

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Deputy Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2016

Free Public Wi-Fi in Edinburgh

Question

- (1) "Free public wi-fi across Edinburgh by summer" was a headline in March 2014 following an Edinburgh Council communication reporting a deal following an allocation of £150m by the UK Government to 22 cities in the national Super Connected Cities Programme. Edinburgh was one of those cities and engaged Gowex SA to provide public wifi as headlined. In the summer of 2014 the company was made bankrupt amidst charges against it of fraud and the Edinburgh free wifi project collapsed.

How much did the Council receive as part of that Programme and where is that money now?

Question

- (2) "Free wi-fi set to hit Edinburgh's city centre" was the headline of a press release from Edinburgh Council in May 2016 announcing a phased rollout over the summer and autumn of 2016 in conjunction with *intechology plc*. A short paragraph in an appendix to a report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, apparently written before the 'summer festival period' reported apparent progress and a publicity breakfast briefing in July.

When will it available?

Why is it later than indicated in the Council media briefing?

How much public money will it cost in finance and in kind?