

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 10

16 MARCH 2017

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question

What percentage of the council's annual revenue budget for 2016-17 was allocated through "participatory budgeting"?

Answer

The total spend in participatory budgeting initiatives for the 2016/17 budget allocation was £780,863. From this total, £645,863 was funded directly by the Council with the remainder from Scottish Government match funding, Police Scotland, the Edinburgh Partnership and Activity Agreement funding. The Council's revenue budget for 2016-17 is £953.879m, therefore, 0.07% of the Council's revenue budget was allocated by participatory budgeting initiatives.

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question

In light of the Education Minister's recent announcement about review of schools meals standards, does he agree that his call to source local food is very welcome?

Answer

Yes, I welcome this request to source local food and within our school meals service we already source produce from Scotland and the UK where possible; such as meat, chicken, dairy, fruit and vegetables. We continue to work with our supply chain to increase the range of local produce available to us and this is recognised by our ongoing work with Food for Life and maintaining the Bronze Catering Mark Award across all our schools.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question

Edinburgh College's curriculum is being developed to ensure that Edinburgh is able to provide the skilled labour force that will meet Edinburgh's future needs. This will include a vibrant construction sector, as Edinburgh builds many thousand new homes and the infrastructure, including schools. Has Edinburgh College been brought into discussions about the implementation of the Cole Report recommendations regarding training in the construction industry?

Answer

Edinburgh College Developing the Young Workforce Strategic Group is a multi-agency group comprising, College Senior Leaders, College Heads of Department and representatives from; Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland, Local Authorities, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Schools and Third Sector organisations. This group maintains a strategic overview of courses, curriculum development and labour market information.

Edinburgh College has advised that the training of apprentices at Edinburgh College adheres to the standards set out by the awarding body, the SQA, as well as the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Scottish Building Apprenticeship and Training Council (SBATC). They teach to industry standards and are engaged regularly with industry partners to improve the learning and teaching experience at Edinburgh College.

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question

In each year since 2012-13, how many council tenants were a) evicted or b) abandoned their home while legal action was in place, in each case detailing whether the action was for rent arrears or some other reason.

Answer

Breakdown of tenants being evicted or abandoning their home while legal action was in place since 2012-13.

	Eviction			Abandonment			TOTAL
	Rent Arrears	ASB	Other	Rent Arrears	ASB	Other	
2012/13	17	6	0	69	1	0	93
2013/14	12	9	0	30	0	0	51
2014/15	11	4	0	36	1	0	52
2015/16	27	6	1	84	0	0	118

Total number of Council tenants evicted or abandoned their home while legal action was in place (figures from 2001-02 onwards for reference).

Years	Number of cases resulting in a termination of the tenancy through abandonment or eviction
2001-02	529
2002-03	484
2003-04	342
2004-05	238
2005-06	188
2006-07	240
2007-08	230
2008-09	263

2009-10	180
2010-11	113
2011-12	93
2012-13	93
2013-14	51
2014-15	52
2015-16	118

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question

What preparation has been or is being made by the council to use new powers on rent pressure zones when they commence?

Answer

The Private Housing (Tenancies)(Scotland) Act 2016 will allow local authorities to apply to the Scottish Government for Regulations designating all or part of their local authority area as a 'rent pressure zone'. Designation would restrict the amount by which private landlords could increase rent and would remain in effect for five years.

Officers are at the early stages of considering the implications of the legislation and what resources would be required if, at a future date, the Council wished to make such an application. For example, what level of evidence would be required to support an application. To date no area or 'zone' within the city has been identified for use of these powers.

The Scottish Government has indicated that the earliest date that these powers will come into effect is December 2017. It is anticipated that a report on this subject will be submitted to the relevant committee later this year.

Item no 5.6

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Bagshaw for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 16 March 2017**

Question

The City of Edinburgh Council has committed itself to a target of 15% of journeys being made by bicycle by 2020.

Does it have a similar target for the number of journeys being made by public transport and on foot and, if not, what plans does it have to introduce such a target?

Answer

Modal split targets; all journeys by CEC residents	2009 - 2010 %	2020 target %
Walk	35	36
Cycle	2	10
Public Transport	17	21
Car	43	31
Other (inc motorcycle)	2	2

Modal split targets; travel to work	2009 - 2010 %	2020 target %
Walk	19	21
Cycle	7	15
Public Transport	30	32
Car	42	29
Other (inc motorcycle)	2	2

Item no 5.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question (1) How many enquiries regarding domestic title deeds and registration of domestic title have been handled by the Corporate Governance Department in each of the past three years?

Answer (1) A wide variety of queries are handled, which range from telephone calls and emails which can be readily resolved to complex conveyancing work involving multiple parties and solicitors. Queries which are quickly resolved are not individually logged. There are currently 16 corrective conveyancing cases. 20 other cases were completed in the last 2 years.

Question (2) How many staff are allocated to handle this caseload?

Answer (2) Currently there is one full time staff member employed to handle this corrective conveyancing caseload, together with managing Council House sale activity. The requirement for further internal staff is currently under review as, given the recent spike in workload following the “right to buy” ending in July 2016, Council House sale work is presently outsourced.

Question (3) What is the average time taken to resolve cases?

Answer (3) Corrective conveyancing work is often complex and involves liaison not only with an owner’s solicitors but also the Registers of Scotland and frequently multiple neighbouring owners. Therefore, it is not uncommon that the process may take a number of months.

Question (4) How many have subsequently been the subject of complaints (all stages)?

Answer (4) Three formal complaints have been raised in the past year of which two have been resolved satisfactorily and one is currently in the process of being resolved.

Item no 5.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question (1) What is the budget per pupil allocated to Sciennes Primary school over each of the last five years?

Answer (1) The budget allocated to Sciennes Primary School with the Edinburgh average over the last five years is as follows:

Cost per Pupil

	Sciennes Average	Edinburgh Average
	£000	£000
2012/13	2,489	2,957
2013/14	2,474	2,884
2014/15	2,446	2,857
2015/16	2,479	2,912
2016/17	2,573	2,953

Question (2) How does that compare with

- a) the Edinburgh average
- b) the Scottish average?

Answer (2) a) The Edinburgh average is included in the table above.
b) There is no current facility to provide a national comparison.

Item no 5.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Named Person Scheme

In relation to the Supreme Court decision on the implementation of the named person policy

Question (1) In the City of Edinburgh Council, what is the current advice and practice as to in which circumstances information be shared without the consent of parents or children?

Answer (1) Our advice to practitioners has been: 'to seek consent of individuals to share information, the exception being where there are child protection concerns necessitating a more urgent response. In the latter cases, we are exercising our statutory duty to protect children and are acting to protect their vital interests.' (Briefing to staff and elected members from Andy Jeffries, Interim Head of Children's Services, August 2016).

Question (2) What distinction is currently being drawn between 'child protection' and 'child wellbeing' in advice and in practice?

Answer (2) The Scottish Government National Practice Model for Getting It Right for Every Child defines wellbeing within eight indicators; Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included.

We have delivered Getting It Right training courses since 2009 focussing on an early intervention / preventative approach. This essentially means identification of wellbeing concerns as early as possible and proportionate intervention to prevent greater need or risk arising for a child. In these circumstances, the advice as above is always to seek consent before sharing information.

"Child protection" applies when there is a risk of harm due to abuse and/or neglect. The Edinburgh and Lothians Child Protection Procedures, which are compliant with Scottish

Government guidance, specify the main types of abuse as being physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Where there is evidence that these things have occurred, or may be about to occur, staff are advised that information can be shared without consent if needed. This may be necessary, for instance, if an allegation of abuse has been made against a parent and the process of seeking parental consent for information sharing might put the child at further risk. This is consistent with data protection legislation which states that information sharing without consent can occur when it is necessary in order to protect the “vital interests” of an individual. It is in the vital interests of every child that they are protected from abuse or neglect.

Information sharing about child protection concerns occurs within Inter Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs). These are conversations between senior officers in police, social work and health. The main purposes of an IRD is to share information about child protection concerns; decide what further information is needed and what steps are required to get it (eg interview, medical examination); agree a risk assessment; decide what immediate actions are needed to keep the child/safe; and decide whether a multi agency Child Protection Case Conference or other meeting is needed in order to make a child plan.

Question (3) Are ‘wellbeing assessments’ being undertaken within any City of Edinburgh schools? If so, are these being done with or without the consent or knowledge of parents? If so, are pupils participating identified or are they anonymous?

Answer (3) “Wellbeing assessments” are undertaken in City of Edinburgh schools, in which they are called “assessments of need”.

An assessment of need requires the sharing of relevant and proportionate information between the Named Person and others involved in order to decide what help, if any, is needed. Consent is always sought from individuals prior to

information sharing, unless child protection concerns apply as above. So no assessment of need occurs without the parent being aware.

An assessment of need will always identify the individual.

Item no 5.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Heslop for answer by the Convener of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question

Will you support my request to make the Foodbank Working Group a permanent body?

Answer

The Council is committed to supporting the Foodbank Working Group for as long as this is necessary.

Item no 5.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Heslop for answer by the Convener of the Regulatory Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Public Acts of Demonstration

Question

Can you advise legal and practical grounds which may be used to limit repeated public acts of demonstration by the same groups, whilst recognising everyone has a democratic right to assemble?

Answer

It is important to note that permission is not required to hold a parade. However under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, anyone organising a parade or procession in Scotland must notify the Council and the police not less 28 days prior to the date of the event.

Upon receipt of a notification the Council has limited powers in respect of parades and processions. It can decide to take no action, and the parade will proceed as the organiser intended.

The Council can also decide to attach conditions or, under very limited circumstances, to ban a parade or procession.

When considering whether it is necessary to prohibit or impose conditions, the Council needs to consider four criteria:

- public safety;
- public order;
- damage to property; and
- disruption to the life of the community.

The Council must also consider whether containment of the risks arising from the parade would place an excessive burden on the police.

Other than stated above there are no other powers available to the Council which would allow a limit to repeated demonstrations.

The Council has no power to control or prevent any demonstration which is static for example a demonstration outside the Scottish Parliament Building.

Council officers continue to work with Police Scotland and others to mitigate any disruption a protest march may cause.

In respect of the use of existing powers, the Council has a consultation currently underway on the rules and guidance around holding protest marches, parades and processions in Edinburgh.

The public are being asked for their feedback on a new policy and code of conduct providing more clarity on the process for staging a public procession.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/public-processions>

The closing date for the consultation is: **31 March 2017.**

Item no 5.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017

Question (1) For each of the last 24 months where figures are available, will the convener please list:

How many people in each month were waiting for longer than three days for discharge from hospital.

Question (2) Of those listed in answer to question 1, how many people in each month were waiting for a care home place.

Question (3) Of those listed in answer to question 1, how many people in each month were waiting for arrangements to be made for them to go home with social care support.

Question (4) How many people in each month had complex care needs and were therefore excluded from the headline figure on late discharge given in answer to question 1).

Answer The table below details the number of people waiting for discharge from hospital for longer than three days included in the monthly delayed discharge censuses from February 2015 to January 2017. The figures in the table relate to the census date for each month, which prior to July 2016 was the 16th of each month, and from July 2016 was the last Thursday in each month.

Patients delayed waiting discharge from hospital

	Column 1 All delays longer than three days	Column 2 Waiting for a care home place (longer than three days)	Column 3 Waiting to go home with social care support (longer than three days)	Column 4 Complex (all delays) not included in first column
Feb-15	98	31	45	34
Mar-15	129	33	46	38
Apr-15	102	33	54	29
May-15	114	39	63	34
Jun-15	132	30	73	37
Jul-15	133	36	84	22
Aug-15	124	36	74	19
Sep-15	151	40	92	22
Oct-15	127	28	83	23
Nov-15	141	37	77	28
Dec-15	117	26	67	28
Jan-16	101	23	58	31
Feb-16	91	16	51	27
Mar-16	75	13	38	32
Apr-16	44	14	16	28
May-16	74	23	39	33
Jun-16	107	32	57	27
Jul-16	153	56	69	25
Aug-16	144	64	72	22
Sep-16	155	52	75	23
Oct-16	168	69	74	24
Nov-16	149	66	60	22
Dec-16	180	70	74	19
Jan-17	188	71	85	12

The above data has been taken from data published by ISD Scotland (<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Health-and-Social-Community-Care/Delayed-Discharges/Previous-Publications/>) with the exception of the non-complex delay information for February and March 2015. Prior to April 2015 ISD Scotland only published information on delayed discharges quarterly, so this information has been taken from local data sources.

Please note that prior to July 2016 published data by ISD Scotland only included people who were waiting on discharge after three days. This has particular relevance to

the complex delay data where there is the possibility that prior to July 2016 there might be included in the figures some people who were discharged within three days, though this is unlikely.

It should be noted that from July 2016 there was a change in the national definitions used as part of the census process. The changes will have made no impact to the answers given to these questions. The revised Delayed Discharge Definitions Manual can be found at <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Health-and-Social-Community-Care/Delayed-Discharges/Guidelines/docs/Delayed-discharge-Data-Definitions-Recording-Manual-FINAL.pdf>.

From the December 2016 census the system used to record delayed discharges was changed from EDISON, a national database used by both social care and health staff to record delayed discharge information, to TRAK, the clinical records system used by NHS staff. This resulted in a discontinuity of recording practice, but the change was necessitated by the forthcoming end of support for EDISON requiring a local solution to be found.