

# Minutes

## The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 27 October 2016

**Present:-**

### **LORD PROVOST**

**The Right Honourable Donald Wilson**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Elaine Aitken  
Robert C Aldridge  
Nigel Bagshaw  
Gavin Barrie  
Angela Blacklock  
Chas Booth  
Mike Bridgman  
Steve Burgess  
Andrew Burns  
Ronald Cairns  
Steve Cardownie  
Maureen M Child  
Nick Cook  
Gavin Corbett  
Cammy Day  
Denis C Dixon  
Marion Donaldson  
Karen Doran  
Paul G Edie  
Catherine Fullerton  
Nick Gardner  
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. Motion by Councillor Corbett – UK Social Entrepreneur of the Year

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### a) Deputation by Remakery

The deputation outlined the work carried out by Remakery and indicated that they had been shortlisted for the UK Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award. If they won the award, it was their intention to use the money to start the same work in other communities in other cities in the UK.

The deputation asked for the Council's support of their nomination by voting for them.

### b) Motion by Councillor Corbett

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

"Council:

Congratulates Sophie Unwin, the director of Remade in Edinburgh, on being shortlisted for the Bank of Scotland UK Social Entrepreneur of the Year as the only Scottish finalist.

Notes that voting closes tomorrow (28 October).

Highlights that voting is free by two methods - Text SEYA SOPHIE to 67076 or via [www.the-SSE.org/SEYA](http://www.the-SSE.org/SEYA) and wishes Remade every success in the event."

### Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Corbett.

## 2. Minutes

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 22 September 2016 as a correct record.

## 3. 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.

## 4 Leader's Report

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

- Councillor Godzik, Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee – thanks for work carried out in this role
- Budget consultation process
- Annual staff awards
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children – positive role of Edinburgh citizens
- Opening of James Gillespie's and Portobello High Schools

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Ritchie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Edinburgh City 2050 Vision</li><li>- Edinburgh Falcons Cycle Speedway Team - congratulations</li></ul>
Councillor Rose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Edinburgh</li><li>- Regret in not fixing problems with roads, planning, licence applications, refuse collections and complaints</li></ul>
Councillor Burgess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Refugees – how long the national transfer protocol for unaccompanied children will take to work up</li></ul>
Councillor Aldridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Staff leaving the organisation – transition – levels of community consultation</li></ul>
Councillor Redpath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thanks to Michelle Fraser - Muirhouse Shopping Centre Redevelopment</li></ul>
Councillor Cardownie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pennywell Centre Redevelopment – Gunner Public House – recompense for tenant and any others affected by the Council's house building programme in the area</li></ul>
Councillor Hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Closure of Gallery at Inverleith House</li></ul>
Councillor Tymkewycz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- George Taylor, Boxer – Commonwealth title - congratulations</li></ul>
Councillor Whyte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Increase in street begging – effectiveness of some of the Council's services</li></ul>

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|------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Lewis | - | Closure of Gallery at Inverleith House          |
|                  | - | Cuts to opening hours at 16 Monuments Museum    |
|                  | - | Observatory – Calton Hill – Financial shortfall |

## 5. Appointments to Committees

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The Council had made appointments to Committees for 2016-2017.

Councillor Godzik had intimated his resignation from the Education, Children and Families Committee and a replacement was sought.

### Decision

To note resignations from and appointments to Committees as follows:

#### **Education, Children and Families Committee:**

- To note the resignation of Councillor Godzik and to appoint Councillor Munro
- To appoint Councillor Day as Convener of the Committee.

#### **Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee:**

- To note the appointment of Councillor Day (as Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee) to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.

#### **Committee on Pupil and Student Support:**

- To note the resignation of Councillor Godzik and to appoint Councillor Day.
- To appoint Councillor Day as Convener of the Committee.

#### **Health, Social Care and Housing Committee:**

- To note the resignation of Councillor Day and to appoint Councillor Donaldson.
- To appoint Councillor Griffiths as Vice Convener of the Committee.

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

## 5. Appointments to Outside Organisations

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

Councillors Lunn and Perry had now resigned as Council representatives on the Board of Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust and the Council was invited to appoint members in their place.

### Decision

To note resignations from and appointments to Outside Organisations as follows:

- **Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust** – To note the resignations of Councillors Perry and Lunn and to appoint Councillors Gardner and Lewis.
- **John Watson Trust** – To note the resignation of Councillor Godzik and to appoint Councillor Day.
- **WEA Scotland** – To note the resignation of Councillor Godzik and to appoint Councillor Day.
- **Lothian Homes Trust** – To note the resignation of Councillor Day and to appoint Councillor Griffiths.
- **Life Care (Edinburgh) Ltd** – To note the resignation of Councillor Day and to appoint Councillor Griffiths.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 24 May 2012; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

## 6 Lothian Buses – Appointment of Executive Directors

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Details were provided on a request from Lothian Buses for consent to appoint up to three new Executive Directors to its Board to replace Executive Directors who had left or were shortly to leave the business.

### Decision

- 1) To appoint Sarah Boyd and Nigel Serafini to the Lothian Buses Board.
- 2) To note that recruitment for a further Executive Director would take place over the coming months.

- 3) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee, to approve this appointment in due course on behalf of the Council.

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

## **7. The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016**

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The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016, which was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 14 September 2016 and came into force on 30 September 2016, gave effect to proposals made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland as a result of their Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements for the area of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Details were provided on the changes that had been made by the Order.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the new electoral arrangements for the City of Edinburgh Council area defined in The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016.
- 2) To note that following consultation with elected members a revised arrangement of polling districts and places would be presented to Council for approval in November 2016.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **8. Leith Central Community Council Election**

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The Community Council triennial elections had commenced on 5 September 2016 with close of nominations on 26 October 2016.

Details were provided on the nominations which had been received for places on Leith Community Council and action which had been taken by the Chief Executive following the withdrawal of one of the candidates.

### **Decision**

To note the action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lord Provost, under the urgency provisions described in paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Function, not to hold a poll for Leith Central Community Council.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **9. City of Edinburgh Council – Report to those Charged with Governance on the 2015-16 Audit**

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The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report detailing the principal findings of the external auditor's statutory review of the Council's Annual Accounts to the Council for noting and to revise by £0.076m the level of in-year underspend transferred to the Council Priorities Fund.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the report by the Finance and Resources Committee
- 2) To revise by £0.076m the level of in-year underspend transferred to the Council Priorities Fund.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 29 September 2016 (item 9); referral report by the Finance and Resource Committee, submitted.)

## **10. Audited Annual Report 2016 of the Lothian Pensions Fund, Lothian Buses Pension Fund and Scottish Homes Pension Fund – referral from the Pensions Committee**

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The Pensions Committee had referred a report on Audit Scotland's statutory audit of the Annual Report 2016 of the three pension funds administered by the City of Edinburgh Council to the Council for information.

### **Decision**

To note the report by the Pensions Committee.

(References – Pensions Committee 28 September 2016 (item 8); referral report by the Pensions Committee, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Aldridge declared a financial interest as Chief Executive of an admitted organisation to the Lothian Pension Fund and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

## **11. Pennywell-Muirhouse Civic Centre**

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Approval was sought to place a project order with Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd using the Scape Group Ltd framework to enable the redevelopment of the Pennywell/Muirhouse Civic Centre with a target project budget of £25.997m.

## Decision

- 1) To agree to place a Project Order with Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd for the redevelopment of the Civic Centre using the Scape Framework.
- 2) To agree a project budget of £25.997m for the redevelopment of the Civic Centre. Up to £23.908m of the project budget would be contracted through the Scape framework.
- 3) To agree the additional £5.190m of capital expenditure associated with this project to be included as part of 2017/18 – 2021/22 HRA capital investment programme.
- 4) To designate the Executive Director of Place to enter into a Delivery Agreement through Scape on the condition that the total cost did not exceed the project budget.
- 5) To agree to apply for Scottish Government funding to support the delivery of around 109 homes for social rent.
- 6) To approve the demolition of the area, subject to compliance with the Edinburgh City Local Plan (ECLP) and the Scottish Historic Environmental Policy (SHEP).
- 7) To agree the re-housing and award of silver priority for existing Council tenants and homeowners (if required) and the buyback of six former Council homes.
- 8) To agree to the Council managing the existing leases within the development area to allow redevelopment to take place in a phased manner, through negotiations with current tenants.
- 9) To agree the transfer of land at 15a Pennywell Road and 36, 34 and 34a Muirhouse Crescent from the General Fund to the HRA.

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

## 12. Recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee

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Details were provided on the recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee held on 21 July 2016 on a complaint against the Social Work Service within Communities and Families.



## **Decision**

To approve the recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee.

(Reference – report by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee, submitted.)

## **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Edie declared a financial interest as Chair of the Care Inspectorate and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

## **13 Shelter Scotland – Motion by Councillor Heslop**

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

“Council supports the campaign by Shelter Scotland, 'Homelessness Far From Fixed' which is committed to four key objects:

- A safe and affordable home for everyone
- Help is available for everyone to keep or find a home
- A strong safety net to catch people if they lose their home
- That no-one should ever have to sleep rough on our streets

Congratulates the volunteers who took part in the Edinburgh launch of the campaign and encourages all City of Edinburgh Councillors to sign up to the objectives of this campaign.

Further notes that homelessness cannot be ignored and that more needs to be done at every level of government to help those who are the most vulnerable in our society.”

## **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Heslop.

## **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Corbett declared a financial interest as an employee of Shelter Scotland and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

## Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 3 of 27 October 2016)

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2016**

#### Trade Waste

**Question** (1) How many users of the Council's trade waste service were there when the service stopped?

**Answer** (1) 1,309. Prior to the service being withdrawn a full explanation was provided to all customers outlining the rationale for the cessation. In addition full information on how to contact alternative trade waste collectors was provided, along with details of the legal responsibilities on businesses to ensure that all their waste was collected by a registered company.

**Question** (2) How many of the 41% of businesses without a valid trade waste contract were previously using the Council Service?

**Answer** (2) One

**Supplementary Question** Thank you Lord Provost. I thank the Convener for her response which given that it appears from these figures that the cessation of the provision of a trade waste service by the Council does not appear to be a contributory factor to the increased amounts of trade waste and fly-tipping by businesses that were seen on our streets and were causing so many problems over the summer period, can she explain what the problem was, and therefore if we have identified the cause of the problem, can she provide a solution?

**Supplementary Answer** Yes Councillor Mowat. You asked the question about, just for the people who are listening, how many years the Council's trade waste service were there when the service was stopped. Just to remind the Council and the public out there that the trade waste system that we carried out as a Council cost us money as a Council and what we decided to do was to ensure we were concentrating on our domestic waste and getting that right and not costing us money on the

trade waste, I'm assuming Councillor Mowat would welcome this since every Council meeting and every meeting I ever go to the only solution to our waste service in the city is privatisation and it's the private service who now carry out that service in the trade waste and as a Council we decided to withdraw from it because it was costing us money and resources. She asks the explanation of why customer and also prior to the withdrawal, I assume the question was that you know there was going to be all this difficulty and problem with trade waste but prior to the withdrawal, every company that was provided a service by the Council was given information, help and support regarding their trade waste service. Again a lot of people aren't aware that as a business, legally you must have a certificate and you must give proof that you are providing a waste service for your business and that is what we need to do.

There was 1 out of the 41% of businesses without a valid trade waste contract. Well I just actually have got the up to date figures, Councillor Mowat, we've now, as you will be aware Lord Provost, we now have a trade waste compliance unit which are going round all of the businesses particularly in areas in Gorgie/Dalry, Leith Walk where we believe we have got a real challenge in terms of communal bins being filled up not by domestic waste but by trade waste and so the compliance unit have now visited 800 premises and out of those 800 premises basically 432 were complying.

Almost half were therefore not complying with their legal responsibilities so I think that's the proof Councillor Mowat that over half of the trade waste and the businesses that are providing trade waste don't even have the compliance, don't comply with the legality that they have in terms of providing their certificate and how they provide their waste. So there's your evidence – out of 800 premises in the last number of weeks visited, only 432 comply and there's been 18 fixed penalties issued to businesses throughout this city, so I think that that's your evidence that the businesses in this community do not have and I welcome the ones who do have the compliance and are actually complying with how they deal with their waste.

So there's your evidence, and we are going to come down hard on premises who don't have a trade waste compliance certificate and aren't dealing with their waste because the communal bins as you know Councillor Mowat, that are in your ward, are provided for domestic waste and not trade waste, there's your evidence.

## QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Nick Cook for answer  
by the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 27 October 2016**

### Question

Please provide details of the total number of complaints received about the condition of roads in Edinburgh in the last twelve months and to provide a breakdown by individual ward.

### Answer

Twenty one formal complaints were made in the last year about the condition of Edinburgh's roads. These were mostly general Edinburgh-wide complaints and therefore not specific to wards.

The Council does however receive a number of road enquiries, the majority of which are general enquiries relating to small road defects such as potholes. There are also frequently multiple enquiries raised about the same defect. For example, there were 68 enquiries for Greenbank Drive in the last year relating to the condition of the block paving in the street. Greenbank Drive has recently been resurfaced.

### Supplementary Question (1)

Thanks Lord Provost, I have to say I'm slightly disappointed in the quality of the answer to this question which is not of the high standard I usually expect from Councillor Hinds. An enquiry can be defined as an act of asking for information whereas a complaint is a statement of something that is unsatisfactory or unacceptable.

So the Council can manage to tell us that there's tens of thousands of complaints about missed collections each year but doesn't seem they can do the same for roads. I think people could be quite angry that if they take the time to report a concern over a pothole it's regarded as an enquiry over a minor defect.

Is this answer intentionally vague and obstructive or is the Council's reporting procedure not fit for purpose.

**Supplementary Answer (1)** Well I suppose if you don't ask the right question you don't get the right answer. Was it a complaint you're asking, was it an enquiry. It's very clear for the people out there again and for the Council "Please provide details of the total number of complaints received about the condition of roads in Edinburgh in the last twelve months and provide a breakdown by individual ward." The answer is 21 formal complaints were made in the last year about the condition of Edinburgh roads. They were mostly generally Edinburgh-wide complaints and therefore not specific to wards.

The Council does have a system of dealing with enquiries and road enquiries as it does with other types of services and I'll give you some examples so the public and the people in this Council can make up their minds – but some of the enquiries we have are drainage enquiries, blocked road gulleys, damaged gulley units; signs damaged, missing a new signage where they are looking for that; street furniture, perhaps a guard rail, bollards, ironwork; street lighting, faults etc; kerbstone and flags broken damaged or missing; road safety concerns or roadworks or it may well be potholes as well.

So I'm only answering the question that he's asked about how many complaints and I've given him the answer so perhaps he might want to ask the right question at the next Council meeting.

**Supplementary Question (2)** Thanks Lord Provost for your indulgence, so if I use the same terminology Councillor Hinds, the Council was able to tell me that there was tens of thousands of waste collection complaints but not in relation to roads, so at least will you admit there is an inconsistency in approach rather than trying to obscure your answer to the question

**Lord Provost** Can you make sure you address all comments through the chair.

**Supplementary Answer** (2) I prefer looking to you to Councillor Cardownie, that's maybe why I'm doing it this time as well – sorry Steve I had to do that.

Could I say I think there is inconsistency and I have brought it up with the Director/Heads of Service because when people think about a complaint – what is a complaint what is an enquiry and that is dealt with by another service other than I'm responsible for and that is why we are asking as a group to have a presentation about the system about how we record how the public report. I think there is an inconsistency I've never denied that that is the case – there's inconsistency between what is an enquiry and what is a complaint and I think as a Council we need to address that and it's something I've been challenging the officers so we are quite clear about that and we will pursue it.

### QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the  
Convener of the Corporate Policy  
and Strategy Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 27 October 2016**

#### Scottish Information Commissioner Appeals

- Question**
- (1) 1. Please detail for each of the last five years the number of occasions when appeals have been lodged with the Scottish Information Commissioner against decisions by City of Edinburgh Council in response to Freedom of Information or Environmental Information requests.
2. How many times has the Commissioner upheld or partially upheld the appeal in each of the past five years?
3. How many has an upheld appeal been because information has not been supplied within the statutory limits?

- Answer**
- (1) 1. Scottish Information Commissioner Appeals

a)

Year:	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Total:	18	21	17	16	12	16

\*2016 is included to provide up to date information and covers Jan-June 2016.

During the period 2011-2016, 13,339 statutory requests for information have been processed under Scotland's freedom of information laws. Of that total, the Council has been asked to review its initial response on 933 occasions – 7% of the overall total. The cumulative figure of 100 appeals to the Scottish Information Commissioner (detailed above) represents 0.74% of the total number of statutory requests received by the Council.



In relation to the period 2011-2016, a significant number of appeals to the Scottish Information Commissioner concern areas of controversy and particular public interest. For example, of the 100 appeals detailed above, 21 concerned the Property Conservation Service, with a further 8 relating to advertising drums within the City.

b) Upheld/ partially upheld for the applicant

<b>Year:</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
<b>Total:</b>	17	16	12	10	6	11

\*2016 is included to provide up to date information and covers Jan-June 2016.

The 72 decisions issued by the Scottish Information Commissioner represent 0.53% of the total number of statutory requests received by the Council for 2011-2016.

c) Information not supplied within the statutory limits

<b>Year:</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
<b>Total:</b>	7	2	3	2	1	5

\*2016 is included to provide up to date information and covers Jan-June 2016.

The 20 decisions issued against the Council for technical breaches represent 0.15% of the total number of statutory requests received by the Council for 2011-2016.

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| <b>Question</b> | <b>(2)</b> Describe the ongoing governance, scrutiny and review processes in relation to these findings from the Scottish Information Commissioner.  |
| <b>Answer</b>   | <b>(2)</b> All decisions issued by the Scottish Information Commissioner are received and acknowledged by the Chief Executive's Office and passed to the Council's Information Governance Unit to be actioned, as appropriate. |

In line with Information Governance Unit's internal procedure for complying with decision notices, the notice is issued to the appropriate service area for action and also copied to the Head of Service and Director. The service area is then asked to provide evidence of compliance with the decision notice. When appropriate, the Information Governance Unit will provide assistance, support and training to improve practices and reduce associated information risks highlighted by the decision notice. Any non-compliance is reported to the appropriate Head of Service and Director, and the Head of Strategy and Insight as the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner.

All decision notices issued by the Scottish Information Commissioner in relation to CEC and all Scottish public authorities are discussed at the weekly team meetings of the Information Rights Team – a work stream within the Information Governance Unit. This ensures that lessons are learnt and best practice is followed at all times.

All decision notices are reported to the Information Council - the Council's Information Governance Group which has delegated authority from the Council Leadership Team for information governance matters within the Council.

Performance in relation to statutory requests (including decision notices) is also reported to the Council Leadership Team on a four monthly basis. This approach is currently being reviewed as part of the new business partnering arrangements within Strategy & Insight with the view of taking information governance performance to Divisional Senior Management Teams on a more regular basis. This approach will ensure that information risks are highlighted and mitigated more quickly.

Under the Council's recently approved Information Governance Policy (Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee (CP&S) - 4 Oct 2016), an annual report on information governance will be brought to CP&S for scrutiny, including issues relating to decisions by the Scottish Information Commissioner.

The Council's FOI processes were audited in October 2015, including arrangements around decisions issued by the Scottish Information Commissioner. The audit was 'clean' with no improvement actions recommended or issued.

**Supplementary Question** (1) Thank you Lord Provost, I thank the Leader of the Council for his response. My question was about Freedom of Information requests and the number of appeals which the Council loses or partly loses and the answer was that we lose 72% in one form or another of the appeals which are made by the public to the decision that the Council has taken, usually not to release information and so my question to the Leader, Lord Provost, is do you agree that losing 72% of appeals suggests a defensive culture when more openness could save public time and resources?

**Supplementary Answer** (1) Thanks very much Lord Provost. Can I thank Councillor Rose for his question and his supplementary. I don't recognise the figure he's just quoted. It is certainly not within the answer that I've given him in writing which obviously people who are watching the webcam can't see but the actual answer says that of the number of appeals that we do lose only, only 0.15%, 0.15% we lose because of information not being provided and we only lose 0.53% of the overall number of appeals that come against us. So I don't recognise the figures that Councillor Rose quotes. I do though accept that every single appeal whether upheld or not is one appeal too many as Councillor Rose and I think the rest of the chamber hopefully knows I'm a great supporter and believer in as much openness as possible and I always accept that there's room for improvement.

**Supplementary Question** (2) Lord Provost, the Leader answers a completely different question and a completely different point from that which I made. I was referring to appeals, the figures he quotes relate to the total number of initial Freedom of Information requests. So do you agree that your answer in relation to the number of appeals is incorrect.

**Supplementary Answer** (2) No I don't

**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?

**Answer**

- (1)** The Connected Capital Programme has received over £6.5 million in funding from the Super Connected Cities Programme run by Broadband Delivery UK (DBUK) to date, broken down in the table that follows.

The Council will be submitting one further claim in November 2016 for the final broadband connection vouchers as the deadline for connections only recently expired on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and SME’s need to provide an invoice from their supplier in order of the Council to make the payment and reclaim the monies from BDUK.

Project	Description	Funding Received £000's
Superfast Broadband connection scheme  – 22 cities	Edinburgh region	£894k
Superfast Broadband Connection Scheme  – 50 cities  Edinburgh acted as administrator for this scheme for Scotland apart from Aberdeen and Perth receiving 10% of the value of the vouchers for this service.	Edinburgh region - £537k  Glasgow region  - £848k  Inverness region – £29k  Dundee Region  - £33k  Stirling Region  - £104k	£1,552k
Public Transport Wifi	Wifi deployed on Lothian buses and tram fleet (713 buses and 27 trams)	£2,098k
Public Building Wifi	Wifi provided in 67 buildings (42 Council / 25 Non Council)	£1,835k
Outdoor Wireless Concession	Payments for wayleaves to allow siting of equipment on non-council buildings and changes to council lighting.	£176k
Total		£6,556k

Please note that funding is only received from the Government on provision of invoices, and was not an upfront grant payment.

**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?

**Answer**

- (2) The phased roll out of the outdoor wifi concession is in progress and should complete by the end of November in time for Edinburgh's Christmas celebrations. The network is in soft launch phase (i.e. live in some city centre areas but not being promoted) with testing and adjustment of the network in progress. Once the concession holder, Intechology, have fully tested the network and the Council are satisfied with coverage and performance, a full communications programme, including a media announcement, will commence.

As of 20 October 2016 installation is 82% complete with 68% of assets operational. The High Street was the first area to go live in the soft launch phase in the third week of August with other areas going live in the intervening time.

The roll out involves installing equipment and connections in over 20 buildings (8 of which are not owned by the Council) and 185 lighting and CCTV assets across the city centre and is one of the biggest city wifi installations in the UK, and the biggest in Scotland.

Work has been ongoing with numerous third parties, and the Council's legal, property, planning, lighting, roads and facilities management teams to facilitate this work. Due to the complications of working in a World Heritage Site the installation team has had to overcome numerous challenges in order to progress which has resulted in some delay to the roll out.

Intechnology are working with Unique Events and Underbelly to ensure extra temporary wifi access points are installed in those Christmas and Hogmanay event areas that require it.

Attached find a map showing the phased roll out – areas 1,2 and 3 are nearing completion with work ongoing in areas 4,5 and 6. See also [www.edinburghfreewifi.com](http://www.edinburghfreewifi.com) for FAQ's for users etc.

As a concession contract, Intechnology will own, operate and manage the network at no cost to the Council. Contract management will be required on an ongoing basis and the cost of this has been estimated to be approximately £80k over the initial duration of the contract (10 years). This will be met from rental income and any revenue share derived from the contract.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost. I thank the Digital Economy Champion for his response and I appreciate that there were issues which may well have been beyond the Council's control but the fact of the matter is that we are now approaching two and a half years after this was promised and my question was about free public wi-fi in the central areas of the City.

Given the delays that we have had my supplementary to the Digital Economy Champion is, what steps are you taking to ensure that any further delays are minimized?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

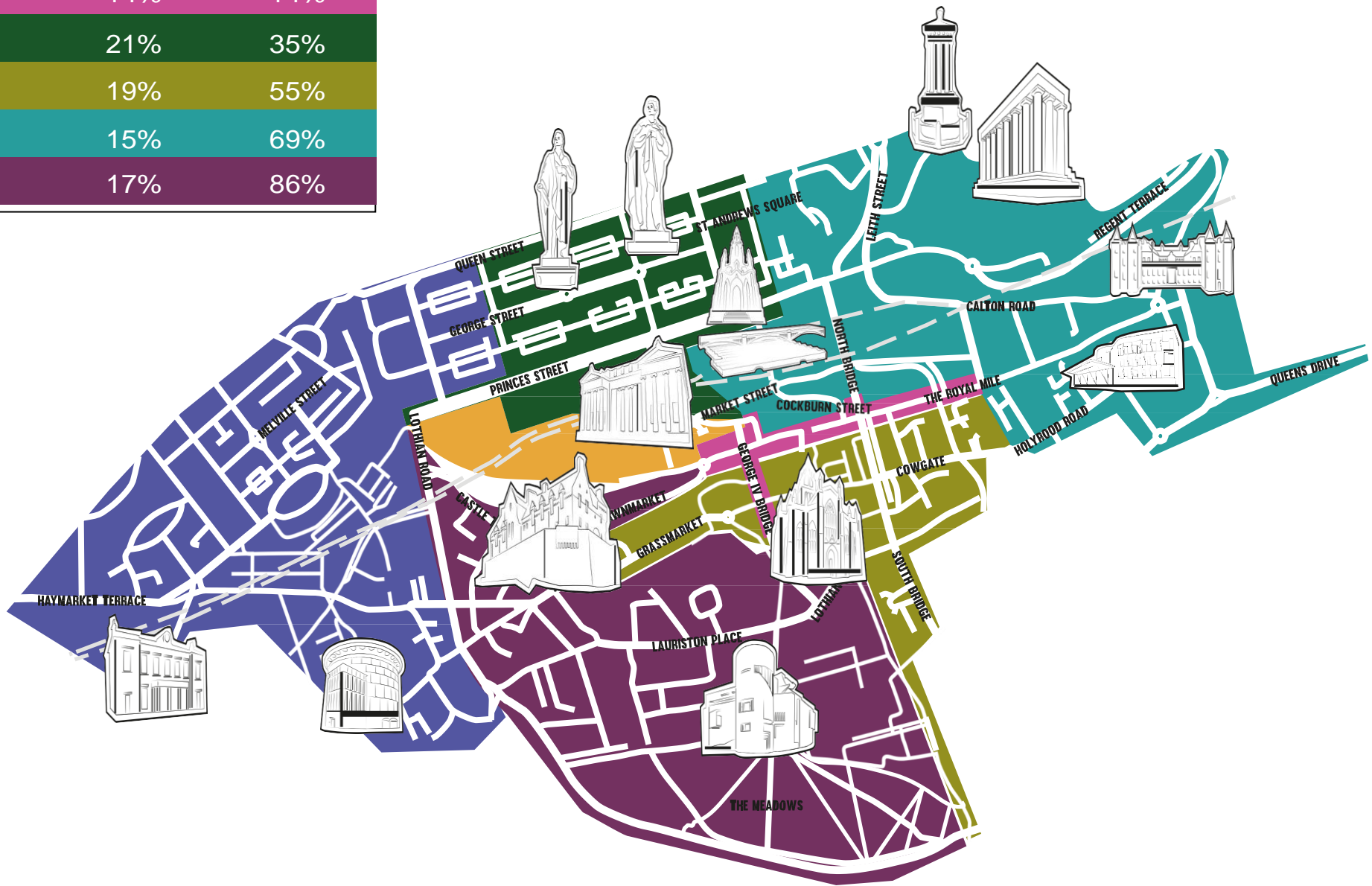
Thank you Lord Provost and I thank Councillor Rose for his supplementary. As he is aware and he did allude to in his question the delays in the programme for two and a half years were predominantly due to the private sector company Gowex going into bankruptcy after almost a year and a half's negotiation with the Council and are currently seeing charges of fraud against them which kind of set us back a little bit Lord Provost and took us to a stage where we perhaps took a greater due diligence approach to the next replacement company.

But the programme of free wi-fi in the City centre has in fact been operational since before the summer festival

programme predominantly in the Royal Mile area and has continued to be rolled out and as the answer says has been rolled out into three areas, Old Town, New Town and the Royal Mile itself. These are almost complete so I'm not anticipating any further delays and am expecting the full programme to be up and running, Lord Provost, by the winter festivals.



Phase	Phase % of Total	Cumulative %
1	14%	14%
2	21%	35%
3	19%	55%
4	15%	69%
5	17%	86%



## QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2016**

### Facilities for Disposal of Waste in Public Parks

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Question</b>               | (1) Please can the Convener provide, for each of the public parks maintained by the City Council, a list of facilities to dispose of waste other than to landfill, and in each case what type of waste is collected.  |
| <b>Answer</b>                 | <p>(1) Each public park in the city has litter receptacles for the disposal of general pedestrian litter. Currently these are emptied by our Street Cleaning teams. Waste manually collected by these teams is not directly sent to landfill but processed by a contracted third party on our behalf. Currently almost 30% of this waste stream is recycled. Where possible we are always looking for ways to encourage people to recycle. However in the past, where we have trialled recycling (paper and packaging), at for example Figgate Park and Saughton Park, this resulted in high levels of contamination and a number of acts of fire raising to a point that these sites were unsustainable. As a consequence we now aim to have a full range of recycling facilities available in close proximity to park users. A good example being Leith Links.</p> <p>In addition there are underground bins (Silo Bins) in Princes Street Gardens, The Meadows, Bruntsfield Links and Harrison Park and for general waste. The contents of these are processed through a Materials Recovery Facility to maximise the amount of waste to be recycled from these receptacles</p> |
| <b>Supplementary Question</b> | <p>Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for her response. For the benefit of the webcam as the Lord Provost has noted, my question was about asking for a list of the recycling facilities in the city's parks and the answer from the Convener was that there have been some challenges in particular with contamination and with fire raising with recycling facilities and I absolutely acknowledge that this is a challenging area but I hope the Convener</p>   |

agrees with me that we can collectively aim to do better than the 30% of recycling that we get from sending general bins to a materials recycling facility and I hope she agrees with me that we can aim to learn the lessons of where a segregated recycling in parks hasn't worked. So my question for the Convener is will she provide a list of the facilities that either are currently or have previously existed in parks, I know there's one in Leith Links in my own ward at least but it would be helpful to know where the others exist.

Will she also agree to look at what we can do to learn the lessons from where segregated recycling in parks hasn't worked and perhaps adjust her approach and will she agree to seek advice and potentially funding from Zero Waste Scotland and other partners in bringing this forward.

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Thank you for the question, of course I'd be happy to send the list regarding the parks but I think as you know in the answer as well as a consequence what the Council officers in Parks and also in Cleansing have looked at is providing a full range of recycling on the outskirts of the park for example as you know in Leith Links and that has been far more successful in terms of recycling and segregated recycling.

So, my assumption is that the officers have looked at where there's been contamination, have looked at what's the solution and have tried out on the outskirts of park and separate recycling and they believe that that has been successful so if we can provide on the outskirts of parks separate recycling we'll try to do that and obviously lessons learned, there's been fire-raising, contamination in terms of segregated recycling and of course we want to up the 30% at the moment that comes from the parks in terms of recycling and we'll obviously look at all the ways we can.

We have been very successful in receiving funding from Zero Waste Scotland for other initiatives we brought in of course if we can get funding, and external funding we should look at that.