inadequate communication where there was a formal finding against the Council and I listed these four. My question then was what has been the Council's response to these and other adverse findings since April 2015 including any others not yet published by the SPSO.

One of the reasons why I did that was because there was publicity on the 24 February 2016 in the Evening News under a headline "Repair Bill OAP Beats Bullies at the Council" and this indeed was a finding against the Council, in fact there were two in the case and there was as note at the end of that from the Council press office saying that the Council were considering an appeal. So I asked the question as I wanted to scrutinise this and just see what the scope of it was and I'm conscious that the answer which I have been given by the Convener is both incomplete and inaccurate. It does not include the additional one, and it appears to be incomplete or certainly there's not very much information about what the Council's response has been to either the four that I cited, any others that I haven't tracked or the particular one I've just referred to in the media.

Can you tell me why the answer did not include those.

Supplementary Answer (1) I'll start with this - I remember when I was a schoolboy I always sat in the front row of class and it wasn't because I was a swot, although I was, it's because I was shortsighted, so from where I'm standing at the moment, I'd like to tell Cameron I can still make him out from here. Mind you when I was at school I did play in the second row.

So the cases that Cameron refers to are for the most part historic, and the reason that that specific case he refers to hasn't been given any details is because it's under appeal and that's the right way to treat it. If Councillor Rose thinks that there are inaccuracies, I'd be happy to discuss that with him and the details of any of the cases which he mentions, which as I say are for the most part historic, and the Council

has acknowledged its failings many times and these historic failings we had done our best to put it right since and my view is that we have done a very good job of that, a very thorough job in combination with Deloitte, we brought in as an independent assessor. An independent assessor I think was absolutely necessary given the nature of the disaster that had befallen the Council with statutory repairs.

So yes, there are things which the Council has to make right and I think we've done that in many cases, quite often we have made assessments and come up with financial agreements which have essentially acknowledged an element of hurt and difficulty and overcharging or doing works which are in excess of that required under the Statutory Notice and I think it's only fair that we should do that, and I think that we need to carry on in that same spirit and I'd be happy to talk to Councillor Rose in that spirit.

Supplementary Question (2) I note the response that these cases are historic, I also note there are many owners who feel that these issues which are highlighted in these cases are ongoing and current and I think that is to be regretted. Nonetheless I did specifically ask for details which were not public at that stage, of any further cases and the Convener has not explained why he did not include this particular one or any information about it. I should add that I have asked for further information about it and the full information that's contained in the report given by the SPSO, and it has been declined me, at least been declined except under confidential conditions. It is in fact a public document and in order to scrutinise it properly I feel I should have had access to it. Does he agree?

Supplementary Answer (2) Yes I do agree, and as I mentioned before I'm very happy to meet Councillor Rose and to discuss the matters that he raises. I don't think this is the best forum to discuss detail, but I'll be happy to discuss it elsewhere.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 10 March 2016**

Question (1) How much money has been allocated by Edinburgh World Heritage for statutory notice repair work to or via the City of Edinburgh Council annually since 2007?

Answer (1) Since January 2006, £938,664.55 has been paid by Edinburgh World Heritage to eligible work on statutory notice repairs.

Question (2) Which premises (statutory notices issued) were affected?

Answer (2) A total of 19 projects across the World Heritage Site were affected.

Question (3) How has the money been applied to the payment of the works associated with each statutory notice?

Answer (3) The level of grant funding received was based on a percentage of the cost of “eligible work” carried out. The funding received by the Council on behalf of the owners was then deducted from the final invoices.

Supplementary Question My question was to ask how much money was allocated by Edinburgh World Heritage for statutory notice repair work to or via the City of Edinburgh Council over a period going back to 2007 and the answer given to that part of my question was just under £1m for which I thank the Convener.

My second question was to ask which premises where statutory notices were issued, which premises were affected. The answer tells me that there were 19 premises but it doesn't tell me which premises. Will you give me a list of the premises or is there any reason why they're not available, and the reason I ask this Lord Provost, is because I have done a trawl back through reports, and the reports and as far as I can see do not give us 19 such premises. So

I'm looking for information again to scrutinise the conduct of the Council over recent years.

**Supplementary
Answer**

That information is certainly available and I'm happy to provide it. Perhaps we could do that at the same meeting that I've already suggested we might have.

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 10 March 2016

Question (1) When is the structural engineers' final report due and when will this be released/published?

Answer (1) The structural engineers report instructed by, and prepared for, the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP) was provided to the Council for information on a confidential basis on Wednesday 2 March. The findings of the report are being discussed with ESP to inform any required actions.

Question (2) What discussions have taken place or are planned with Edinburgh Schools Partnership in relation to accountability?

Answer (2) Following the release of the report, meetings are being held with ESP to discuss the findings and agree ESP's associated accountability.

Question (3) What are the CEC contingency plans in place where a school has to be closed for a period of time?

Answer (3) The Council Resilience Group is in the process of developing a Loss of Premises Plan for council buildings which will include schools, however, in the interim, there are current robust systems in place. There are 3 scenarios

Emergency school closures

These arrangements are part of school severe weather/infection control resilience plans and Headteachers and Business Managers are briefed annually on requirements and as part of induction for new staff. Risk assessments are in place, which include management and liaison between the Headteacher/Senior Education Manager in making any closure decision.

Relocation for short period of time:

Where pupils require to be relocated for a short period of time, for example, if the school had to be evacuated for a number of hours due to a utility problem a “Buddy Map” system is used where we use maps showing available capacity within schools, this is ranked using a Red/Amber/Green system to show availability.

Closure for a period of time:

If a school is closed for a period of time we would firstly use asset management information held centrally which provides information on available capacity in local establishments. Senior Education Managers/Corporate Property/the C&F Resilience Co-ordinator then work with Headteachers and Establishment Managers to relocate to suitable alternative accommodation, as was the case in January 2012 when Kaimes Special School relocated to Fort.

In such circumstances, the safety of pupils and staff is paramount and this needs to take account of appropriate temporary transport arrangements where necessary.

Supplementary Question

I thank the Convener for his answers and for the briefing by officers. Whilst I welcome the interim measures at point three, I am concerned regarding the reference to the Council resilience group. Back in 2011 there was a report for internal audit in which it was stated that one of the highest risks was that the Council had no loss of penalties plan and given that it still appears to be under development, is the Convener also concerned about the timescale in relation to this.

Supplementary Answer

I thank Councillor Rust for his supplementary. Can I firstly thank him for raising this important issue. I think notwithstanding the very severe weather that hit the city that I think we were all shocked at the extent of the damage to Oxfords. As the answer lays out, discussions are well underway with the Edinburgh Schools Partnership but as Councillor Rust does raise an important point, I think there will need to be a report back to this Council to outline the

discussions that have taken place and am happy that the points that Councillor Rust has raised be included within that report.

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 10 March 2016

Question

To ask what action the Council is taking to improve insulation of homes in the City.

Answer

On 21 January 2016 the Council agreed, with cross party support, the HRA budget strategy which set out to accelerate heating and insulation programmes in support of the objective to reduce tenants' cost of living. The current capital investment programme assumes that 3,700 Council homes will benefit from improved insulation over the next five years. In addition, 3,500 homes will benefit from the installation of modern, efficient heating systems.

At that meeting, the Council also agreed to expand its house-building programme from 3,000 to 8,000 new homes over the next ten years. The building programme has adopted a "fabric first" approach. Homes have a highly insulated building envelope and a high level of air-tightness to minimise heat loss.

93% of Council homes have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D or above, compared to private sector homes where 75% of homes have an EPC rating of D or above.

Working in partnership with Changeworks the Council is bidding for additional resources from the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme to provide loans to homeowners and private landlords for insulation. This programme is focussed on areas of fuel poverty.

Supplementary Question

The question I asked was, what action is the Council taking to improve the insulation of homes in the city and I thank the Convener for his answer. The Convener's answer is mostly about Council housing and to some extent that is right to

prioritise Council tenants because they have among the lowest incomes in the city and therefore need most help with rising energy costs, however, the Convener will be aware that Council housing only makes up about one in eight of homes in the city. In terms of wasted energy and high energy bills and climate changing pollution, most of that is coming from private housing. So would the Convener therefore agree that we will only have an energy efficient well insulated city when energy waste in private housing is tackled. Will the Convener discuss with his coalition colleagues what they are prepared to do to ensure that more privately owned and rented homes across the city are properly insulated and specifically will this Council formally press the Scottish Government to take forward a minimum standard for the insulation and energy efficiency of private housing as is being advanced south of the border

**Supplementary
Answer**

Can I thank Councillor Burgess both for his original question and the supplementary. I'd like to defer or refer an answer or a fuller answer to Councillor Day who's our acknowledged expert in this area.

Councillor Day

Thank you Convener – I'm not an expert. I thank Councillor Burgess for his question. At my regular meetings with the Housing Minister, I do press her to take more action in the private sector. Ideally I'd like to see the private sector meet the same standards as social tenants have to do. Over the last five years, £10m has been levered in from the Scottish Government to support private house improvements and between 2013/14 and 2015/16, 3,000 private homes will have benefitted from insulation schemes. We've just recently secured £2.9m in HEEPS funding which will go towards private sector funding and a bid is currently being put together for the Scottish Energy Efficiency Programme which aims to pilot new and innovative approaches to energy efficiency in the private sector.

Yes I think we should press the Government to increase that standard in the private sector as well.