

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 3

29 JUNE 2017

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) What action is being taken to reduce the congestion at the cross roads in Kirkliston?

Answer (1) Council officers are currently working with colleagues in Transport Scotland to agree the layout of the planned Newbridge M9/A8 slip road improvements. This should reduce morning delays on the adjacent trunk roads and help divert traffic from the cross roads in Kirkliston.

The signal timings at the cross roads have been altered to provide the greatest capacity and reduce congestion at peak times.

The Queensferry Crossing should also have a positive impact on traffic in the area once it opens on 30 August. Council officers will continue to work with the Scottish Government to monitor traffic volumes in the surrounding area and will take further action as required

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) When will the results of the traffic study into Lauriston Farm Road be published?

Answer (1) Results will be published by 31 July 2017. Within the report will be survey results on speed and volume of traffic.

Analysis of the survey data, along with collision data, is taking place now.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) What steps are being taken to improve the standard and consistency of waste collection in the city?

Answer (1) The [Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan](#) was approved by Transport and Environment Committee in November 2016 and sets out a series of actions which will improve the standard and consistency of waste collection in the city. The most recent [progress update](#) was presented in March 2017.

The next significant actions being implemented in the service are:

- Introduce a new ICT system which will allow operatives to record collection issues on route. This will enable the customer services team to provide accurate information to customers complaining about missed bin collections and will allow supervisors to plan and prioritise services to take account of operational issues as they are experienced, to avoid the need for customers to have to report missed collections.
- Complete recruitment of supervisors to provide stability and effective support to all staff in the Waste and Cleansing Service by July 2017.
- Complete the recruitment of Driver/Crew Leader and Loader positions to reduce the reliance on agency staff and to achieve settled, permanent crews.

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) When does the Convener expect the repair to the Water of Leith Walkway (between Sunbury Bridge and The Steps at Dean Path) to be carried out and the Walkway made safe for all to enjoy again?

Answer (1) Following a major landslip at this popular stretch of the Water of Leith Walkway, Council Officers are in discussion with the owner of the property from where the landslip occurred and have engaged engineers to identify appropriate solutions to make the walkway safe for public access.

Due to these ongoing discussions, we are unable to provide an accurate re-opening date at this stage. However, the matter will be progressed as a priority and progress updates will be provided to the Transport and Environment Committee.

Officers will continue to maintain a suitable diversion route for pedestrians and cyclists and are working hard to get the footpath reopened as soon as possible.

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) When does the Convener expect the Burnshot Bridge to reopen?

Answer (1) The bridge is currently closed as it has been assessed as being unable to carry any additional weight beyond its own dead-weight. Regular inspections have continued since the bridge was closed and action has been taken to ensure the bridge does not cause any risk to public safety.

The centre section of the bridge needs to be removed and this work will be undertaken in autumn 2017. As this will require the A90 to be closed (probably over a weekend) and local diversions established, planning for this is currently underway.

The removal of the centre section will allow a fuller investigation into the possible refurbishment and replacement options available. A recommended option will be presented to Transport and Environment Committee prior to the programme of work commencing.

We are therefore unable to provide a definitive date for the Bridge to re-open at the present time but can confirm that it is unlikely to re-open before the Summer of 2018.

Item no 5.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Leader of the Council at a meeting of
the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) What plans does the Leader have to meet with the managing director of Edinburgh Airport to discuss proposals to change the airport flight paths?

Answer (1) The Council Planning Committee [approved a formal response](#) to Edinburgh Airport's consultation on proposed changes to airspace flight paths on 30 March 2017. The consultation period ended on 7 May 2017. Edinburgh Airport is now considering responses prior to submitting an airspace change proposal to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for approval. The new routes are expected to come into operation in the summer of 2018.

Item no 5.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Question (1) Will the Convener provide an update on the current review of janitorial services and the impact on cover for community centres?

Answer (1) The formal review for Janitorial staff was launched on the 16th and 17th May and is due to close in July.

The New model is consistent with the outline model approved by the [Finance and Resources Committee](#) in September 2015 and is designed to Council Locality boundaries, broken down into smaller Hubs.

In Community Centres the level of janitorial cover will depend on the size of the establishment and the activities that take place. As is the case today, some Community Centres will retain a full time janitor while others will only have janitorial cover during certain times of the day.

In conjunction with Lifelong Learning and Business Support, the Property & Facilities Management team is currently engaging with individual centres to discuss proposals and finalise arrangements. Feedback from the formal janitorial review will also be taken into account.

Item no 5.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Brown for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Pavement Slurry Works

Question (1) Confirm the costs incurred to the local taxpayer in carrying out the temporary pavement slurry works?

Answer (1) Slurry sealing on footways is not classified as temporary work. The tender value for the current financial year is £453,118

Question (2) Confirm what cost / benefit analysis had been completed in advance of agreeing to sign-off a programme of temporary slurry repairs?

Answer (2) Cost/benefit analysis is carried out for all footway and carriageway renewals using the Roads Asset Management Plan. Annual status and options reports are produced that analyse current budget levels against treatment types in order to achieve an overall improvement in Edinburgh's carriageway and footway network.

Slurry sealing footways works are not classified as temporary. Slurry sealing is a process that is carried out on footways throughout the United Kingdom. Edinburgh has chosen to use the process on residential and rural footways.

Question (3) Confirm the rationale behind slurry works instead of a more robust pavement replacement programme offering greater longevity?

Answer (3) Slurry sealing is a preventative treatment and arrests the deterioration of footways and carriageways before more expensive treatments are required. As only a small number of footway reconstructions could be carried out each year, slurry sealing provides the opportunity to apply an alternative treatment on all residential and rural footways in a much shorter timeframe than traditional reconstruction.

Footways that are not suitable for the slurry sealing process will be re-prioritised and treated with a traditional footway asphalt resurfacing.

Question (4) Confirm the anticipated lifespan of the temporary works and when the Council proposes to undertake a permanent footpath replacement programme for the affected streets and roads?

Answer (4) According to an ADEPT/RSA Report, the service life for footway slurry seal is up to ten years. This can vary by up to 25% depending on the condition of the existing footway and the local climate.

Question (5) Detail the streets on which this work has been already completed and a schedule of those still to be treated as part of the current programme?

Answer (5) See attached schedule.

Question (6) Confirm how many complaints the Council has received in relation to the quality of completed and ongoing slurry repair works?

Answer (6) There have been ten complaints made in relation to the quality of completed or ongoing slurry sealing works.

Question (7) Highlight the Council's current inspection regime and how it holds contractors to account for unsatisfactory work?

Answer (7) A Clerk of Works visits each site at least once per day. Minor defects will be pointed out and are usually resolved the same day. When more significant defects are noted, these are recorded and a Defects Notice issued to the contractor. To date we have issued three Defects Notices. Defects should be rectified prior to the end of the contract period or as otherwise agreed with the Project Manager.

Question

(8) Confirm if contractors are required to remove weed vegetation on pavement areas as part of the contract?

Answer

(8) Yes, the contractor is required to remove weed vegetation as part of the contract. Weedkilling was undertaken approximately three weeks before the commencement of the contract and the contractor will carry out a further application of weed killer where weeds are now found.

APPENDIX TO ANSWER 5.8(5)

Slurry Sealing 2017/18
Works Schedule

Scheme Name	Scheme Description	Ward Number	Complete
Provost Milne Grove	Various Locations	1	
Bavelaw Green	Bridge Road to Bavelaw Road	2	Y
Bavelaw Road	Bavelaw Green to No. 41	2	Y
Nether Currie Crescent	Full Length Both Sides	2	Y
Nether Currie Place	Full Length Both Sides	2	Y
Thomson Crescent	West footway from Corslet Crescet to Muir Wood Road	2	Y
Corslet Crescent	Thomson Crescent to Thomson Road	2	Y
Clermiston Crescent	Clermiston Park to Clermiston Drive	3	Y
Parkgrove Crescent	Parkgrove Road to Clermiston Drive	3	Y
Parkgrove Drive	Both Sides	3	Y
Craigmount View	Drum Brae South to No. 43 Craigmount View	3	
Pilton Park Ph2	Whole length West side, Boswall Parkway to Pilton Gardens East side	4	Y
Crewe Place & Loan	Crewe Loan both sides and Crewe Place West Side 4 to 40	4	Y
Stanley Road	Craighall Road to Newhaven Road North Side	4	Y
Pilton Drive Ph1	Full Length West Side	4	Y
Pilton Place	Full Length Both Sides	4	Y
Crewe Crescent	Full Length Both Sides	4	Y
Crewe Road North	173 Crewe Road North to 256 Crewe Road North	4	Y
Tylers Acre Avenue	Whole Length Both Sides	6	Y
Baird Drive	Full Length Both Sides	6	
Craigleith Avenue South	Whole Length South Side	6	
Baird Grove	Full Length Both Sides	6	
Longstone Avenue	Full Length Both Sides	7	
Longstone Street	From No. 75 Longstone Road to Kingsknowe Road North	7	
East Camus Road	Camus Avenue to Caiystane Crescent	8	Y
Oxgangs Hill	Oxgangs Green to Oxgangs Loan	8	Y
Hutchison Place	Whole Length Both Sides	9	Y
Braid Farm Road	Full Length Both Sides	10	Y
Braid Hills Crescent	Full Length of Braid Hills Crescent including down to Braid Hills Road	10	Y
Parker Avenue	Both Sides	14	
Hamilton Drive	North footway from No.32 to Mountcastle Drive North	14	
Northfield Avenue	Full Length North Side	14	
Lussielaw Road	Mayfield Road to Langton Road	15	Y
Priestfield Crescent	Whole Lenth Both Sides	15	
Priestfield Road	Priestfield Road North to Prestonfield Avenue	15	
Langton Road	MacDowall Road to West Mains Road (both sides) & West footway from No. 2 to MacDowall Road	15	
Ellen's Glen Road	From No. 8 to No. 24 East Side	16	
Christian Crescent	Full Length Both Sides	17	

Item no 5.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Domestic Missed Bin Complaints

Question (1) (1) Please provide the number of weekly Domestic Missed Bin Complaints broken down by service, since January 2017.

Answer (1) Please find attached a break down of the domestic missed bin complaints since January 2017. Over the period the highest number of complaints was attracted in the second week of January (1,633 complaints). The lowest number of complaints over the period was 600 in the week ending 26 May.

Question (2) Please provide a comparative data in chart form to demonstrate trends and comparisons with previous years.

Answer (2) Please find attached the comparative data from previous years. Over the period requested it shows progress has been made in reducing the level of complaints when measured against the same period in 2016.

Question (3) Please provide details of the unavailability of refuse vehicles during this period, reason for unavailability, length of time vehicles have been unavailable and the contingency plan in place to ensure collections are maintained.

Answer

- (3)** Between January and May 2017 there were 1,029 instances of vehicles being unavailable. Of the 1,029 instances, 221 were planned and 808 were unplanned.

Unplanned unavailability can result from issues such as replacing vehicle bulbs and fuel caps, tyre punctures, vehicle breakdowns, mechanical failure and vehicle accident damage. The length of time a vehicle is unavailable can range from a few minutes to several days depending on the type of fault.

Unfortunately, whilst our data shows the length of time that vehicles are in the workshop, it does not show the amount of time that the vehicle is unavailable to fulfil its scheduled workload.

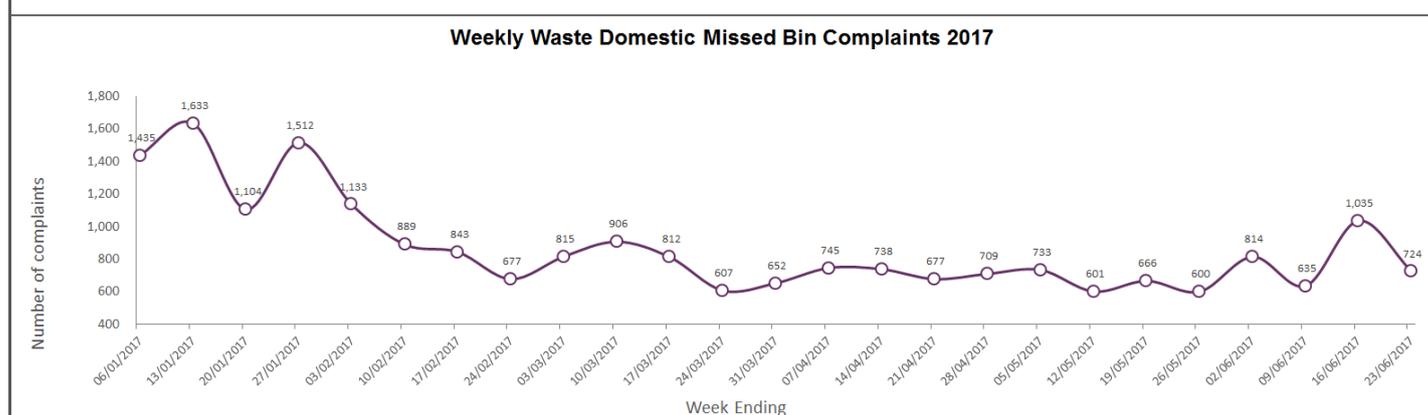
Fleet Services plan vehicle maintenance to schedule vehicles in such a way as to minimise impact on the service. At present, contingency arrangements are in place in the form of a number of spare waste collection vehicles. In addition, supervisors change vehicle routes to deal with unplanned instances where possible.

A new ICT system is being introduced as part of the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan actions. This will assist supervisors in making decisions on contingency arrangements when vehicles are not available.

Response to council question

Question 1 - Please provide the number of weekly Domestic Missed Bin Complaints broken down by service, since January 2017.

Week Ending	Number of complaints - Individual Services										Number of complaints - Communal Services							All complaints
	Brown Bin (Garden)	Grey Bin (General Waste)	Food Waste (Individual kerbside)	Green Bin (Mixed recycling)	Blue Box (kerbside recycling)	Red Box (kerbside recycling)	General Waste Sacks - Gull Proof Sacks	General Waste Sacks - Black Sacks	Christmas Tree	General Waste (communa l bins)	Packaging / DMR (communa l bins)	General waste (side loading communal)	Paper Bank	Food Waste (communa l bins)	Glass Banks	General Waste (communa l bin room)	Textile Bank	
06/01/2017	204	104	95	155	56		8	5	2	234	277	34	52	42	80	86	1	1,435
13/01/2017	183	196	149	228	114		1		17	237	235	40	61	47	71	53		1,633
20/01/2017	106	130	113	106	119				11	130	168	61	52	49	43	14		1,104
27/01/2017	83	190	297	113	119		2	4	10	216	140	179	52	46	45	16		1,512
03/02/2017	168	87	220	135	158		1	1	2	108	82	57	27	44	16	15		1,133
10/02/2017	128	123	95	75	121		4	2	3	8	111	67	26	52	41	22	11	889
17/02/2017	75	84	111	124	74		3	2	3	2	123	74	45	38	24	33	28	843
24/02/2017	62	86	144	59	61		2	2	1	83	70	12	31	30	22	12		677
03/03/2017	176	104	91	70	82		1		2	94	67	15	42	26	32	11	1	815
10/03/2017	136	103	117	95	67		1		2	139	80	34	39	51	18	24		906
17/03/2017	101	115	74	55	70		4	38	2	133	61	20	37	71	21	10		812
24/03/2017	140	89	47	48	46		2	1	2	112	34	10	30	20	19	7		607
31/03/2017	143	95	52	41	54		2		1	128	38	17	30	27	16	8		652
07/04/2017	206	95	72	78	33		7	7		129	33	23	17	22	12	11		745
14/04/2017	197	98	115	37	47		1	3	3	98	38	22	18	20	20	20		738
21/04/2017	160	88	56	71	34		2			130	48	30	20	16	12	10		677
28/04/2017	157	78	88	65	34		1	1		124	64	28	27	27	18	17		709
05/05/2017	166	70	122	63	39		2	1	1	112	65	30	17	9	15	20	1	733
12/05/2017	156	111	60	40	32		1		1	93	41	11	10	16	15	13		801
19/05/2017	119	99	83	90	39		1	2	1	94	52	22	19	17	13	15		666
26/05/2017	174	90	59	35	28		2	1		99	44	33	15	6	3	11		600
02/06/2017	297	83	45	53	31		1	2		137	50	51	23	14	11	16		814
09/06/2017	138	137	48	42	48		2			110	35	29	8	17	11	10		635
16/06/2017	234	218	59	102	46		1		1	116	96	94	25	23	9	11		1,035
23/06/2017	115	129	68	89	42		2	0	0	119	78	17	15	24	15	11	0	724
Total complaints 2017 to 23rd June	3,824	2,802	2,460	2,069	1,594	39	82	29	69	3,209	2,037	940	757	729	592	460	3	21,695



Question 2 - Please provide a comparative data in chart form to demonstrate trends and comparisons with previous years.



Item no 5.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 29 June 2017

Meadows Festival Parking

Question (1) On 3rd June 2017 the first day of the annual Meadows Festival took place. How many parking tickets were issued for Melville Drive on 3rd June? What is the approximate value of fines accruing from these tickets to Edinburgh Council?

Answer (1)

Parking tickets issued on 3 June 2017	112	
Parking tickets closed/paid	76	£2,280
Disputed parking tickets so a further 14 days are available to pay	8	£240
Full Charge due	23	£60
Disputed tickets still being reviewed	5	£1,770
Total Outstanding		£1,770

Question (2) How many road collision casualties have there been in Melville Drive over the past 10 years?

Answer (2) From the period between 1 of January 2007 to 31 of December 2016, there were a total of **40 collisions** which resulted in **42 casualties**.

Question (3) How many casualties, and what type, have there been in Melville Drive on Saturdays in the last 10 years?

Answer (3) Four of the above collisions occurred on a Saturday and resulted in five casualties:

- Four pedestrian casualties (three slight injuries, one serious injury);
- One cyclist casualty (serious injury).

Item no 5.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Redford Barracks

- Question** (1) Following the meeting of Redford Barracks Stakeholder Group on 29th March, has there been any further contact between the City of Edinburgh Council and Defence Infrastructure Organisation / UK Government on the scale, timing and nature of the proposed closure, sale and potential redevelopment of Redford Barracks site?
- Answer** (1) Yes, officers have been in contact with Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) since the Stakeholder Group met on 29 March and in May 2017. On 20 June 2017, officers met with the DIO representatives.
- Question** (2) Does the new Council Administration remain committed to exploring the potential for incorporating veterans' housing in any redevelopment, should that arise?
- Answer** (2) Yes, the Council Administration remains committed to this.
- Question** (3) Will an invitation be extended to representatives from Defence Infrastructure Organisation to a future meeting of the Stakeholder Group?
- Answer** (3) There are no further Stakeholder Group meetings planned at the present time. Council will consider the arrangements for Stakeholder and working groups in due course.
- Question** (4) To which Council Committee will the Group report?
- Answer** (4) Once future arrangements for this activity are agreed, these will be reported to the Housing and Economy Committee.

Item no 5.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Jim Campbell for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017

Planning

In the last complete reporting year:

- Question (1)** **(1)** How many Planning Applications were approved by the Council?
- Answer** **(1)** There were 3,512 planning applications approved in the last complete reporting year.
- Question** **(2)** How many Planning Applications had alleged breaches reported to the Council?
- Answer** **(2)** There were 685 enforcement cases received and investigated in the period April 2016 – March 2017. It is not possible to confirm how many of these relate to planning applications. Enforcement cases relate to all breaches reported to the Council.
- Question** **(3)** How many Planning enforcement actions did the Council launch?
- Answer** **(3)** There were 55 enforcement actions launched by the Council in the period April 2016 – March 2017. The number of enforcement actions relate to the breaches which, following investigation, have not been resolved and require formal action
- Question** **(4)** How many Building Warrants were approved?
- Answer** **(4)** There were 6,574 building warrants approved in the last complete reporting period.
- Question** **(5)** How many Building Warrants had alleged breaches reported to the Council?

Answer (5) This information is not recorded in numerical form. Any alleged breaches are investigated and action taken where appropriate. This correspondence is saved on file. In some cases this will lead to amendments to warrants being submitted.

Question (6) How many Building Warrants had alleged breaches reported to the Council which resulted in a site inspection by an Council Officer?

Answer (6) This information is not recorded in numerical form. Any alleged breaches are investigated and action taken where appropriate.

Question (7) How many Building Warrant enforcement actions did the Council launch?

Answer (7) There were 42 cases investigated and 9 notices served in 2016.

Question (8) Please specify dates of reporting year?

Answer (8) 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

For the last complete reporting period, if available, or for the last week of the last reporting year:

Question (9) How many Planning Applications were approved?

Answer (9) Please see response to Question (1).

Question (10) What was the average time between the receipt of a valid Planning Application and approval?

Answer (10) The average time for major applications is 43 weeks. The average time for local applications is 9.8 weeks.

Question (11) How many Building Warrants were approved?

Answer (11) Please see response to Question (4).

Question (12) What was the average time between the receipt of a valid Building Warrant application and approval?

Answer (12) The average time for processing a valid building warrant application is 103.9 days.

Question (13) Please specify dates of sample period.

Answer

(13) The sample period for building warrant applications is 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017.