THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 6

26 OCTOBER 2017

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

Question

(1) When will the much anticipated East Fettes Avenue Crossing Point from Inverleith Park to Broughton High School finally be constructed?

Answer

(1) Consultation on the proposed design for the crossing improvement is due to commence shortly. Following this, it will be necessary to undertake the statutory process for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to alter the existing parking facilities to accommodate the new crossing point. The TRO process usually takes six to nine months to complete.

It is therefore currently expected that, subject to the successful completion of the TRO process, the crossing will be constructed during the 2018 school summer holidays.

Question

(2) Why has it taken so long?

Answer

(2) Unfortunately the demands on our roads services have meant that this project has not been able to be progressed to date. I have asked officers to ensure that the proposed delivery date of summer 2018 is achieved.

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

Question

(1) Why does the Council's Active Travel Plan, as refreshed in 2016, make no mention of Kirkliston or, other than a reference to the completed cycle route NCN 1 cycle route, Queensferry?

Answer

(1) Many areas of Edinburgh are not specifically named in the Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP).

Question

(2) Why do the seven maps contained within the Active Travel Plan specifically exclude Kirkliston and Queensferry?

Answer

(2) Six of the maps referred to are extracts from census data, principally included for illustrative purposes. To make them more readable, these exclude some areas towards the edge of the Council area. However, a link to the source website will be added to the electronic version of the ATAP on the Council website enabling the reader to access maps covering the full Council area.

The seventh map shows the proposed QuietRoutes network. This network extends to the entire Council area, including Kirkliston and Queensferry but unfortunately the westernmost part of the city was omitted from the published 2016 map in error. The electronic version of the ATAP will now be amended to show the full network.

Question

(3) When will be Active Travel Plan next be refreshed?

Answer

(3) The ATAP will be refreshed in 2018.

Question

(4) What Active Travel projects are anticipated to be taken forward in Queensferry and Kirkliston, particularly in light of the Local Development Plan?

Answer

- (4) The Local Development Plan Action Programme includes a number of active travel projects associated with planned developments in the Queensferry/Kirkliston area including:
 - Builyeon Road (HSG 32)
 - South Scotstoun (HSG 33)
 - Dalmeny (HSG 34)
 - Dalmeny Station
 - West Edinburgh Transport Contribution Zone Pedestrian/Cycle Actions

Information on each of these projects can be found on the Council website:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_and_building/66/edinburgh_local_development_plan

Projects in the ATAP are dependent on developments proceeding and on securing the necessary planning conditions and/or funding/implementation agreements with the relevant developers.

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

Question

(1) a) How many free to use car parks are owned and maintained by the Council and will she publish a list of such car parks?

Answer

- (1) There are three Park and Ride car parks owned and maintained by the Council:
 - Hermiston Park and Ride
 - Ingliston Park and Ride
 - Straiton Park and Ride

There are a number of locations through the city where which may be used as parking by the public and/or residents. We will work to provide a comprehensive list of these locations over the next couple of weeks.

Question

(2) Which of these car parks are open and accessible to caravans and motorhome vehicles?

Answer

(2) Only Ingliston Park and Ride is open and accessible to caravans and motorhome vehicles for day parking.

Question

(3) Which of these car parks have restrictions on overnight parking?

Answer

(3) Ingliston Park and Ride has restrictions on overnight parking.

Question

(4) What statutory powers exist for the Council to introduce restrictions on overnight parking at its car parks?

Answer

(4) Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are the only powers available in respect of restricting overnight parking in car parks. Ingliston Park and Ride is the only Council facility which has an enforceable TRO in place to restrict overnight parking.

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 October 2017

Question

(1) When was the £1m funding agreed for the redevelopment of the High Street in Queensferry?

Answer

(1) This scheme budget was first approved at the Transport and Environment Committee on 12 January 2016.

Question

(2) What progress has been made in the delivery of the project since this date?

Answer

(2) Procurement is progressing for the appointment of a consultant to carry out consultation and design for the project. This appointment should be made by early 2018 and it is expected that the scheme will commence on site in late summer 2018.

Question

(3) What specific improvements are expected to be delivered through this project?

Answer

(3) The scheme is for sett renewal however it is recognised that this is an opportunity to improve the local infrastructure, parking control, traffic management and pedestrian areas.

A local project board will be appointed to oversee the consultation and design phases to ensure that the scheme takes account of all feedback provided.

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

Question

The Convenor will be aware that Murrayfield Community Council hosted a site visit to Ellersly Road for council officers and Living Streets on the 15th of August. What progress has been made since that site visit on improving safety and access for pedestrians on Ellersly Road?

Answer

The site visit highlighted a number of improvements for safety and access and these are currently being reviewed to identify what engineering solutions can be implemented to improve safety.

Some of these can be delivered in the short term and will be delivered in the next six months.

Work is continuing to develop solutions to the more complex issues and I will ensure local members are kept updated on progress.

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

Question

A signalised pedestrian crossing across the A8 at Kaimes Rd was first assessed as having high priority in October 2009. At what stage is the design of this crossing at present?

Answer

The majority of the funding for this crossing was secured through the Planning process, via a Section 75 Agreement with a developer. This funding became available for use by the Council in late November 2016.

It is intended to implement the crossing as part of a wider scheme of improvements to the Council's QuietRoute 9 and preliminary design work for this is currently underway. Consultation on the proposals is planned to take place shortly and it is currently expected that these will be implemented during financial year 2018/19.

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

Question

When will the council publish technical drawings for their proposals for carriageway changes to:

- a) Picardy Place
- b) Leith Street

Answer

Picardy Place

Transport and Environment Committee on 5 October agreed to carry out further engagement on the transport layout for Picardy Place. The proposed designs will shortly be published online and at stakeholder and public events. The schedule of publication is currently being developed.

Leith Street

The redetermination order promoted for Leith Street went live on 3 October:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/2349/rso 1713 leith street calton road greenside row waterloo pla ce

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 October 2017

Question

- (1) If he will produce a table showing
 - (a) which community centres will see a reduction in the number of hours of janitorial cover arising from the current review of facilities management and
 - (b) the number of hours reduction being proposed at each centre.

Answer

(1) The Facilities Management service is subject to a formal organisational review across the City. This involves a formal consultation process with the janitorial staff covered by the review and with the relevant trade unions. This process is due to conclude in December.

Following the closure of the consultation, the service will be in a position to produce a clear breakdown of the "as is" and "to be" arrangements which will be introduced.

Question

(2) Which community centre management committees have received formal notification of the proposed new levels of janitorial cover?

Answer

(2) Running alongside the formal consultation with janitorial staff, there has been a programme of community centre engagement visits, which remains ongoing, with management committees to discuss with them the proposals for cover and how that best can fit in with the activities they provide. There are 38 community centres in Edinburgh and to date 26 have taken up the opportunity to discuss the Facilities Management service review.

Question

(3) What hourly rate will be charged to community centres for the mobile janitor(s) to attend outwith the hours covered by their assigned janitor?

Answer

(3 The charging for janitorial support is an integral part of the review of the Facilities Management service. A fundamental principle of this is that the service cannot offer services which operate at a loss. As such, work is underway to prepare a suite of charges which will be applied when janitorial support is required out of hours. This is due for completion in December and these charges will form part of the Facilities Management Business Plan from the next financial year

Question

(4) What assessment has been made of the expected cuts to community organisations, clubs and other activities which may arise from the reduction in core hours and charges for mobile janitors?

Answer

(4) Community centres across the City receive services from three different Council areas: Lifelong Learning, Business Support and Facilities Management. All of these areas have had or are undertaking organisational reviews, aligned to approved Council budget decisions, which affect the levels of support that the Council as a whole is able to provide to each individual Centre.

This does throw up a range of issues and to consider these, the Council has established an internal officer working group from the three services to consider the impact and interdependencies that the changes to each function will have. Part of this group's remit is to consider what activities take place during the week in each centre and how best the Council can support them.

Question

(5) Why have elected members received no formal briefings from officials on the specific changes being proposed at each community centre and the likely impact of such changes?

Answer

(5) Formal briefings have previously taken place with elected members on the wider Facilities Management review. Meetings will be arranged with political groups once the final model for Janitorial services has been agreed with staff, unions and Communities and Families.

In addition, some management committees have invited their local Councillors along to the meetings they are holding

with the Facilities Management review team and I would encourage members to engage with this approach.

By Councillor Staniforth for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 October 2017

On Friday 13th October the Bank of Scotland announced its intention to close the Museum on the Mound permanently on 29th December 2017.

Question

(1) Did the Bank of Scotland discuss its intentions with the Council before announcing the closure?

Answer

(1) No contact was made with the Culture service prior to the closure being announced.

Question

(2) What action can being taken by Council to ensure that valuable educational services continue uninterrupted and that safeguards public access to the museum artefacts?

Answer

A meeting will be requested with the Museum Curator to explore what aspects of the Collection may fit with the Council's Museums Collecting Policy should the Bank of Scotland decide to dispose of any part of their Collection.

Question

(3) What action is being taken to safeguard other privately owned educational and cultural venues?

Answer

(3) While the Council maintains regular contact with cultural providers in the city, we are not actively involved in safeguarding privately operated educational or cultural venues.

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

School Recruitment

Question

For all recruitment into school based rolls from June 2017 to date, what is the average:

- a) Number of days between job advertisement and interview?
- b) Number of days between interview and first written offer being made?
- c) Number of days from requesting PVG checks from candidates and gaining PVG certification?
- d) The proportion of first offers that are accepted.

Answer

- a) The closing date for the post should be one week after the advert goes live. Information is usually included when interviews will take place to allow candidates to plan ahead. On average 7-14 days after closing date.
- Successful candidates' paperwork is processed by the school Business Manager and passed to the recruitment team – the length of time before written confirmation is received is variable.
- The average time from us sending a PVG application to Disclosure Scotland and getting a certificate back is 8.5 days.
- Schools and Lifelong Learning don't hold this information centrally, but would estimate that almost all are accepted.

By Councillor McLellan for answer by the Convener of the Regulatory Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 October 2017

Question

(1) How many licences have been issued by the Council to commercial dog walkers since their inception in 2014?

Answer

(1) The Council has no power to licence commercial dog walkers under existing licensing legislation.

The Council introduced a Commercial Dog Walkers scheme in 2014 to city parks where the parks management rules apply. This requires commercial dog walkers to register prior to any of these parks and to abide by a code of conduct.

382 dog walkers have registered since the introduction of the Commercial Dog Walkers scheme in 2014.

Question

(2) How many complaints have been received in that time about the operation of licensed commercial dog-walkers?

Answer

(2) Since 2014 four complaints have been received.

Question

(3) How many of those complaints were upheld?

Answer

(3) All four complaints were upheld and have been resolved.

Question

(4) How many licenses have been revoked in that time?

Answer

(4) No permits have been revoked as part of the Commercial Dog Walkers scheme.

Question

(5) To ask what measures are taken to ensure dog walkers continue to meet the conditions of their licenses?

Answer

(5) The code of conduct is published and available to all commercial dog walkers registered with the Council scheme. If we become aware that the code has been breached, we would arrange for the matter to be investigated and would contact the dog walker concerned.

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

Question

(1) What steps does the Council take to ensure that third parties, such as power or telephone providers, reinstate road markings after works have completed?

Answer

(1) A reinstatement carried out by a Utility company is considered not complete until the permanent replacement of any road markings have taken place.

The Council inspects 100% of all reinstatements carried out by Utilities during the 2 year guarantee period to make sure compliance with the Specification for Reinstatements on Roads.

If a reinstatement fails an inspection the Utility is charged an inspection fee and it is re-inspected every 17 days until it is completed correctly. Last year the Council carried out over 34,000 inspections.

Question

(2) Does the council measure how many repairs have been effected within the twelve month post-works deadline?

Answer

(2) Reinstatements are guaranteed for two years, or three years in the case of deep openings.

The council carries out monthly performance checks on all Utilities including the numbers of outstanding reinstatements. These are recorded and reported as part of a Performance Framework.

By Councillor Smith for answer by the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 October 2017

Question

When a council owned residential property becomes available when someone finishes their tenancy/leaves the property, how is the property evaluated and on what basis, to confirm any maintenance/repairs that are required?

Answer

Where a termination has been notified in advance and where access is provided, a pre-termination inspection is carried out to identify if there are any issues that will result in a chargeable repair so that these can be advised to the tenant. This inspection is carried out during while the tenancy is 'live'.

For all tenancy terminations a comprehensive property condition inspection is carried out by a Quality Control Officer (QCO). This will identify if there are any repairs required to bring the property back up to the agreed 'Standard of Let'. This is due to be reviewed in 2018.

Question

(2) How is this evaluation reviewed and by whom?

Answer

(2) There is no evaluation of the QCO inspection as the 'Standard of Let' states the conditions which apply. Any works undertaken are inspected by the QCO or Housing Property Team Leader. The local Housing Officer will also inspect the property following completion of the works in advance of arranging a viewing for prospective tenants.

Question

(3) Please confirm the total costs of repairs/maintenance per year on council owned residential properties between tenancies for the last 3 years.

Answer

(3) 2014/15 - £6,893,666 (2,878 properties) 2015/16 - £5,307,994 (2,280 properties)

2016/17 - £7,528,229 (2,467 properties)

April to Sept 2017 - £3,305,042 (1,832 properties)

Question

(4) Of those repairs, does the council monitor or review the percentage of those relating to normal wear and tear, and those caused by damage? If so, please also provide details of this for each of the last 3 years.

Answer

(4) The Council records details of the tenant where repairs are identified as either deliberate or careless. It does not record the number of repairs carried out in these circumstances.

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

Question

(1) Will the convenor please confirm that the administration still anticipates the opening of the new primary school in Caanan Lane in 2020?

If completion is not anticipated for that date, could the Convenor set out a new target for the opening of the much needed school in the south of the city?

Answer

(1) Yes, the current estimate is that construction of the new school building will be complete by August 2020.

Question

(2) Will the Convener explain what financial impact the new building will have on existing school budgets, particularly for South Morningside Primary?

Answer

(2) There is no change proposed to the methods which are used to calculate the budget for South Morningside Primary School.

Question

(3) Will the Convener meet with the South Morningside Primary Parent Council to explain how the administration will meet its target, provide the finance to maintain the high standards of South Morningside Primary and avoid the problems that have affected the opening of the new Boroughmuir school building?

Answer

(3) Before the end of the year, Council Officers are due to set up meetings with all the families from existing schools who will be affected by the creation of the new school. As Convener I would also be delighted to meet with the Parent Council of South Morningside Primary School.

By Councillor Jim Campbell for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 October 2017

Question

(1) Do we maintain a central register of all Section 75 contributions agreed with developers?

Answer

(1) Whilst there is no register of all Section 75 contributions, officers monitor contributions expected and collected from developers as part of the overall monitoring of planning obligations.

Question

(2) What date was this register started?

Answer

(2) Systematic monitoring of Section 75 contributions has been undertaken for approximately ten years.

Question

(3) What is the total value of all section 75 contributions agreed since the register was started?

Answer

(3) Since 2014 £25m of Section 75 contributions have been received.

Question

(4) What is the value of unchallenged section 75 payments made that were included on the register?

Answer

(4) The Council does not record the value of unchallenged Section 75 payments made.

Question

(5) Is the collection rate since the date of the register higher or lower than the collection rate prior to the register?

Answer

(5) We do not hold a record of collection rates prior to the recording of Section 75 contributions. In monitoring contributions it is recognised that the levels of Section 75 contributions have fluctuated in recent years depending on the nature of individual developments and general construction rates of developers in the city.

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

Question

(1) Can the Convener confirm if and when a school catchment area review will take place (in particular in Pentland Hills given all the new FAMILY 4/5 bed homes being built! – this also covers Kirkliston and Ratho as these children go to Balerno HS)?

Answer

(1) A report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 10 October 2017 provided an update on the proposals for informal consultation to take place with school communities in the west and south west of the city. Workshop sessions looking at options for potential catchment changes will be held with school communities during November and Officers are currently finalising the detail of the options which will be presented. Local members will be informed about the options in advance of them being discussed with the school communities. Only once the views of the school communities have been heard and considered will final proposals for any statutory consultations be brought forward to the Committee for consideration.

Question

- (2) Can the Convener confirm what consultation had taken place regarding the catchment area review with:
 - a) The Schools High Schools and Primary
 - b) The Community Councils

Answer

(2) The detail for consultation with the schools is provided in the answer above. As part of the informal consultation period Council Officers will also engage with appropriate Community Councils.

Question

(3) Can the Convener confirm when the outcomes will be presented?

Answer

(3) A further update on the informal consultation process will be provided to Committee in December 2017.

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

Question

(1) What factors are considered in the siting of general waste litter bins in public areas and when was there last a review of such bin provision?

Answer

(1) Currently sites are assessed and a decision is made on the suitability of the site based on the intensity of use (i.e. how well used it is), complaints and history of littering in the area. There is an ongoing review of this with a draft policy document being developed.

Question

(2) How many general waste litter bins have been removed per ward over the past 5 years?

Answer

(2) We do not record the number of waste litter bins removed.

Question

(3) How many of these bins have been replaced per ward?

Answer

(3) As above.

Question

(4) How many outstanding requests are there for litter bins and at what locations?

Answer

(4) There are currently three outstanding litter bin requests. Two in Meadows Morningside and one in Southside Newington.

Question

(5) As at 11th September Council staff e-mailed: "We are unable to supply a new litter bin at the moment due to none being available". When were litter bins last available?

Answer

(5) We are currently using a number of second hand bins to replace damaged bins or be placed where there is an identified need. Additional bins are currently being ordered.

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

Question

(1) Why did it take over 3 months to get the street lights back on for the section of Lanark Road West between Bridge Road & Ravelrig Road in Balerno?

Answer

(1) The Council and Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) have been working to resolve this issue since July this year. Following investigations on site, SPEN were able to provide power to the street lights on Bridge Road on 25 September 2017, but Lanark Road West remained dark.

The latest information from SPEN is that they are having difficulty pinpointing the location of the fault that affected the street lights on Lanark Road West and continue with their investigations.

Question

(2) Since work has been done on Q1, why are the lights on 24 hours a day (apart from one which doesn't come on at all) on this stretch of road?

Answer

(2) SPEN are having difficulty locating the point of the fault, so they are currently on 24 hours in the hope that the fault becomes "open circuit" and they will have the fault location and can carry out a permanent repair.

Question

(3) Lampposts appear to have codes associated with them – why do these not appear on the Council Website or on lampposts themselves? (responses from the street light team note codes which if made available would assist in the identification of those reported as being faulty).

Answer

(3) Each of the Council's Street Lighting Assets have a unique asset number. In the case of column mounted lights, the asset number is normally displayed on the column, through the use of sticky labels. Depending on the age of the column, these can become faded or dislodged. The Council's Street Lighting function is currently looking at ways

of replacing the asset numbers as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

The Council's Street Lighting function is currently engaging with the Council's ICT function to discuss improvements to the Council's website to include the display of Asset Numbers, which would help users reporting faults.

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

Question

Under the current Facilities Management Review proposals, what is the staffing proposal for Head of Establishments?

Answer

The impact of having reduced numbers of CLD staff combined with a review of the roles and responsibilities of newly created posts within a new service ie Lifelong Learning Service has resulted in there being the need for a new approach to supporting the Voluntary Organisations who are managing Community Centres in partnership with the Council.

At present, community centres across the City receive support from three different Council services: Lifelong Learning, Business Support and Facilities Management.

The Council has established an officer working group from the three services to consider the impact and interdependencies that the changes to each function will have. Part of this group's remit is to consider what activities take place during the week in each centre and how best the Council can support them

Question

(2) What is the proposed level of janitorial cover for each community centre?

Answer

(2) The Facilities Management service is subject to a formal organisational review across the City. This involves a formal consultation process with the janitorial staff covered by the review and with the relevant trade unions. This process is due to conclude in December.

Following the closure of the consultation, the service will be in a position to produce a clear breakdown of the "as is" and "to be" arrangements which will be introduced.

Question

(3) Will community centres have janitorial cover for weekend use?

Answer

(3) Individual community centres will have allocated hours of janitorial support. It is not anticipated that the service will provide support routinely over the weekend but will work with other council service areas and management committees to help provide the support they need.

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

Question

(1) Please list by month the number of requests received since 1 November 2016 to clear leaves from footpaths and cycle paths and in each month listing the requests received by phone; email; web; twitter; in person, and by letter.

Answer

(1) Table 1 below shows the number of requests received since November 2016.

Question

(2) Please list the dates since 1 November 2016 when large mechanical sweepers have swept the off-road cycle paths, including but not limited to the Roseburn, Warriston, Water of Leith and Ferry Road paths.

Answer

(2) There is currently no recording of Mechanical Sweeping of Cycleways. There were 50 recorded cleaning actions recorded from 1 November 2016 to 17 October 2017. This does not include reactive work from the enquiries in Question 1.

Question

(3) Please provide the URL on the council's website where concerns with

- a) footpaths
- b) off-road cyclepaths

can be reported

Answer

(3) https://my.edinburgh.gov.uk/app/report_it_forms/litter

Question

(4) What action has been taken since 1 November 2016 to implement a proactive approach to the sweeping of leaves from footpaths and cyclepaths?

Answer

(4) Areas such as those with high footfall, on cycle paths, near sheltered accommodation are being prioritised. As part of the ongoing work to implement Routesmart for the mechanical sweeper routes, seasonal leaf fall routes are being developed to allow the service to track actual work carried out in the future. Unfortunately these routes will not be available this autumn/winter however intelligence gathered over this period will be built into their design.

Seasonal variations make it difficult to proactively route resources for leaf collection. At present areas are targeted through local knowledge, site inspections by street cleansing staff and from enquiries made by the public.

Table 1

Tubic i									
Leaves Location 💌	Yearmo *	Phone	Email	Web	Twitter	In Person	Letter	Internal Memo	Grand Total
■ Cycleway	2016 12		1						1
Cycleway Total			1						1
■ Not Cycleway	2016 11	140	26	5	7	3			181
	2016 12	84	20	6	3		2		115
	2017 01	43	17	1	2	3		1	67
	2017 02	16	9	1	4	3	1		34
	2017 03	7	3						10
	2017 04	3		1			1		5
	2017 05		4						4
	2017 06		2						2
	2017 07		2	1					3
	2017 08	2							2
	2017 09	1	3			1			5
	2017 10	10	11	2					23
Not Cycleway Total		306	97	17	16	10	4	1	451
Grand Total		306	98	17	16	10	4	1	452