

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 26 January 2017

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Donald Wilson

COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken
Robert C Aldridge
Norma Austin Hart
Nigel Bagshaw
Angela Blacklock
Chas Booth
Mike Bridgman
Steve Burgess
Andrew Burns
Ronald Cairns
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
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 15 December 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:

- Council Budget Process
- Mel Young – Humanitarian Award – Homelessness World Cup and The Big Issue
- Young Carers Awareness Day

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Rose	- Council workload – core work to provide services to members of the public
	- Waste Collection Service
Councillor Burgess	- Scottish Government financial settlement for 2017/18
Councillor Aldridge	- Brexit - support
Councillor Ross	- United Nations Youth Assembly – New York February 2017 – Alison Grieves, UK representative
Councillor Ritchie	- Benefits Cap – call to revoke
Councillor Work	- Young Carers Awareness Day
Councillor Booth	- Air Pollution – Low Emissions Zone for Edinburgh
Councillor Tymkewycz	- Highlight of last five years
Councillor Lewis	- Celebration of 90 years of the Scottish PEN Association

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor Howat | - Burns' vision for the City in 2020 and action to alleviate fears of citizens for the future |
| Councillor McInnes | - Waste collections
- Exit interviews for members who are not returning in May |
| Councillor Nick Cook | - Waste collection action plan |
| Councillor Edie | - Support for EU citizens living in Edinburgh |
| Councillor Day | - Usher Hall – Chinese New Year |

4. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (EESCR) Deal

The Council had contributed to a Shadow Joint Committee for the City Region Deal programme to agree the priorities for the City Region Deal that would form the basis of negotiations with the UK and Scottish Governments.

An update was provided on the the ongoing discussions between partners and both Governments who were working towards achieving an announcement of Heads of Terms of the City Region Deal in Spring 2017.

Decision

- 1) To note the continued progress of the City Region Deal since the previous update to Council in June 2016, including the establishment of a Shadow Joint Committee for the City Region Deal programme.
- 2) To note the further development of investment propositions shaped around a twin focus on innovation and inclusion.
- 3) To note the ambition to achieve an agreed Heads of Terms document by the Spring 2017.
- 4) To note the requirement for a potential match funding allocation.

(References – Act of Council No 10 of 30 June 2016; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

5. Designation of Chief Education Officer

Details were provided on the designation of the post of Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning as the Chief Education Officer in line with the statutory requirement of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.

Decision

- 1) To approve the designation of the post of Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning as Chief Education Officer.
- 2) To appoint Andy Gray as Chief Education Officer.
- 3) To note that amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to reflect the changes to statutory regulations within the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 would be required and would be submitted to the Council in due course.

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

6 Governance: Scheme of Delegation to Officers

The Council had approved a revised Scheme of Delegation to Officers which had continued to be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remained fit for purpose.

Following a number of changes to the Council's executive management structure, details were provided on updates which were required to reflect the realignment of responsibilities.

Decision

- 1) To repeal the existing Scheme of Delegation to Officers and approve in its place the draft Scheme set out in the appendix to the report by the Chief Executive, such repeal and approval to take effect from 27 January 2017.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to take such actions and make such minor adjustments to the draft Scheme set out in the appendix to the report as might be necessary in order to implement the decision of Council in relation to the report.

(References – Act of Council No 5 of 13 December 2012; – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7. Festival Theatre - Proposed Acquisition of Solum of Former Shop at 13-17 Nicolson Street – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the acquisition of the solum of the former shop at 13-17 Nicolson Street, which formed part of the entrance foyer of the Festival Theatre. Approval was sought for the use of prudential borrowing for the purchase of the solum

Decision

To approve the use of prudential borrowing for the purchase of the solum of the former shop at 13-17 Nicolson Street.

(References: Finance and Resources Committee 1 December 2016 (item 16); referral report by the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Aitken, Doran, Lewis and Main declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Directors of the Festival City Theatres Trust.

8. Potential Sale of the Green Investment Bank – Motion by Councillor Corbett

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

“Council notes mounting concerns about the potential sale of the Green Investment Bank (GIB) to Australian Bank Macquarie and the subsequent risk to 55 Edinburgh-based jobs at the bank; notes the importance of the GIB the city at a time when the public reputation of the banking sector remains low; and therefore asks the Council Leader to make representation to and seek a meeting with the UK Government: seeking assurances about sustaining the jobs in Edinburgh; about safeguarding the portfolio of investments made by the GIB; and about opportunities to further enhance the role of the GIB in developing clean, green investment in Edinburgh and elsewhere.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Corbett.

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 26 January 2017)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 January 2017

Question

Would the Convener please provide for each year since 2012, the number of primary and secondary school pupils and that number as a percentage of total school roll who have additional support needs that is classed as language support for whose first language is not English, for each school together with the numbers of hours per week of additional support staff provided to each school for these children and young people.

Answer

Please see attached spreadsheet and key which provides the information requested.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for his reply.

For the benefit of the webcast, my question was about the number of pupils in our primary schools who receive and need help with English in order to engage with learning and the amount of support that they receive.

The information shows that the international nature of our City is reflected in the demographics of our schools and Edinburgh is rightly proud to be an international city, that we will not have any walls built here or in Scotland or in the UK. However, walls are not the only barriers to learning.

Does the Convener share with me concerns that although the number of pupils in our primary schools who need support has doubled to over 1,200 in the last five years, the number of hours of support to our schools has remained the same and what commitments can he give to ensure that all our pupils are able to engage in learning?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I thank Councillor Main for her supplementary. I don't share these concerns, there's a strategic team looking at how we further develop the provision of EAL in our schools so that it remains equitable, sustainable and responsive to the needs. The more resources we can put into, as you the say, the educator international nature of this city, we would welcome that.

Additional Support for EAL (English as an Additional Language), 2012-2016, Primary and Secondary

Key

Column headings	
Number of EAL pupils	Number of pupils recorded on EAL database as requiring some level of support for EAL. These pupils are assessed at 2 levels, 'teach' (requiring a higher level of support) and 'monitor' (requiring a lower level of support). EAL Teacher support allocated (3 rd column for each year) is based on the number of pupils requiring a higher level of support.
EALT Units	The amount of EAL Teacher support per week, in units, allocated to the school. 3 units is equivalent to one day (a morning is 2 units; an afternoon is 1 unit)
Abbreviations used to record EAL Teacher Units	
Single figure, e.g. 1, 3 etc.	The number of units (as defined above)
Figure in brackets, e.g. 2 (3)	Indicates a change in the number of units part-way through the school session.
Figure-block, e.g. 3-block	A block of support for part of the session, with the given number of units per week.
AV	Advisory Visit (usually 1 morning or afternoon visit every 4 weeks)
T	Telephone contact made at start of session; school can then contact ASL Service at any point.
PILOT	Applies to 2016-17 column only. Pilots being undertaken as part of the review of EAL provision. Intensive and time-limited blocks aimed at significantly building capacity in school. These will be followed by reduced support to embed practice and then advisory support. This includes supporting schools to closely monitor attainment of EAL learners.

Primary School	2012			2013			2014			2015			2016*		
	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units
Abbeyhill	37	26%	2	30	18%	2	34	19%	2	39	23%	2	46	27%	2
Balgreen	35	10%	4	60	17%	4	79	22%	4	86	24%	4	92	26%	4
Blackhall	14	3%	AV	18	4%	AV	20	4%	AV	23	5%	AV	8	2%	AV
Bonaly	0	0%	AV	3	1%	AV	8	2%	AV	7	2%	AV	12	3%	AV
Broomhouse	25	17%	2	12	7%	AV	31	17%	2- block	30	13%	1	36	16%	1
Broughton	56	16%	6	65	17%	6	89	25%	6	94	25%	6	115	31%	6
Brunstane	11	6%	1 (AV)	26	14%	2	22	12%	3- block	21	11%	1	29	15%	1
Bruntsfield	44	9%	5	69	13%	5	49	9%	3	62	11%	3	74	13%	3
Buckstone	10	3%	AV	6	2%	AV	14	3%	AV	15	3%	AV	22	5%	AV
Canal View	13	6%	AV	25	9%	2	45	15%	3	42	12%	3	77	22%	2
Carrick Knowe	12	3%	AV	27	7%	AV	28	7%	AV	38	11%	1	28	8%	1
Castleview	20	10%	2	28	13%	3	45	18%	4	56	19%	4	72	25%	5 - PILOT
Clermiston	23	8%	2	22	7%	2	31	9%	2- block	32	7%	1	32	7%	1
Clovenstone	29	16%	4	50	26%	5	48	24%	5	47	21%	4	57	26%	4
Colinton	15	10%	AV	14	9%	AV	13	9%	AV	19	13%	AV	17	11%	AV
Corstorphine	23	5%	2	31	7%	3	23	5%	3- block	34	6%	2	50	9%	2
Craightinny	8	5%	AV	28	15%	2	19	9%	2	36	14%	2	52	21%	2
Craiglockhart	26	7%	2	44	12%	2	63	16%	3	50	12%	3	50	12%	2
Craigour Park	43	12%	4	61	16%	4	73	17%	3	93	20%	5	99	21%	6
Craigroyston	12	6%	1	24	12%	3	34	15%	3	34	14%	3	42	17%	3
Cramond	4	1%	AV	6	2%	AV	9	2%	AV	16	4%	AV	11	3%	AV
Currie	14	4%	AV	17	5%	AV	20	5%	AV	27	6%	AV	35	8%	AV

Dalmeny	0	0%	T	1	1%	AV	1	1%	AV	0	0%	AV	0	0%	AV
Dalry	127	46%	12	131	47%	10	136	52%	9	132	51%	10	115	44%	9
Davidsons Mains	27	6%	2	32	7%	3	36	7%	2	48	9%	1	35	6%	AV
Dean Park	9	2%	AV	12	3%	AV	11	2%	AV	15	3%	AV	23	5%	AV
Duddingston	34	9%	2	38	10%	2	39	10%	3- block	45	12%	3- block	41	11%	3
East Craigs	46	12%	4	22	6%	2	28	7%	AV	52	12%	2	43	10%	2
Echline	2	1%	AV	4	2%	AV	4	2%	AV	6	2%	AV	6	2%	AV
Ferryhill	13	5%	AV	16	5%	AV	25	8%	2- block	28	8%	1	31	9%	1
Flora Stevenson	52	11%	5	62	12%	6	63	12%	5	78	14%	3	80	14%	5
Forthview	48	13%	5	65	18%	5	63	17%	4	65	18%	6	61	17%	3 (6)
Fox Covert PS ND	9	4%	AV	10	5%	AV	11	5%	AV	12	5%	AV	13	5%	AV
Fox Covert RC	11	7%	2W	26	15%	3	26	16%	2	28	16%	2	34	20%	2
Gilmerton	39	11%	3	33	8%	3	36	8%	3	47	11%	3	46	11%	3
Gracemount	34	8%	3	21	5%	3	57	12%	6 (3)	57	12%	6	90	19%	5
Granton	54	16%	6	100	27%	6	84	22%	6	103	25%	3	108	26%	6
Gylemuir	25	6%	2 (3)	42	9%	4	40	9%	3	47	10%	2	51	11%	2
Hermitage Park	18	5%	2	30	9%	3	38	11%	2	40	11%	2	54	15%	2
Hillwood	2	4%	AV	3	6%	AV	3	5%	AV	6	10%	AV	11	18%	AV
Holycross	43	16%	4	59	21%	5	53	19%	4	72	24%	3	103	35%	3
James Gillespies	17	4%	3- block	26	6%	AV	24	5%	2- block	22	4%	AV	50	10%	AV
Juniper Green	36	9%	4	44	11%	5	41	10%	2	49	12%	2	45	11%	2
Kirkliston	4	1%	AV	12	3%	AV	15	4%	AV	24	5%	AV	32	7%	AV
Leith	53	20%	4	47	17%	4	70	22%	7	84	22%	6	94	25%	6
Leith Walk	71	37%	9	90	41%	8	93	41%	5	107	43%	5	119	48%	6
Liberton	39	10%	3	47	12%	4	56	14%	4	65	15%	4	71	16%	4
Longstone	11	5%	AV	14	6%	AV	27	10%	2- block	31	12%	AV	20	8%	AV
Lorne	86	36%	8	96	40%	11	89	38%	8	93	43%	7	85	39%	6

Murrayburn	5	1%	AV	10	3%	AV	24	6%	AV	33	9%	AV	39	10%	AV
Nether Currie	3	2%	AV	1	1%	AV	4	3%	AV	6	4%	AV	7	4%	AV
Newcraighall	12	10%	2- block	20	18%	AV	19	17%	AV	13	9%	AV	14	10%	AV
Niddrie Mill	19	7%	AV	20	7%	AV	22	8%	AV	22	8%	AV	24	8%	AV
Oxgangs	33	9%	2	35	9%	3 (2)	29	7%	2	38	9%	2	37	9%	5 PILOT
Parsons Green	18	6%	2 (AV)	20	7%	AV	32	10%	1	40	12%	2	38	11%	2
Pentland	13	3%	2 (AV)	9	2%	AV	11	3%	AV	15	3%	AV	21	5%	AV
Pirniehall	14	6%	2	28	10%	2	52	19%	5 (3)	63	22%	4	45	15%	4
Preston Street	45	17%	5	70	26%	6	67	23%	6	64	24%	6	75	28%	4
Prestonfield	23	13%	2	41	22%	4	46	24%	4	54	27%	3	73	36%	3
Queensferry	0	0%	T	1	0%	AV	0	0%	T	3	1%	AV	6	1%	AV
Ratho	0	0%	T	0	0%	T	1	1%	T	1	0%	AV	5	2%	AV
Roseburn	25	11%	4 (2)	40	17%	5	62	25%	4	46	17%	4	39	14%	2
Royal Mile	10	8%	3 (4)	44	35%	4	49	38%	3	51	37%	3	47	34%	3
Sciennes	41	6%	4	39	6%	2	49	8%	2	63	10%	2	81	13%	2
Sighthill	22	12%	2	30	17%	3	40	19%	3	55	25%	3	41	19%	2
South Morningside	18	3%	1	35	6%	2	45	7%	3- block	42	7%	2	33	5%	2
St Catherine's	31	15%	4	57	26%	4	52	24%	4	57	27%	6	53	25%	4
St Cuthbert's	15	10%	1 (2)	26	14%	2	48	26%	2- block	59	28%	2	72	34%	2
St David's	81	33%	11	108	42%	11	117	46%	9	127	45%	8	213	76%	18- PILOT
St Francis'	34	19%	4	49	24%	4	67	34%	5	84	43%	3	72	37%	5 (3)
St John Vianney	52	19%	4	61	22%	4	81	29%	4	89	33%	4	85	31%	4
St John's	36	9%	3	53	14%	2	51	14%	2	49	13%	3	61	17%	3
St Joseph's	63	27%	7	87	34%	7	94	36%	6	104	35%	6	117	39%	3

St Margarets	1	1%	T	2	2%	AV	7	6%	AV	10	9%	AV	7	6%	AV
St Mark's	18	11%	2	15	10%	3 (AV)	16	12%	2- block	24	15%	2	36	23%	2
St Mary's (Edin)	79	22%	8 (9)	81	23%	3 (6)	89	24%	5	82	22%	6	93	25%	6
St Mary's (Leith)	51	18%	5	74	25%	6	81	27%	5	92	27%	3	121	36%	6
St Ninian's	71	32%	6 (7)	87	40%	9	114	48%	6	139	49%	6	147	51%	6
St Peter's	30	7%	2	30	7%	3	37	9%	3	35	9%	2	55	14%	2
Stenhouse	17	6%	2	35	12%	2	49	16%	4	50	16%	4	72	23%	2
Stockbridge	27	14%	3 (2)	40	19%	2	27	12%	3- block	29	12%	1	18	7%	1
The Royal High	56	16%	6 (5)	47	14%	5	45	13%	5	54	16%	5	42	13%	4
Tollcross	32	10%	4	56	36%	3	59	31%	5	60	29%	4	86	41%	6
Towerbank	9	2%	AV	16	3%	4	17	3%	AV	24	4%	1	26	4%	1
Trinity	35	8%	2	46	10%	2	42	8%	3	48	9%	3	34	6%	3
Victoria	14	9%	1	20	12%	1	30	15%	2- block	30	12%	1	21	8%	1
Wardie	10	2%	AV	16	4%	AV	20	4%	2- block	21	4%	1	19	4%	1

* allocations are currently being reviewed following the December update.

Secondary Schools	2012			2013			2014			2015			2016*		
	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units	Number of EAL pupils	% of school roll	EALT Units
Balerno	9	1%	AV	7	1%	AV	6	1%	AV	5	1%	AV	3	0%	AV
Boroughmuir	27	2%	3	30	3%	3	14	1%	AV	24	2%	2	30	3%	2
Broughton	59	6%	6	104	11%	8	83	8%	8	89	8%	7	104	9%	7
Castlebrae	7	4%	2 (AV)	8	6%	AV	9	7%	AV	11	9%	AV	16	13%	AV
Craigmount	25	2%	2	36	3%	2	20	2%	4	26	2%	2	23	2%	2
Craigroyston	28	7%	2	40	10%	4	43	10%	4	53	11%	4	60	13%	4
Currie	3	0%	AV	10	1%	AV	10	1%	AV	13	2%	AV	8	1%	AV
Drummond	63	14%	8	105	25%	9	67	17%	7	71	20%	9	76	22%	9
Firrhill	23	2%	2	29	3%	2	18	2%	AV	19	2%	2	26	2%	AV
Forrester	16	2%	AV (2)	23	3%	2	26	4%	2	26	4%	2	29	4%	2
Gracemount	36	6%	4	33	5%	4	41	7%	4	42	7%	3	42	7%	4
Holy Rood	92	9%	10	135	13%	8	94	9%	6	123	12%	6	122	12%	6
James Gillespie's HS	52	5%	4	48	4%	4	41	4%	3	60	5%	3	48	4%	3
Leith Academy	109	12%	14	156	17%	12	134	14%	10	126	14%	10	88	10%	9
Liberton	22	3%	2	25	4%	2	36	6%	3	38	7%	3	40	8%	2
Portobello	51	4%	6 (3)	54	4%	6	63	5%	6	66	5%	8	55	4%	5
Queensferry	5	1%	AV	5	1%	AV	9	1%	AV	10	1%	AV	13	2%	AV
St Augustine's	129	18%	10	106	15%	9	120	17%	9	125	18%	9	129	20%	9
St Thomas of Aquin's	49	6%	5	64	8%	5	56	7%	3	59	8%	5	70	9%	6
The Royal High	0	0%	2	28	2%	2	10	1%	AV	25	2%	1	32	3%	1
Trinity Academy	51	6%	6 (3)	53	6%	4	51	6%	4	41	5%	4	31	4%	5
Tynecastle	50	9%	8 (6)	60	11%	6	71	14%	8	77	15%	7	64	13%	8
WHEC	20	7%	3	21	7%	3	33	12%	5	49	17%	4	33	12%	5

* allocations are currently being reviewed following the December update

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 January 2017**

Bin Collection Calendars

- Question** (1) Why have full calendars detailing bin collection dates not been prepared and put on the website as at 11th January 2017?
- Answer** (1) The 60 calendar versions were prepared as scheduled prior to the end of 2016, however they could not be put on-line as planned due to technical issues relating to the software which links the calendars to specific locations. While this issue is being rectified all residents can currently view their collection dates in January and February via the web search.
- Question** (2) When will these calendars be put up on the website?
- Answer** (2) These calendars were available from 20 January 2017.
- Question** (3) What has caused the delay in devising the calendar?
- Answer** (3) As described above the delay relates to technical issues which meant the on-line calendars weren't being linked to the correct location.

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Burgess for answer by
the Convener of the Regulatory
Committee at a meeting of the Council
on 26 January 2017**

Question

For each year since 2012, detail: the number of private landlords registered in Edinburgh; the number refused registration; the number removed from the register as a result of not meeting standards; the number fined for being unregistered; and the number issued with rent penalty notices

Answer

End of Year	Approved	Number Refused / Revoked Registration	Rent penalty notices
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2012/2013	37,364	2	0
2013/2014	39,535	1	0
2014/2015	41,231	6	0
2015/2016	42,120	4	0

In addition to those landlords that have been refused, a further 34 landlords were found to be fit and proper after consideration by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Fines are levied by the courts upon conviction. In 2016/2017 two properties were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and called at Court but didn't proceed to trial.

To date in 2016/2017 there five reports have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for Landlord registration offences involving deliberate evasion of the scheme and continuing to rent having been found not fit and proper.

Further reports will be placed before the Licensing Sub-Committee this year seeking to remove additional landlords from the register.

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Bagshaw for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 January 2017**

Question

What progress is being made with the Council's commitments to the Charter of Brussels that 10% of all trips and 15% of journeys to work should be by bicycle by 2020

Answer

Figures below are shown as a modal share.

	2010/11 estimate	June 2015	2020 target
Journey to work (Edinburgh residents)	4.8%	7.3%	15%
All trips (Edinburgh residents)	2%	3-4%	10%

This information was extracted from Bike Life, page 14 ([Bike Life](#)).

The Bike Life Edinburgh 2015 report was produced in partnership between Sustrans and the Council in September 2015. It will be repeated in September 2017, when these modal share figures will be updated.

**Supplementary
Question**

I thank the Convener for her answer and for the sake of the webcast I asked “What progress is being made with the Council’s commitments to the Charter of Brussels that 10% of all trips and 15% of journeys to work should be by bicycle by 2020.”

Now, I appreciate that the 2010-2011 figures provided in the answer are an estimate, and the 2015 figures are for June, but even placing a generous interpretation on those figures, it’s clear that the present rate the 2020 target for journeys to work is unlikely to be met before 2030 and the percentage for all trips is unlikely to be met before 2040.

So my supplementary question is how can we ensure that the investment being made will help meet those commitments?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Councillor Bagshaw, you will know that this Council is held up as exemplar in terms of its investment into cycling in particular but also to walking and to active travel. I think it may well be the only Council in the whole of the United Kingdom that commits itself in terms of finance. The budget which we will be discussing in the next few weeks, despite the cuts that we’re having to make in the budget, will commit this Council to 10% of the Transport budget in terms of revenue and in capital. I don’t think you can get any more better of a commitment than that in terms of investment into the infrastructure, investment into cycle racks, encouraging people to cycle. You’ll know the Bike Life survey which is mentioned in the answer to the question is showing that this Council is way ahead in terms of investment and I think it’s bearing fruit already as shown in Spokes monitoring. I have confidence in this Council if we continue with investment that we have in cycling, will meet this target .

Unlike perhaps Councillor Bagshaw and the Greens, what we do in this Capital Coalition is to have policy, yes, but what we do is deliver the policy and that’s what’s important for this City.

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Corbett for answer by
the Convener of the Economy
Committee at a meeting of the Council
on 26 January 2017**

Question What action has been taken to implement the City Council's Town Centres Strategy and what impact has there been on a) town centre vacancy rates; b) diversity of local and independent retailers; and c) public perception of local town centres.

Answer The Town Centre Strategy was established in 2010 and refreshed in 2013.

The main aim of the strategy has been to support businesses and residents within the city's 8 town centres to work collectively, gain funding and establish, where appropriate, Business Improvement Districts (BIDS).

The Economy Committee was last updated on the strategy on 13 February 2015. The [report](#) highlighted a number of outcomes including the establishment of Edinburgh's four BIDS (Essential Edinburgh, West End, Greater Grassmarket, and Queensferry Ambition).

Between April 2012 and April 2016, the overall vacancy rate for Edinburgh's town centres as recorded by Economic Development decreased (9.2% in April 2012, 4.3% in April 2016). The Scottish national vacancy rate for retail/leisure units in towns as reported by the Local Data Company was 13.0% in 2012 and 11.7% in 2016.

There has been an especially significant reduction in vacancy rates since 2012. For example, in April 2012, the Bruntsfield vacancy rate was 5.21%; the rate in April 2016 was 1.03%, an impressive reduction of 80% (the average reduction across all town centres for the same time period was 25%).

Between July 2014 and April 2016, the overall proportion of shops classed as independent in Edinburgh's town centres

as recorded by Economic Development decreased (79.5% in July 2014, 77.5% in April 2016).

Whilst the drop of two percentage points over two years is indicatively disappointing there is limited scope for CEC to intervene in what will in the main be private contractual arrangements between landlords and tenants.

Between 2009-10 and 2015, the proportion of residents of Edinburgh rating their neighbourhood as a “fairly good” or “very good” place to live as recorded by the Scottish Household Survey rose from 94% to 97%. The equivalent figures for Scotland were 94% and 95%.

The Economic Development Service continues to support the city’s own centres through the work plans of the Development and Enterprise and Innovation teams. Actions include local regeneration proposals such as the tram depot site at Leith Walk and Tynecastle Stadium at Gorgie Road. Business Gateway continues to provide support in localities across the city.

An example of local regeneration, is with the Newkirkgate shopping centre at the heart of Leith. It is now virtually full with just two vacant units, one of which is under offer. The plaza outside the centre has been significantly enhanced and further investment in the public realm by the centre owner is ongoing.

Edinburgh’s four BIDS generate collectively c£1.2 million per annum for use by local businesses to provide additional services and enhance the resident, visitor and customer experience. Early discussions are taking place with stakeholders to assess the appetite for an Old Town BID.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thanks Lord Provost, I thank the Convener for the answer. For the benefit of the webcast the gist of my question is what's been done by the Council to support and promote our local high streets, our local town centres across the City, and the answer's wide ranging which I welcome, so I won't attempt to paraphrase it here. But I do want to just ask by way of follow up Convener if he 'll acknowledge that across the City there is widespread concern about the pressure that our local town centres, our local high streets, our local shopping centres are under, for example in the Ward that's shared with Councillor Key and Councillor Burns in Ashley Terrace and Happy Valley and Hutchison, these concerns are seen and that the BIDs process, Business Improvement Districts process, whilst in place in four parts of the Council's area, isn't necessarily appropriate for these very localised shopping centres and therefore that the work to promote and defend our local shops and independant retailers remains on the to do list.

**Supplementary
Answer by
Councillor
Munro**

I'd like to thank Councillor Corbett for the supplementary question and in the absence of the Convener he asked me to make the reply. I think that there is not an elected member within this Chamber that does not share that concern but it's also incumbent on us to actually lead in our locally communities as well and I would direct you towards the penultimate paragraph in the answer there which references the work that was done with the new Kirkgate centre.

I personally led on that asking Anna Herriman to make links with the community centre owners because I was aware that they had a refurbishment programme at the same time as we had the Leith Walk/Constitution Street Improvement Programme and I got them to work together so that they could tailor the work there and I think that that's the way that we can make our centres work - to actually show a degree of local leadership to make things happen in concert with the Council and I think it's there that we can actually bring additionality to the local community shopping centres.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 January 2017**

Winter Maintenance

Question (1) For how long have there been issues with customer enquiries which have been submitted via the Winter Maintenance portal?

Answer (1) The Winter Maintenance portal provides two ways in which customers can contact the Council – a generic email account and a telephone line (0131 200 2331). The email account was established in 2011, while the telephone line was set up in November 2016 in response to the Scottish Government's 'Being Ready for Winter' campaign.

The Customer telephone line is managed by the Council's Customer Hub. All telephone contacts are logged and actioned appropriately.

Officers became aware of an issue with access to the generic mailbox when testing the Council's response in preparation for the winter period. The issue surrounded an anomaly where the customer hub could not access the generic email account and messages were not being passed across to them for action.

Question (2) What steps are being taken to address this problem?

Answer (2) Officers with access to this mailbox are currently progressing all outstanding actions.

The issue of ownership for this mailbox is being progressed as a matter of urgency by the Acting Head of Customer with colleagues from CGI.

Question (3) How many outstanding cases remain?

Answer (3) There are currently six which require to be actioned. These are being progressed as a priority.

**Comment by
Councillor
Rust**

Thank you Lord Provost. I thank the Convener for her helpful answer and through gritted teeth her acceptance of the problem.

**Response by
the Convener**

I don't know if that was a question or not, but he stood up so I may as well. For the people who've asked, it was about a winter maintenance and particularly mailbox based, and I've certainly raised the issue particularly of how we do respond not just to this issue but to other issues in terms of people making enquiries, making complaints through the mailbox. I think it's certainly something we need to review and how we respond – there's little point in having a mailbox if we don't respond in a good way – we don't get back to the people that are making that enquiry. I'd be happy to give details of the people who did go into the mailbox and how we have responded, if you're interested, to say how the constituents have now got a response and an apology in terms of the service we provide if you'd be interested in that Councillor Rust.

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Heslop for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 January 2017

UK and Scottish Governments' Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

Question (1) When will the Convener next give an update on the progress made by the City of Edinburgh Council's contribution to the UK and Scottish Governments' Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme, especially in relation to Council owned properties and how this is currently being monitored?

Answer (1) The [CRC energy efficiency scheme](#) is a mandatory carbon emissions reporting and pricing scheme designed to improve energy efficiency and cut carbon dioxide emissions in large public and private organisations. To comply with the scheme each qualifying organisation must submit an annual report in July to the Environment Agency. The Council buys allowances for each tonne of carbon emitted.

The annual Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) report (2016/17) will be submitted to Finance & Resource Committee in August 2017. ([CRC Report for 2015/16](#)).

Question (2) When will the next report on Edinburgh's Climate Change Adoption Action Plan be published?

Answer (2) [Edinburgh Adapts](#), Edinburgh's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2016-2020 was launched in December 2016 and included contributions by the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership, Adaptation Scotland and more than 50 other organisations across the city. The first annual progress report on actions will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee in September 2017.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Heslop for answer by
the Convener of the Planning
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 26 January 2017**

Planning and Building Standards Portal

Question

Can you advise as to how many discussions you have had with officials and what action has been taken regarding the continual failure of the Planning and Building Standards Portal to provide up to date data on planning applications and its accessibility via the Internet?

Answer

The Convener and Vice Convener of the Planning Committee meet the managers in Planning and Building Standards every week. ICT issues have been a standing item on the agenda since November 2016. Updates and progress are discussed at these meetings. The managers themselves have monthly meetings with ICT staff at which issues with the performance of the Public Access facility (the Portal) are discussed. Council ICT staff are working closely with our partner CGI and a plan is in place to address the issues. A number of actions have already been taken which means performance of Public Access is now much better than it was last year. The last significant period of downtime was mid-November. Council Officials are well aware of the importance of this service and the degree to which members of the public depend on it. ICT staff are continuing to monitor the situation and will act swiftly if any further problems occur.

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Leader of the Council at a meeting of
the Council on 26 January 2017**

Tram Inquiry

On 20th August 2015, Council delegated certain responsibilities in relation to the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry to the Chief Executive. It was further agreed 'that, wherever possible, decisions that would incur a cost in excess of £10,000 should be agreed by the Chief Executive. . . in consultation with the Council Leader and Deputy Council Leader. . . .'

- Question** **(1)** On how many occasions have decisions been taken that would incur a cost in excess of that figure?
- a) In consultation with the Council Leader and Deputy Leader.
 - b) Where it has not been possible to make such consultation

- Answer** **(1)** a) There have been no specific or individual decisions taken which have led to costs in excess of £10,000 being incurred. Rather, costs incurred since the decision of Council in August 2015 have been incurred as a result of ongoing legal advice in relation to various requests made by the Inquiry and also in preparing appropriately for the Inquiry
- b) None, as above.

- Question** **(2)** How much has been spent on Edinburgh Tram Inquiry costs?

- Answer** **(2)** Up to 18 January 2017, £410,083 (excluding VAT) has been spent by the Council in relation to the Tram Inquiry.

- Question** **(3)** Please provide a breakdown.

Answer**(3)**

Legal advice fees, including Counsel	£353,045
IT systems to maintain and access records	£19,320
Miscellaneous costs including copying, couriers, travel etc	£1,418
Cost of independent legal advice provided to those required to give evidence to the Inquiry	£36,300
Total	£410,083

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 January 2017**

Open Data

Question

Is the online open data record of the siting of waste collection points kept up to date? If not, what steps are being taken to maintain an accurate record?

Answer

This map is automatically updated via a weekly data source from our live Asset Management System. (Updated every Friday evening).

QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 January 2017**

Sickness Absence

Absence through sickness has increased from the annual average of 4.51% in April 2014 to 5.18 in October 2016. That is equivalent to one day lost for every nineteen and a half days worked or around 700 members of staff off at any one time.

Question (1) What are the top five reasons for sickness absence?

Answer (1) Long Term absences – Top 5 Reasons in order of frequency

- Stress, depression, mental health & fatigue syndromes
- Other musculo-skeletal problems
- Hospitalisation / Surgery/ Convalescence
- Back and neck problems
- Infections

Short term absences - Top 5 Reasons in order of frequency

- Infections
- Stomach, liver, Kidney & Digestion
- Stress, depression, mental health & fatigue syndromes
- Other musculo-skeletal problems
- Eye, ear, mouth & nose / dental

Question (2) Can the sickness absence rise be attributed to the Transformation project and its effects?

Answer (2) The Transformation project may have had an impact on attendance rates but it is not possible to quantify the consequences.

Question (3) What action is currently being taken to support those returning to work?

- Answer** (3) • Managers are being trained in using the Council's Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and Occupational Health Providers more effectively to support employees return to work.
- Training modules are also available for managers on how to carry out effective Return to Work interviews.

Question (4) What is the council doing to ensure sickness absence reduces?

- Answer** (4) • HR are proactively reviewing and monitoring absence of long term cases lasting over 3 months, in addition to coaching managers to ensure cases are managed in a timely manner.
- Half day workshops on the Managing Attendance Procedure for areas with high absence are being delivered.
 - Absence management data is being provided to service managers in order to raise awareness of problem areas so that managers can take appropriate action supported by HR.

Supplementary Question

Thank you to the Convener for the answer which confirms in fact we've got one person off sick or one day lost for every nineteen and a half days worked in this Council. I thank you for the responses of what actions you're taking, I'm acutely conscious that this has been a growing problem for the last five years and the figures seem to have been getting worse year on year and I note what you're doing about it or what you have laid out here.

Do you have any expectation of the figures continuing to go up or come down and if so how much and what's your target?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I thank Councillor Rose for his question. One thing I think it's worth pointing out is that these figures may not all, the problems that are identified here, may not all be directly to do with working for the Council. Some, as it points out elsewhere in the answer, there are some wider economic market conditions, demographic factors, lifestyle factors, and sometimes if people do have problems with depression and so on, it may be something to do with them or their family circumstances, things about which we don't know but obviously things about which we're concerned and want to help with.

In terms of the trend, you'll see that the number of remedial actions, the number of mitigations, the number of attempted solutions that Council officers are bringing to bear on this problem and there is an acknowledgement that it is possible that the transformation programme has something to do with the sorts of figures we're seeing here. It's fair to say that similar kinds of increases can be seen in the private sector where companies are undergoing a great deal of change and there's a great deal of uncertainty in the workforce, that some of these problems will occur there as well. Given all that I think we can be confident that our council officers in HR are doing their best to bring these issues fully into scope and finding solutions wherever that's possible and mitigations wherever that is helpful.

I cannot guarantee anything about the trend but what I can guarantee is that a great deal of work's been done over a wide range of policy areas in order to deal with these issues.