

# Minutes

## The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 25 August 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  
Joan Griffiths  
Paul Godzik  
Bill 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  
Norman Work

## 1. Minutes

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 30 June 2016 as a correct record.

## 2. Questions

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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

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

- The success of the public sector school exam results - congratulations
- The success of Edinburgh's festivals - congratulations
- Thank you for messages received on his announcement not to stand for re-election in 2017
- Councillor Mark McInnes on being appointed to the House of Lords - congratulations
- Lord Provost's recent marriage - congratulations

The following questions/comments were made:

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|---------------------|---|
| Councillor Rose     | - Congratulation to Lord Provost on recent marriage   |
|                     | - Resignation of Councillor Burns   |
|                     | - Welcome to the successful Shalom festival   |
| Councillor Burgess  | - Congratulation to Lord Provost on recent marriage   |
|                     | - Resignation of Councillor Burns   |
|                     | - Condition of Local Government at present  |
| Councillor Aldridge | - Congratulation to Lord Provost on recent marriage   |
|                     | - Congratulations to Councillor Mark McInnes  |
|                     | - Proposed Boundary Commission changes  |
|                     | - Good quality primary health care – shortage of GP's   |
| Councillor Ross     | - Quality of City's workforce – reduction of non-EU graduates remaining with in the City – possible extension of the pilot scheme for post graduate visas |
| Councillor Child    | - Charter for Involvement   |

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|----------------------|--|
| Councillor Cardownie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congratulation to Lord Provost on recent marriage</li> <li>- Former Councillor Moira Knox - appreciation</li> <li>- 25 years of independence of the Ukraine – hopes for a peaceful resolution to the latest conflict</li> </ul>                   |
| Councillor Aitken    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Boroughmuir High School – congratulations on school exam results</li> <li>- Boroughmuir High School – new school – handover date delay</li> </ul>   |
| Councillor Main      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How Safe is My School – documentary – independent inquiry</li> </ul>  |
| Councillor Work      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City of Edinburgh Council – “Carer Positive-Engages” status award</li> </ul>  |
| Councillor Tymkewycz | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Show support for law abiding communities living in the City</li> </ul>  |
| Councillor Ritchie   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resignation of Councillor Burns</li> <li>- Bòrd na Gàidhlig</li> </ul>  |
| Councillor Lewis     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resignation of Councillor Burns</li> <li>- Opening of the Oriam</li> <li>- Opening of the International Culture Centre</li> </ul>   |
| Councillor Jackson   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Former Councillor Moira Knox - appreciation</li> </ul>  |
| Councillor Day       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appreciation of staff leaving the Council through VERA</li> <li>- Appreciation to Alastair Ramage, Housing Service</li> </ul>   |
| Lord Provost         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officers and members choosing to leave in the forthcoming months – appreciation for service to the Council</li> <li>- Former Councillor Moira Knox – appreciation and condolences</li> <li>- Thanks for good wishes on recent marriage</li> </ul> |

#### **4. Appointments to Committees**

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The Council had made appointments to Committees, Boards and Joint Boards for 2016/17.

Resignations had been received from Councillor Shields from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee and Councillor Edie in his role as Scottish Liberal

Democrat Group leader and membership of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee. Councillor Aldridge had taken over responsibility as SLD Group Leader.

### **Decision**

- 1) To appoint Councillor Aldridge a member of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee in place of Councillor Edie.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Edie to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in place of Councillor Shields.

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 2 June 2016; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

## **5 Appointments to the Boards of Edinburgh International Festival Society and Transport for Edinburgh**

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The Council had made appointments to outside bodies for 2012-2017.

Councillors Munro and Mowat had now resigned from the Board of the Edinburgh International Festival and the Board of Transport for Edinburgh, respectively, and the Council was invited to appoint members in their place.

### **Decision**

- 1) To appoint Councillor Redpath to the Board of Edinburgh International Festival Society, replacing Councillor Munro who had served the maximum term of office on the Board.
- 2) To note that the Edinburgh International Festival Society would now replace Councillor Munro on the Board of Edinburgh Festival Centre Limited and that the appointment would be reported back to Council for confirmation.
- 3) To note that Councillor Howat had been appointed by the Edinburgh International Festival Society to the Board of Edinburgh Festival Centre Limited and confirm his appointment.
- 4) To appoint Councillor Whyte to the Board of Transport for Edinburgh following the resignation of Councillor Mowat.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 24 May 2012; Act of Council No 10 of 24 October 2012; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

## **6. Governance: Operational Governance Framework – Annual Review 2016**

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Details were provided on the outcome of the annual review of the key documents that supported internal controls, accountability and transparent operation of the Council together with proposed changes to ensure that the key operational governance documents were comprehensive, relevant, up-to-date and supported good governance.

The Finance and Resources Committee had also referred a report on proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions of the Property Sub-Committee.

### **Decision**

- 1) To repeal the existing Procedural Standing Orders for Council and Committee Meetings, Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions, Member-Officer Protocol and Regulations for the Appointment of Religious, Teacher and Parent Representatives and approve in their place Appendices 2-6 in the report by the Chief Executive, such repeal and approval to take effect from 29 August 2016.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to take such actions and make such minor adjustments to the documents set out in Appendices 2-6 of the report as might be necessary to implement the decision of the Council in relation to the report and to produce a finalised version of the documents, making them available to members for information ahead of publication.
- 3) To note that the Scheme of Delegation had been reviewed in February 2016 to take into account the revised council management structure and that further work was required to identify necessary updates or legislative changes and an additional report would be presented to a future Council meeting.
- 4) To approve the revised remit of the Property Sub-Committee.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 18 August 2016 (item 21); report by the Chief Executive, submitted; referral report from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## **7. Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/16 – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee**

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The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on Treasury Management Activity in 2015/16.

## **Decision**

- 1) To approve the Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/16.
- 2) To refer the report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 18 August 2016 (item 15); referral report from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## **8 Revenue Monitoring 2015/16 – Outturn Report – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee**

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The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the provisional 2015/16 revenue outturn position to the Council based on the unaudited financial statements.

### **Decision**

- 1) To approve the use of £0.5 million of the underspend to be set aside for property repairs.
- 2) To approve the use of funds and Capital Fund, as proposed in the report.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 18 August 2016 (item 11); referral report from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## **9. Revenue Monitoring 2016/17 – Month Three Position**

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The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the projected month three revenue monitoring position to the Council, based on period two data.

Approval was sought to accelerate into 2016/17, a payment of an element of the Communities and Families approved grant to the West Granton Community Trust.

### **Decision**

To approve the acceleration into 2016/17 a payment of an element of the Communities and Families approved grant to the West Granton Community Trust.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 18 August 2016 (item 2(b)); referral report from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## 10. Strategic Development Plan 2

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The Planning Committee had referred a report on the proposed Strategic Development Plan and Action Programme for Edinburgh and South East Scotland to the Council for approval.

### **Motion**

To approve the Strategic Development Plan Phase 2 Proposed Plan and Action Programme for publication for representations.

- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Lunn

### **Amendment**

- 1) To approve the Strategic Development Plan Phase 2 Proposed Plan and Action Programme for publication for representations.
- 2) To welcome:
  - a) the recognition of the need and demand in Edinburgh for affordable housing and the ambition to ensure that half of new housing was targeted at householders who could not afford market prices;
  - b) the priority given to brownfield sites over peripheral greenfield sites for development;
  - c) the significant rail improvements outlined;
  - d) the major upgrades to walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport provision; and
  - e) the green networks which would provide habitat, active travel routes and greenspace links.
- 3) To note unresolved concerns over:
  - a) the unnecessary amplification of the housing supply targets to give a "generosity" allowance of 10% which simply put greater pressure on greenbelt and greenfield sites and diverted attention away from the need to bring hoarded land and unused property into use;
  - b) the significant number of road and junction developments outlined which would inevitably lead to greater traffic levels with the associated pollution, congestion, air quality and health problems and undermine the plan's stated aim to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable development;

- c) the lack of safeguards against fracking and the insufficient nature of the reference to the Scottish Government's moratorium as protection against test drilling and exploration which in itself could have a significant impact on communities.

- moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Burgess

### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	49 votes
For the amendment	-	6 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Perry.

(References – Planning Committee 11 August 2016 (item 2); referral report from the Planning Committee, submitted.)

## **11. Emergency Motion by the Lord Provost – 2016 Olympic Games**

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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 following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“This Council agrees to congratulate all athletes of Team GB - in particular those with links to Scotland and to this city - on an outstanding, historic performance at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The City also wishes the best of luck to the Team GB Paralympian athletes still to compete.

This Council welcomes the news of SportScotland's fitting celebrations for those athletes from all over Scotland. We ask SportScotland to consider working with the Council to extend these homecoming celebrations to include a public show of appreciation in the streets of the Capital City, for example an open top bus parade, in addition to their planned celebrations at Oriam.”

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.



## Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 25 August 2016)

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016**

#### Question

Given the Council decision to cease providing a repair service for stair-lighting what range of feedback has been received from residents and what action has been taken to address residents' concerns.

#### Answer

The Council issued 70,000 letters to owners regarding the changes to the stairlighting service. Around 200 enquiries have been received, which is 0.3% of the total. The majority of enquiries have been around the reason and basis for the Council decision. A number have requested that the Council provide Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR), however as the Council has never owned the stairlighting installations these have always been the responsibility of the owners.

Other enquiries have requested details of current fittings and the option to change these. These have been answered to owners' satisfaction. Enquiries have also sought access to the stairlighting installation, people have been advised this can be done by a reputable electrical contractor and for safety reasons this has not been provided directly.

All owners have been signposted to Trusted Traders when seeking to identify a contractor to carry out any Maintenance or Repairs on their behalf.

We have also received a number of letters thanking us for our communications on this matter informing them of the changes in service provision.

**Supplementary  
Question**

For the benefit of the webcast, I asked about feedback on the Council's decision to cease providing a repairs service to stair lighting in communal stairs. Lord Provost, I thank the Convener for the answer. I'll remind members that the budget decision from which this stems – the Green Group proposed an alternative, that the stairlighting service be continued, that householders be charged for the service which would have met the budget objective of saving money, but also ensure that the repair service stay in place and of course the economies of scale in providing that service. As it stands, Lord Provost, we approach the autumn and then the winter with the prospect of some stairs being plunged into darkness as repairs simply go undone.

So, the supplementary I guess would be will the Convener commit to review the service in light of experience and look at the options again for ensuring that Edinburgh's communal stairs are provided with safe and repairable stair lighting.

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Can I thank Councillor Corbett for his follow up question. For the benefit of the webcast there was a full answer provided which you've maybe not read. The Council refers all these on to Trusted Traders so there's an option for people to link on to that website to get approved traders to fix any of the repairs in this. In the wintertime there's nothing going to happen, all the lights are not going to close down and go off in winter and should there be a catastrophic failure of all the lights in the stair going down then the Council's emergency service can still be applied to that.

## QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016**

### Question

How many complaints have been received about:

- (i) missed waste or recycling bin collections and
- (ii) overflowing bins, over each of the last two years?

### Answer

Our systems do not currently allow us to distinguish between missed bins and overflowing bins. As such, any overflowing bins are also classed as missed bins.

Between July 2014 and July 2015 there were 40309 missed bin complaints and between July 2015 and July 2016 there were 53862. The figure of 53862 equates to around 0.2% of the number bins that are scheduled for collection.

It should be noted that duplicate reports are included in these figures. In addition, it should also be noted that the number of bins which are collected was increased significantly through the rollout of the new kerbside collection service over the past 24 months.

Officers are continuing to work to improve this situation and are acutely aware that there need to be significant improvements made in this area. Throughout September, a new route management system will be trialled in waste collection with the aim of contributing towards this reduction.

I have also met Senior Officers to discuss reporting systems and feedback to residents who have contacted the Council re service complaints. I have also requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Transport & Environment Committee on further actions required to improve these systems.

**Supplementary question**

I thank the Convener for her answer. For the benefit of the webcast I asked the Convener about the number of missed bin collections in Edinburgh and the answer was that the missed collections have increased by a third since the previous year to more than 50,000 in the last year. Whilst I acknowledge that this is a small percentage of overall collections, the Convener will know from her own in-box that there is consistent service failure right across the Capital. The Convener has actually effectively asked what my supplementary was going to be as to what is being done about it and I note the intention to introduce a new route management system and that she has met with senior officers to examine complaints from members of the public.

Can I just have the Convener's reassurance that this issue is at the top of her agenda and that she will be doing all she can to sort the problem out?

**Supplementary Answer**

Thank you for the question. I think that at the moment the number of complaints we have is unacceptable, and we discuss it probably, myself and Councillor McVey discuss this on each of our one to one meetings with the Head of Waste and also with the Director and to me there's three parts to this:

One is that we don't want any complaints in the first place and how do we address that and how do we get low numbers of complaints because that's the key issue and how we provide the most efficient service possible.

Secondly if we do get complaints what's the response and I know that's a frustration for a lot of people about the response and how we deal with that response and that's why we have had meetings regarding the reporting system, and the feedback and how people get that and I will report to the Transport and Environment Committee at the next meeting - not this one but the next one after that.

Also one of the issues is about review. What you will find is often, and Councillors will know this and many of the Councillors copy me in, it's often repeat, it's the same individual household, the same person, same individual

**Supplementary  
Answer**

household who would seem to repeat to getting that same service which is not good enough and how do we deal with that and how do we address that or if it's a certain area, a certain street.

So I can assure you it's at the top of my agenda and we only met yesterday with the Head of Waste to discuss this and what we're looking for is to put out a briefing note to all Councillors which will say here's the changes that have come about in trade waste and manage weekly collections, recycling, all of that, but here's the challenges and here's the action and strategy we're looking for and the action we're going to take in terms of the issues, whether it's fly-tipping, whether it's communal bins etc and here's the action that we want officers to take.

So hopefully we can get that out to all elected members so they know here's the changes we've made, and what's the results of those. Secondly how we're going to deal with the issues that are still outstanding, whether that's gull proof bags which I think is an issue as well in some of our areas and whether that's working correctly - we need to look at.

So there's a number of issues we'll send that to all Councillors so you know that we are taking action and we are trying to get the best service possible and for the residents of Edinburgh.

### QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Main for answer by the  
Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 25 August 2016**

On 26 August 2014 Transport and Environment Committee approved changes to the Events Manifesto, including the following paragraphs:

b) space in the Meadows is tendered during the August summer festivals for a period of up to 23 days of performance (plus set up and take down operations); recognising the importance of the location to the City's summer festival activities. However, any applications out with that timescale will be considered on their individual merits.

c) The Council will expect an increased financial return on use of this space, and will invest any additional income secured into the infrastructure, features and facilities of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.

- Question** (1) What was the financial return on the use of the Meadows for the Festival period in 2015?
- Answer** (1) Income from the 2015 Festival period was £34,826 for the Circus Hub and £7238 for the Festival Funfair.
- Question** (2) What investment from the 2015 summer income has been made to the infrastructure, features and facilities of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links? Please provide details of the items and the individual amounts invested.
- Answer** (2) All income as referred to above was invested in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. This income was included in total investment as detailed below.

- £4,826 to cover overtime for Park Rangers during August.
- £27,500 Wall Repairs
- £75,000 Footpath Upgrades (Jawbone Walk & Coronation walk)
- £75,000 Boroughloch Walk Cycle Path Upgrade
- £1500 New notice board Leamington Walk
- £1000 Bulbs
- £2500 New seats
- £500 Golf interpretation panel
- £7000 Playpark improvements
- £22,361 Tree planting/works

Total = £217,187

## QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016**

### Question

Please provide details of when and where weed spraying was carried out in the City in calendar year 2016 and which areas were sprayed.

### Answer

As Councillors will be aware the Council has agreed a new structure involving four localities rather than the previous six neighbourhoods. Unfortunately because of this change we have been unable to collate this information from across each of the four localities in a consistent format.

Arrangements are in place to provide details direct to Councillor Mowat by 31 August.

### Supplementary Question

You will be aware from the answer that unfortunately the Department isn't and the Convener isn't in a position to provide me with an answer at this point. Given the interest in weed spraying and whether and when and where it's been carried out, can I ask rather than this information come to me privately on the 31 August 2016, this question be carried over to next month's agenda so that the response is publicly available to everyone on the agenda for full Council next month.

### Supplementary Answer

I'm quite happy to do that. What I was doing was pursuing, just so that people are aware for the answer is that one of the issues is that we've changed from six neighbourhoods to four areas and what we're trying to do is to get consistent reporting and that's a big change that's happened over particularly the last months but the last few weeks, different officers etc. I was trying to get an answer as quickly as possible and that was why next Wednesday was given for that, but I'm happy for that information, that will probably give the officers a bit longer, for what it's about so it looks consistent, it's the same for each of the areas I think that's quite important that we do that. I'm happy for, if it's okay I assume, to put that up for the same question perhaps and just give the detailed answer for everyone.