

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 14 December 2017

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Frank Ross

COUNCILLORS

Robert C Aldridge
Scott Arthur
Gavin Barrie
Eleanor Bird
Chas Booth
Claire Bridgman
Mark A Brown
Graeme Bruce
Steve Burgess
Lezley Marion Cameron
Ian Campbell
Jim Campbell
Kate Campbell
Mary Campbell
Maureen M Child
Nick Cook
Gavin Corbett
Cammy Day
Alison Dickie
Denis C Dixon
Phil Doggart
Marion Donaldson
Karen Doran
Scott Douglas
Catherine Fullerton
Neil Gardiner
Gillian Gloyer
George Gordon
Ashley Graczyk
Joan Griffiths
Ricky Henderson

Derek Howie
Graham J Hutchison
Andrew Johnston
David Key
Callum Laidlaw
Kevin Lang
Lesley Macinnes
Melanie Main
John McLellan
Amy McNeese-Mechan
Adam McVey
Claire Miller
Max Mitchell
Joanna Mowat
Gordon J Munro
Hal Osler
Ian Perry
Susan Rae
Alasdair Rankin
Cameron Rose
Neil Ross
Jason Rust
Stephanie Smith
Alex Staniforth
Mandy Watt
Susan Webber
Iain Whyte
Donald Wilson
Norman J Work
Louise Young

1 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 23 November 2017 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:

- Scottish Parliament Budget Day
- Education provision – school estate
- Social Bite Sleep out for the homeless
- Festive wishes

The following questions/comments were made:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Councillor Whyte | - Festive wishes
Scottish Government budget |
| Councillor Burgess | - Scottish Government budget – Council delivered local services |
| Councillor Aldridge | - Different models of service provision
- School buses on non gritted roads - priority |
| Councillor Day | - Festive wishes
- Response to weather conditions
- Pirniehall Primary School – congratulations in debating |
| Councillor Mary Campbell | - Real Women - Unheard Stories – Shakti Women's Aid Book |
| Councillor Munro | - Council Budget – representations to Scottish Government – funding settlement |
| Councillor Kate Campbell | - Welcoming recent positive developments in relation to homelessness |

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Councillor Cook | - Small businesses – increase in basic rate of income tax |
| Councillor Lang | - Priority Routes for gritting
- Janitorial review – outcome of consultations |
| Councillor Osler | - Congratulations to four S6 pupils from the Edinburgh Music School for gaining places at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland |
| Councillor Laidlaw | - Festive wishes
- Rising cost of taxis – support for taxi trade |
| Councillor Arthur | - Provision of services within the City
representations to Scottish Government |
| Councillor Doggart | - Festive wishes
- Four Seasons Care Homes – Financial viability |
| Councillor Cameron | - Festive wishes
- Issues of deep and ongoing concern to members of the development forum regarding consideration of major developments within the City |
| Councillor Webber | - South west area catchment review |
| Councillor Barrie | - Grenfell Remembrance Service – 15 year anniversary of Cowgate Fire - thanks to those who will give up time over the festive period to provide emergency service cover |
| Councillor Staniforth | - Information for residents for grit bins and gritting schedules |
| Councillor Rose | - Festive wishes
- Tax raised and available to be spent |

4 Appointments to Committees etc

The Council had agreed its political management arrangements and made appointments to a range of Committees, Boards, Joint Boards and outside organisations. A number of members had resigned from various Council Committees and outside organisations, and the Council was required to appoint members in their place.

Decision

- 1) To note the resignation of Councillor Gardiner from the Housing and Economy Committee, and appoint Councillor Gordon in his place.
- 2) To note the resignation of Councillor Ian Campbell from Edinburgh Leisure (and Edinburgh Leisure Two) and appoint Councillor Dixon in his place.
- 3) To note the resignation of Councillor Gardiner from SEStran and appoint Councillor Key in his place.
- 4) To note the resignation of Councillor Ritchie from the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and appoint Councillor Gardiner in his place.
- 5) To note the resignation of Councillor Wilson from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and appoint Councillor Cameron in his place.

(References – Act of Council No 3 of 22 June 2017; Acts of Council Nos 8 and 9 of 29 June 2017)

5 Operational Governance: Review of Council Contract Standing Orders and Guidance on the Appointment of Consultants

The Council had approved the current Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) and the Guidance on the Appointment of Consultants on 29 October 2012. The outcome of a review that had been carried out of the Council's CSOs which outlined a number of proposed key changes to the Contract Standing Orders and the Guidance on Appointment of Consultants had been presented and approved on 2 June 2016.

Details were provided on the review of the current CSOs, the engagement which had been undertaken and the main changes which were proposed following consultation.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed revisals to the existing Contract Standing Orders (as noted in Table 1 and Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Resources).
- 2) To note that there would continue to be an annual review of CSOs to ensure that they worked effectively and secured continuous improvement and Best Value.
- 3) To approve the repeal of the Appointment of Consultants as noted in Table 1 "11. Consultants" of the report.

(References – Act of Council No 9 of 25 October 2012; Act of Council No 8 of 5 February 2015; Act of Council No 9 of 2 June 2016; report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

6 Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave for Councillors

Approval was sought for Council Officers, supported by Group Leaders, to engage directly with COSLA to improve the clarity of the guidance in respect of maternity, paternity and adoption leave rights for elected members.

Decision

- 1) To instruct the Executive Director of Resources to work with Group Leaders to develop proposals which would put in place appropriate supporting practice and policy guidance in respect of maternity, paternity and adoption leave arrangements for Councillors.
- 2) To instruct the Executive Director of Resources to work with Group Leaders to make representations to COSLA and the Scottish Government to determine the possibility of putting in place proposals developed.

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

7 Monitoring Officer Investigation

Details were provided on the findings of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) in relation to the Council's determination of a planning application in relation to an extension to a hotel.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer was required, under s.5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to report to Council if he considered that in the course of the discharge of the Council's functions any proposal, decision or omission had resulted in maladministration. In this context, maladministration meant unreasonableness in the delivery of Council services or failure to apply the law or rules properly.
- 2) To note that a report by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman into the Council's handling of a planning application and related complaints resulted in a finding of maladministration. The Monitoring Officer agreed with this finding.

- 3) To note that the Council had complied with the recommendations of the SPSO's report and had taken required action to prevent recurrence of the issues identified.

(Reference – report by the Monitoring Officer, submitted.)

8 Chair

The Depute Convener assumed the Chair for the following item of business.

9 Standards Commission for Scotland – decision of Hearing Panel – Lord Provost Frank Ross

Details were provided on the findings of an investigation carried out by the Standards Commission for Scotland following a complaint against Lord Provost Frank Ross, alleging that he had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct, in particular paragraphs 4.2 and 4.20.

Decision

To note that the finding was that there had been a breach of the Code.

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

Declaration of Interest

The Lord Provost declared a non-financial interest as the subject of the report and left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

10 Chair

The Lord Provost resumed the Chair for the remaining items of business.

11 International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Motion by Councillor Graczyk

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

“Council:

1. Notes, 3rd December is the annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons which has been promoted since 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.

2. Promotes, the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.
3. Celebrates, the empowerment and aid to create real opportunities for people with disabilities as it enhances their own capacities, embraces more of their civic responsibilities, and supports them in setting their own priorities. Thus enabling them to take advantage of opportunities and become immense agents of change.”

Decision

To approve motion by Councillor Graczyk.

12 Scottish Ambulance Service - Motion by the Councillor Hutchison

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

“Council:

Congratulates Sam Grieve and Bryan Findlay of the Scottish Ambulance Service on winning the Team of the Year Award at the Staff and Volunteer Awards 2017 and thanks them for the informative and potentially lifesaving CPR and PAD training sessions delivered to members and officers during November.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hutchison.

13 Woodlands Special School - Motion by Councillor Webber

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

“Council

Woodlands Special School has recently achieved the SportsScotland Gold School Sport Award - their highest award level. The award recognises the school's ongoing commitment to self-evaluation, continuous improvement and for putting young people at the forefront of the decision-making and planning. The implementation of the pupil centered processes emphasizes on the use of sport and physical activity in the school.

Therefore, congratulates Woodlands Special School's success in gaining this outstanding achievement and confirms its continued support for the staff and pupils."

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Webber.

14 Waste Data Innovation - Motion by Councillor Jim Campbell

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

"Council

Thanks officers for the daily waste uplift failures that are reported to Group Business Managers.

Tasks the Head of Place to report to the Transport and Environment Committee in two cycles how the different data sets will be merged into one meaningful daily report, to include failed waste uplifts as proportion of planned uplifts.

Furthermore, requires an investigation of the earliest date meaningful dynamic daily waste uplift performance data can be published live on the City of Edinburgh website to inform citizens and stimulate data innovation."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Jim Campbell.

- moved by Councillor Jim Campbell, seconded by Councillor Johnston

Amendment

To refer the motion to the Transport and Environment Committee for consideration.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Doran

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	24 votes
For the amendment	-	37 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Aldridge, Brown, Bruce, Jim Campbell, Cook, Doggart, Douglas, Gloyer, Graczyk, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, Lang, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Osler, Rose, Ross, Rust, Smith, Webber, Whyte and Young

For the amendment: The Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Booth, Bridgman, Burgess, Cameron, Ian Campbell, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Corbett, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Donaldson, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gordon, Griffiths, Henderson, Howie, Key, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Miller, Munro, Perry, Rae, Rankin, Staniforth, Watt, Wilson and Work.)

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Macinnes.

15 Plastic Free Coastlines - Motion by Councillor Mowat

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

“Council:

Welcomes the campaign Plastic Free Coastlines being promoted by Surfers Against Sewage which looks to reduce single use plastics to prevent them ending up in the seas and oceans and considers that supporting such a campaign could reduce landfill, litter and costs and asks officers to engage with the campaign and report back in two cycles to the Transport and Environment Committee detailing how the council could support this.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Mowat.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Laidlaw

Amendment

To add to the motion:

Recognises that following a motion, ‘Reducing Plastic Bottle Pollution’ by Councillor Burgess, to the Transport and Environment Committee on 10 August 2017 there is a report due into how the council can minimise use of plastic bottles;

Further recognises that following a motion by Councillor Burgess agreed by full Council on 21 September 2017 there is a report due on introducing public water bottle re-fill points to reduce single-use plastic bottles.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion:

Council:

Welcomes the campaign Plastic Free Coastlines being promoted by Surfers Against Sewage which looks to reduce single use plastics to prevent them ending up in the seas and oceans and considers that supporting such a campaign could reduce landfill, litter and costs and asks officers to engage with the campaign and report back in two cycles to the Transport and Environment Committee detailing how the Council could support this.

Recognises that following a motion, 'Reducing Plastic Bottle Pollution' by Councillor Burgess, to the Transport and Environment Committee on 10 August 2017 there is a report due into how the council can minimise use of plastic bottles.

Further recognises that following a motion by Councillor Burgess agreed by full Council on 21 September 2017 there is a report due on introducing public water bottle re-fill points to reduce single-use plastic bottles.

16 National Children's Day UK 2018 and the Year of Young People - Motion by Councillor Day

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

"Council:

Notes that National Children's Day UK will take place on 13 May 2018. This day is all about the importance of a healthy childhood and how to protect the rights and freedoms of children in order to ensure that they can grow into happy, healthy adults.

Notes also that 2018 has been designated as the Year of Young People. This offers an opportunity to celebrate young people's talents and achievements and to inspire the nation through its young people's ideas, attitudes and ambitions.

Asks the Executive Director of Communities and Families to report on how the Council can mark these events."

Motion

Council:

Notes that National Children's Day UK will take place on 13 May 2018. This day is all about the importance of a healthy childhood and how to protect the rights and freedoms of children in order to ensure that they can grow into happy, healthy adults.

Asks the Executive Director of Communities and Families to provide a briefing paper to members on how the Council can mark these events.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To add to the motion:

Notes that on 12 December 2017, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to a future report on the potential for a senior school student to take up a place on the Committee, as a way of marking the importance of the Year of Young People 2018;

Notes that a report titled 'Year of Young People 2018: Schools and Lifelong Learning' was presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12th December 2017, which detailed a range of events and activities the department will be doing to mark the Year of Young People, and can be read here www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4293/education_children_and_families_committee .

- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

Council:

Notes that National Children's Day UK will take place on 13 May 2018. This day is all about the importance of a healthy childhood and how to protect the rights and freedoms of children in order to ensure that they can grow into happy, healthy adults.

Asks the Executive Director of Communities and Families to provide a briefing paper to members on how the Council can mark these events.

Notes that on 12 December 2017, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to a future report on the potential for a senior school student to take up a place on the Committee, as a way of marking the importance of the Year of Young People 2018;

Notes that a report titled 'Year of Young People 2018: Schools and Lifelong Learning' was presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12th December 2017, which detailed a range of events and activities the department will be doing to mark the Year of Young People, and can be read here www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4293/education_children_and_families_committee .

17 Short Term Lets - Motion by Councillor Aldridge

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

“Council;

Noting the Scottish Parliament’s consideration of the issue of short term lets and the unique impact such lets have on the City of Edinburgh, council agrees to establish a short term multi- agency working group to ensure both a co-ordinated input to the Parliament’s considerations and to seek an agreed approach by all partners to the specific needs of the city – the working group to include all party representation, officers from housing, planning, regulatory, community safety, environmental services, police, private landlords and letting agents and community reps: the group to be based around the model pioneered by Edinburgh prior to the introduction of HMO licensing.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Aldridge.

- moved by Councillor Aldridge, seconded by Councillor Osler

Amendment 1

Council:

Notes the cross-party concerns regarding the effects of short term lets on our city and population.

Notes that the Senior Officers representing the Council have already submitted evidence to the Scottish Parliament expert panel considering this matter, where evidence was submitted from multiple agencies and interested parties.

Accepts the principle that a short term working group may be necessary but acknowledges that officers currently work with external partners on this subject. Preliminary discussions should take place with the stakeholders outlined in the motion, ahead of consideration by committee, about the key issues to be addressed in the report, and the potential remit and membership of any working group.

To inform members' decision and any next steps, Council instructs officers to prepare a report to be considered by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within one cycle setting out:

1. The impact of the growth of short terms lets on Edinburgh's tourism economy and on the quality of life for Edinburgh residents;
2. What legislative powers the Council currently has to regulate the short term letting element of the private rented housing sector;
3. What steps the short terms letting sector is taking to self regulate;
4. The performance of the Council's Landlord Registration Scheme;
5. The growth in numbers of short term let properties in Edinburgh;
6. Recommendations on how the Council can address the issues arising from the impact of the growth of the short term letting sector on Edinburgh residents quality of life and the Edinburgh economy.

- moved by Councillor Barrie, seconded by Councillor Cameron

Amendment 2

To add to the motion:

Notes there is cross-party support for regulation of short-term lets;

Agrees that the proposed short-term working group should report to the Housing-Economy committee and

That the short-term working group should meet as soon as practical.

- moved by Councillor Rae, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the motion and Amendment 2 was adjusted and also accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Aldridge:

Council;

Noting the Scottish Parliament's consideration of the issue of short term lets and the unique impact such lets have on the City of Edinburgh, council agrees to establish a short term multi- agency working group to ensure both a co-ordinated input to the Parliament's considerations and to seek an agreed approach by all partners to the specific needs of the city – the working group to include all party representation, officers from housing, planning, regulatory, community safety, environmental services, police, private landlords and letting agents and community reps: the group to be based around the model pioneered by Edinburgh prior to the introduction of HMO licensing.

Notes the cross-party concerns regarding the effects of short term lets on our city and population.

Notes that the Senior Officers representing the Council have already submitted evidence to the Scottish Parliament expert panel considering this matter, where evidence was submitted from multiple agencies and interested parties.

Accepts the principle that a short term working group may be necessary but acknowledges that officers currently work with external partners on this subject. Preliminary discussions should take place with the stakeholders outlined in the motion, ahead of consideration by committee, about the key issues to be addressed in the report, and the potential remit and membership of any working group.

To inform members decision and any next steps, Council instructs officers to prepare a report to be considered by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within one cycle setting out:

1. The impact of the growth of short terms lets on Edinburgh's tourism economy and on the quality of life for Edinburgh residents;
2. What legislative powers the Council currently has to regulate the short term letting element of the private rented housing sector;
3. What steps the short terms letting sector is taking to self regulate;
4. The performance of the Council's Landlord Registration Scheme;
5. The growth in numbers of short term let properties in Edinburgh;

6. Recommendations on how the Council can address the issues arising from the impact of the growth of the short term letting sector on Edinburgh residents quality of life and the Edinburgh economy.

Notes there is cross-party support for regulation of short-term lets;

Agrees that the proposed short-term working group should report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee and

That the short-term working group should meet as soon as practical.

18 Essential Repairs to Schools - Motion by Councillor Jim Campbell

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

“Council:

requires a report in one cycle detailing the foreseeable maintenance expenditure to maintain school buildings in a safe and useable condition.

reported maintenance costs for the next five years should be broken down by school and category of maintenance expenditure.

reported maintenance costs for the period between five years and 25 years hence should be forecasts costs, broken down by school, based on industry average assumptions by building construction type in use.

requires that the report sets out the budgetary requirements, both capital and revenue, to be built into base budget assumptions prepared by officers from the 2018/19 year forward and detail the implications for the Council’s long term financial planning.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Jim Campbell.

- moved by Councillor Jim Campbell, seconded by Councillor Webber

Amendment 1

Council notes that the outcomes of the conditions surveys will be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee in January 2018 and the report will include capital and revenue investment needs going forward.

- moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Donaldson

Amendment 2

Council notes that an opportunity to discuss the results of the survey of all council buildings has been made available to all political groups within the council; and that a report is scheduled to go to January Finance and Resources Committee to inform the budget process; requests that this report includes overall capital investment needs and ongoing maintenance needs in public buildings, including the school estate; requests that a further report is prepared for Finance and Resources Committee after the budget is set on the practical implications of delivering on capital investment and appropriate maintenance regime.

- moved by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	17 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	43 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Brown, Bruce, Jim Campbell, Cook, Daggart, Graczyk, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Rose, Rust, Smith, Webber and Whyte)

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Booth, Bridgman, Burgess, Cameron, Ian Campbell, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Corbett, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Donaldson, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Griffiths, Henderson, Howie, Key, Lang, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Miller, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rae, Rankin, Neil Ross, Staniforth, Watt, Wilson, Work and Young.)

Decision

To approve Amendment 1 by Councillor Rankin as adjusted, as follows;

Council notes that the outcomes of the conditions surveys will be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee in January 2018 and the report will include capital and revenue investment needs going forward.

Council notes that an opportunity to discuss the results of the survey of all council buildings has been made available to all political groups within the council; and that a report is scheduled to go to January Finance and Resources Committee to inform the budget process; requests that this report includes overall capital investment needs and ongoing maintenance needs in public buildings, including the school

estate; requests that a further report is prepared for Finance and Resources Committee after the budget is set on the practical implications of delivering on capital investment and appropriate maintenance regime.

19 Retiring Principal of George Heriot's School - Motion by Councillor Rose

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

“Council:

Recognises the valuable contribution in the life of Edinburgh, and Scottish, education by the retiring Principal of George Heriot's School, Cameron Wyllie.

Applauds the significant contribution Mr Wyllie has played in Scottish Schools' debating, particularly his successful period as coach to the Scottish team that was runners-up four times in the World Championship during his tenure.

Recognises his leadership of George Heriot's School and extending the bursarial awards to provide free education to three Syrian refugees, as well as establishing the Foundation Fund that extends the original aims of the founder in its charitable objectives.

Wishes Cameron a happy retirement, while acting as a Trustee of the English-Speaking Union in Scotland and Circle (Scotland), which the School has supported for 22 years.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Rose.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Bruce

Amendment

To add to the motion:

Also notes that throughout the city, the council's primary, secondary and special schools are providing a wide-ranging education to an enormous diversity of children and young people, as the core of their day to day work, and congratulates all those headteachers and all their staff teams on doing so.

- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following amended motion by Councillor Rose:

Council:

Recognises the valuable contribution in the life of Edinburgh, and Scottish, education by the retiring Principal of George Heriot's School, Cameron Wyllie.

Applauds the significant contribution Mr Wyllie has played in Scottish Schools' debating, particularly his successful period as coach to the Scottish team that was runners-up four times in the World Championship during his tenure.

Recognises his leadership of George Heriot's School and extending the bursarial awards to provide free education to three Syrian refugees, as well as establishing the Foundation Fund that extends the original aims of the founder in its charitable objectives.

Wishes Cameron a happy retirement, while acting as a Trustee of the English-Speaking Union in Scotland and Circle (Scotland), which the School has supported for 22 years.

Also notes that throughout the city, the city's primary, secondary and special schools are providing a wide-ranging education to an enormous diversity of children and young people, as the core of their day to day work, and congratulates all those headteachers and all their staff teams on doing so.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Doggart declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the parent of a child at the school.

Councillor Rose declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of George Heriot's Trust.

20 Data Driven Community Empowerment - Motion by Councillor Doggart

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

“Council:

Recognises Edinburgh’s ability to become a centre of international excellence in the field of data driven innovation through the contribution of the universities and the business sectors.

Chooses to fully participate in the development of practical usage of such technological change.

Recognises that such innovation in data could cause considerable disruption to existing businesses and individuals, as well as delivering benefits.

Recognises the benefits data driven change can bring to the delivery of Council services in greater efficiency and lower costs.

Requests the Chief Executive presents to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within two cycles an outline plan on how data innovation could be used to:

- Foster greater participation in public decision making, as proposed in section 10 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, both in the making of decisions and in the building of communities; and
- Drive efficiencies in the delivery of Council services.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Doggart.

21 To Commemorate the Edinburgh Members of the XV International Brigade - Motion by Councillor Mary Campbell

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

“Council notes –

- 1) In early 1937, Franco's fascist troops were at the gates of Madrid and the British Battalion of the XV International Brigade entered the battle of Jarama,

a victory for the Republic but one in which the British Battalion lost well over half its number.

- 2) That 39 Scottish Brigadistas died of their wounds at Tarancon Hospital, near Madrid, and are buried in Tarancon cemetery, about a quarter of them being from Edinburgh.
- 3) That there is now a permanent memorial in the cemetery both to the International Brigaders and the many local civilians who died in the repression following Franco's rule.
- 4) That work to create, maintain and interpret the grave sites of Scottish volunteers has been done by the Association for Recovery of Historical Memory Cuenca.

Therefore -

- 1) Council would like to thank Maximo Molina, a town councillor from Tarancon who was a driving force in the Scottish memorial, and ARHM Cuenca for their work in maintaining the lost graves of men from Edinburgh.
- 2) Council requests that the Lord Provost writes to Maximo Molina and ARHM Cuenca to thank them for their work.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mary Campbell.

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 14 December 2017)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question (1) To ask what number of pedestrian crossings within the City of Edinburgh have been fitted with a pedestrian signalling box with working rotating cones underneath, which enable partially sighted individuals to know when it is safe to cross?

Answer (1) There are currently 596 traffic signal installations in the city. 409 have rotating tactile cones for use by partially sighted pedestrians.

Question (2) To ask what number of pedestrian crossing within the City of Edinburgh have been fitted with a pedestrian signalling box but do not also have rotating cones to aid the partially sighted?

Answer (2) 187 of the 596 traffic signals do not have rotating tactile cones installed for partially sighted pedestrians. However, 98 of these have an audible sounder which “bleeps” when the green man is showing, thus signalling to partially sighted pedestrians when it is safe to cross.

Question (3) To ask what number of pedestrian crossings within the City of Edinburgh have not been fitted with a pedestrian signalling box at all?

Answer (3) There are 13 traffic signal installations which are not fitted with pedestrian pushbutton boxes. In all cases, this is because there is no pedestrian requirement as the sites have no footways, thus no through route for pedestrians.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you very much indeed and thank you very much Convener for answering my question. However, I have a slight sort of issue with the answer you have given. I asked about the working cones. For those that are not entirely sure what it is I'm talking about is, underneath pedestrian crossings there's a little hole that a little rotating cone goes in and so for partially sighted individuals, when the green man goes on, because there's no beeping, the rotating cone rotates so that they know when to cross the road. The problem I have is that I appreciate the fact that 596 traffic signals might have been installed with these but actually not all of them are working, quite a few that are missing, a classic example being Craighleith Retail Park area, none of them are working. So I would really appreciate if we could actually sort of identify where the working cones are and where they aren't because this is very very important to individuals to allow them the ability to be able to cross the road without actually needing somebody else to enable them.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you for your supplementary Councillor Osler. I couldn't agree with you more, I think this kind of technology is of vital importance in terms of providing independence and ability for people to lead their lives in an appropriate way. I will come back to you on an individual basis and if necessary to the Chamber with information about the working cones. If there is a problem, a widespread problem, we'll put in place a programme to make sure that those are fitted correctly, thank you.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Convener of the
Finance and Resources Committee at
a meeting of the Council on 14
December 2017**

- Question** (1) How many instances in the last 12 months has City of Edinburgh (CEC):
- a) Email been unavailable to half or more of all CEC email account users
 - b) Of individual user reported problem accessing CEC email accounts?
- Answer** (1) a) In the last 12 months, there have been 9 instances where email has been unavailable to half or more of all CEC email account users.
- b) In the last 12 months, there was 963 occasions when individual users reported they could not access email accounts.
- Question** (2) What is the total duration of such periods of mass loss of service as requested in 1a?
- Answer** (2) Total downtime was 23 hours 28 mins, the total uptime was 8736 hours 32 mins, the e-mail service was available 99.7% of the time.
- Question** (3) Provide as of November 2017 total number of CEC email:
- a) addresses
 - b) addresses that are not alias to another account
 - c) accounts that are dormant

Answer

- (3)**
- a) Total number of emails addresses
 - i) Learning and Teaching = 8628 user email accounts;
ea.edin.sch.uk
 - ii) Corporate = 7576 user email accounts;
edinburgh.gov.uk

 - b) Account not subject to alias
 - i) Learning and Teaching = 8628
 - ii) Corporate = 7576

 - c) Suspended Accounts
 - i) Learning and Teaching = 560
 - ii) Corporate = 639

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Brown for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

Having been in touch with departmental officials following complaints received from residents over the quality of workmanship in relation to temporary pavement and road repairs in Drum Brae / Gyle ward, can the Convener confirm what plans are in place to ensure sufficient personnel are in place to ensure the Council 'gets it right first time' in order to deliver value for money for the City's taxpayers?

Answer

The Transport and Environment Committee approved an improvement plan for Road Services on [10 August 2017](#). This was developed to address service delivery issues, including poor defect repair decisions. A progress update was considered at Committee on [7 December 2017](#).

Training is underway to ensure that inspectors are categorising repairs correctly and providing information on the nature of each defect in such a way that the team can then prepare adequately for each repair.

The service has sufficient resource to ensure that this approach is successful. It should be noted, however, that the nature of the defect will dictate whether a permanent repair is possible on the first visit.

The service recognises that the outcome in this particular case was not acceptable and are taking action to ensure that this situation will not arise again in the future.

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Lord Provost at a
meeting of the Council on 14
December 2017**

Question

Following the recent phase launch of Edinburgh 2050, encouraging the widest conversation amongst all strata of our City, building on the experience of other Cities and our own earlier Radical Enlightenment, can the Lord Provost indicate the progress in raising the £350,000 target to launch this conversation?

Answer

The target of £350,000 is an estimate which has still to be validated by the Steering Committee. Also not all of the agreed target will need to be raised in cash terms as offers of support in kind will be offset.

I will be engaging with Edinburgh's business community over the coming months. As part of this, the Chief Executive and I will host two dinners in early January (Wednesday 10, Thursday 11) with leaders from Edinburgh's business community.

The guest list was created with input from Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce. Each event will host around 12 guests.

The cost of these dinners is being met from the Lord Provost's hospitality budget.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost, thank you for your answer. I was wondering Lord Provost, in the light of us trying to get this conversation going and involving our business communities in that conversation taking our city forward to 2050, I was wondering Lord Provost, what advice you might give us in this Chamber about how we could conduct that conversation to inspire our business leaders to give us some money to take this conversation out to the public.

**Supplementary
Answer**

The first meeting of the new Steering Committee was only two days ago and the representatives on that Steering Committee include the Federation of Small Business and indeed the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce. Once we have the programme fully identified and detailed we're more than happy to share all this information with Councillors so that everybody can help take it forward across the City.

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Hutchison for answer
by the Convener of the Planning
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 14 December 2017**

- Question** (1) Can the Convener please advise how many requests have been received during the year to date for planning documentation for visually impaired citizens?
- Answer** (1) There has been 1 request for planning documentation for visually impaired citizens since January 2017.
- Question** (2) Can the Convener further advise the total cost of producing planning documents for visually impaired citizens in the year to date?
- Answer** (2) The Council's Interpretation and Translation Service produced the required documents at a costs of £1,024.85 for the transcription of a planning statement and pre-application documentation in respect of a major application.
- Question** (3) Will the Convenor agree to review the council's process for making planning documentation available to visually impaired citizens to make this more accessible and cost effective?
- Answer** (3) Yes, a review will be undertaken and members will be updated when complete.
- Supplementary Question** Thank you Lord Provost. I thank the Convener for his response and congratulate him on his new role. In relation to the answer to Part 3, could the Convener please provide a timeframe for the review which has been undertaken.
- Supplementary Answer** Thank you Councillor Hutchison for your kind words. A timeframe of two cycles would be sufficient I believe.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Hutchison for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 December 2017**

Question (1) On what date was an approach made to the London Mayor's office in respect of a joint initiative on a transient visitor levy/tourist tax?

Answer (1) No formal approach has been made. However in February 2017 representatives of the London Mayor Office and the Chief Executive discussed the Tourism levy in London and Edinburgh.

Question (2) Who from the City Council made this approach and what form did it take?

Answer (2) See answer to 1 above.

Question (3) What exactly is the joint initiative being proposed?

Answer (3) We are currently working on developing a robust, evidence-based business case for consideration by the Scottish Government. This draws on the existing evidence available in the UK and abroad, including the London Mayor's Office.

The next step will be comprehensive engagement with the full range of stakeholders, including the London Mayor's Office.

Question (4) Please detail the response from the Mayor's office.

Answer (4) The discussion was informal and no formal record was made or response required.

Supplementary Question Thank you Lord Provost and thank you to the Convener for his answer of sorts. I'd like to commend the Convener, first of all there is a commitment in the SNP manifesto to introduce a transient visitor levy and obviously this is the first step in seeing that through. I would ask Lord Provost, if we

can perhaps excuse the Convener so that he can pop down to Holyrood and explain to Derek Mackay, how to keep a manifesto commitment on taxation.

In relation to Part 1 of the answer, which talks about a meeting in February 2017, Councillor McVey is quoted from the Question Time event which was held, as saying Edinburgh was liaising with London on this policy. Now I know from Councillor McVey's helpful lesson on tenses in his answer to Councillor Whyte, that liaising means a process which is ongoing at the moment, however, the answer suggests that there's nothing happening and nothing has happened since February, so if we can clarify that please and then further in the first part of the answer says no approach has been made. Councillor Cammy Day, quoted in the Herald on the 27th November, says we have made a formal application to Sadiq Khan's office to look at any potential for a joint initiative.

Obviously this Budget process today has been conducted under a veil of secrecy and it seems to be continuing. Can you please shed some light for us Convener and explain what is actually happening here.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you Lord Provost and can I thank Councillor Hutchison for his supplementary. On the broader point of taxation, I think it's pretty clear what the taxation powers of the Scottish Parliament are and there are plenty of areas which we would look to consider the tax situation if we had those broader powers. We don't have a great deal more than income tax and if you look at the drop in the Scottish block grant and indeed that for Whitehall Departments in general, it's not too surprising that the Finance Secretary should be looking at the possibility of raising further income in order to support the public services which so many people in the city value. I think we will see today, because we're doing this almost in real time if you like, because the Finance Secretary is due to release his figures for the Local Government financial settlement at some point today, so we'll see what he's decided, but if there's any truth in what we're hearing from the media then there may be an increase

in income tax for some proportion of the electorate, and that would be as I've said when I presented the Budget to Council in the past that this really will be to do with a necessity rather than choice and if we are to maintain services without making draconian cuts, something of this sort would seem to have a justification, but we'll wait to see what he has to say.

I think it does open up a broader line of criticism of the Government in terms of its austerity approach which is fundamentally not changed since 2010 and the evidence of the failure of that policy I think is all around us. We can see that the UK economy is now growing at a slower rate than any other G7 country, we're growing more slowly than the European Union as a whole, and a great deal of that is to do with a policy which has nothing really to do with actually supporting the economy and everything to do with trying to pull down the deficit in a way which has got less to do with financial probity and much more to do to try to shrink public sector and public services in general on the grounds that this is somehow going to lead to the private sector coming up with a much better economic performance and we've failed to see that for seven years. So I think we see the Finance Secretary in a rather difficult position and I think he's trying to make the best of a difficult position which he's been placed in, as have Whitehall Departments in general been placed in, by this austerity policy which has been going on for far too long.

On the specific point if I may, about the Transient Visitor Levy, I think is quite reasonable for any Administration to have confidential discussions with any other party on trying to put in place the most effective and most well thought out tax in terms of a Transient Visitor Levy or whatever else you want to call it, bed tax and so on.

There will come a point of course when we see where our representations get us to and we hope that we will get the result that we want. It's quite clear that there's a very substantial majority in this Chamber for a Transient Visitor Levy, but I think it's incumbent on us to come up with a

proposal that makes the most sense for this City and enables us to conduct our business and support public services in the best way we can. We can talk about whether or not it's going to be hypothecated to, for example are supporting the cultural offer of the city or whether or not it goes more broadly in supporting infrastructure and as you can understand from what I said that that there's a whole range of possibilities and there's a different amounts of money that could be raised depending on what structure we choose to adopt in bringing forward a Transient Visitor Levy.

So I would encourage everyone in the Chamber to support that move because I think it can only help the finances of the City and help our cultural offering and perhaps support our infrastructure as well.

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

In a response to my questions at The City of Edinburgh Council Meeting on 21st September about proposals for Low Emission Zones the Convener replied “The Scottish Government has issued a public consultation document (Building Scotland’s Low Emission Zones). The Council is engaging in this consultation and a response will be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee in December”.

No such report was provided to the 7th December Transport and Environment Committee – could the Convener inform Council when information on this matter will be reported to Council, either the Council or an Executive Committee?

Answer

The Council’s response was contained within the [Business Bulletin](#) for the Transport and Environment Committee on 7 December and includes the full response to Scottish Government.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for her response and apologise for overlooking this tucked away in the Business Bulletin. I don't know if the Convener is aware that a search using the Council's IT system on Low Emission Zones does not actually bring this item up. Previously it has been the practice that when there is a motion by a Councillor on a matter, they are consulted or informed when a response is forthcoming and I wonder if the Convener would agree with me that this notification should be extended to items featuring in the Business Bulletins if only to prevent excessive questions at Full Council.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you for your supplementary Councillor Mowat. I would do anything to prevent unnecessary questions at Full Council although I think so far I've been making a fairly good fist of answering all of them regardless of merit. On this particular one I agree with you. It was unfortunate that it did as you put it slip into the Business Bulletin, but as you can probably gather in terms of this topic it's very much a moving feast on this one, were developing the process, we're looking at it very carefully and we're certainly not wanting to have any precipitate action on it. This is a topic that will be coming back to report through Transport and Environment on a quite regular basis, as we lead towards the establishment of a Low Emission Zone in Edinburgh. It's an initiative that's extremely welcome, certainly on my part, from the Scottish Government to be ploughing this degree of effort into the Four Cities Initiative and it's something which I think will benefit Edinburgh enormously once we've established the parameters and understood the steps needed to create an effective LEZ in Edinburgh. Thank you.

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

On 3 November, I contacted planning officials to ask what the average turnaround time was for building warrant applications. After receiving no reply, I sent another email on 19 November. Given I have still not received a reply or acknowledgment, can the Convener provide this information?

Answer

Between 1 December 2016 and 30 November 2017 the average time for determining a building warrant was 114 working days. This figure includes the time agents were addressing building warrant reports which is on average 38 working days. The building warrant report sets out the matters that need to be addressed by the agent in order for the building warrant to be processed to completion.

Supplementary Question

I thank the Convener for his answer and add my congratulations to him for his appointment. Speaking of unnecessary questions, I hope he will share my frustration that despite repeated requests for this information from myself directly to officers, it was not forthcoming which is why I felt I had to table this question to the Convener. Can I ask as a supplementary whether the figure that he's provided as an answer, is this average time generally getting worse is it getting better or is it fairly static, and is there any departmental target and for a turnaround time and how does that target compare to the actual figure?

Supplementary Answer

Again I thank the Councillor for his kind introduction words. In terms of the supplementary questions, the figure is fairly static and the additional supplementary in terms of a target, there is no departmental target but we have a clear objective to reduce the time spent on applications. So in order to bring this about there's a dedicated Plan Reporting Team

which has just been put in place for small applications. There's also links with other Local Authorities, shared services and also there's overtime within the Department to move the backlog.

In addition to this we've set up focus groups with customers, these include solo practitioners, small and large architectural practices as well as house builders. The point of these focus groups is to learn from the customers how we can make improvement and sharing with them information and methods which may assist them in making applications more smoothly. So we do take this matter very seriously and we're moving it onwards. I hope that answers his questions.

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

In response to item 5.3 of the October 2017 meeting of Council, the Convener advised me that "there are a number of locations through the city 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."

Given that almost six weeks have passed and in the absence of any updates from officials, can the Convener advise when I am likely to receive this list?

Answer

In addition to the information provided in October, officers have prepared a list of car parks as designated on the Council's asset register (below).

Our wider estate also includes car parks in housing estates, at Council offices, at schools and at leisure centres. This clearly is not a small piece of work and will take some time to prepare if Councillor Lang feels this would be of use.

STREET NAME	ESTABLISHMENT NAME
BAVELAW ROAD	BAVELAW CAR PARK AND GROUND
BRIDGE STREET	BRIDGE STREET CAR PARK
CASTLE TERRACE	CASTLE TERRACE CAR PARK
CHARTERHALL ROAD	BLACKFORD HILL CAR PARK
COLINTON MAINS GARDENS	CAR PARK
COWAN'S CLOSE	COWAN'S CLOSE CAR PARK
CRAMOND GLEBE ROAD	CRAMOND GLEBE CAR PARK
CURRIEHILL STATION	CURRIEHILL STATION CAR PARK
DALMENY STATION	DALMENY STATION CAR PARK
DEANPARK BRAE	QUARRY HOWE CAR PARK
EASTER DRYLAW DRIVE	GROUND FOR CAR PARKING
EASTFIELD ROAD	INGLISTON PARK & RIDE
EDINBURGH ROAD	HAWES PIER CAR PARK
GLASGOW ROAD	
GULLAN'S CLOSE (264 CANONGATE)	GULLAN'S CLOSE CAR PARK
HARLAW ROAD	HARLAW RESERVOIR CAR PARK
HAWTHORNBANK	GROUND (819 SQ YDS) FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
HIGH STREET	CAR PARK
INDIA PLACE	STOCKBRIDGE HEALTH CENTRE CAR PARK
KIRKGATE	KIRKGATE CAR PARK
LOCHSIDE AVENUE	
LONGSTONE STREET	CAR PARK
MARKET STREET	CAR PARK - MARKET ST SIDINGS SPACE 63
MARKET STREET	MARKET ST SIDINGS CAR PARKING SPACE 64
MARSHALL'S COURT	MARSHALL'S COURT CAR PARK
MORRISON STREET	
MUIRHOUSE AVENUE	CAR PARK
MURRAYBURN DRIVE	
NEWCRAIGHALL ROAD	NEWCRAIGHALL PARK AND RIDE SITE (PART)
NEWCRAIGHALL ROAD	NEWCRAIGHALL PARK & RIDE (OWNED PORTION)
OBSERVATORY ROAD	CAR PARK
OXGANGS BROADWAY	CAR PARK
OXGANGS DRIVE	CAR PARK
OXGANGS GARDENS	OXGANGS GARDENS CAR PARK
OXGANGS GROVE	CAR PARK & AMENITY GROUND
PENTLAND VIEW COURT	PENTLAND VIEW CAR PARK
REGENT ROAD	
RICCARTON MAINS ROAD	HERMISTON PARK & RIDE
ROSE LANE	THE BINKS CAR PARK
RUTLAND COURT LANE (ST CUTHBERT'S LANE)	RUTLAND COURT CAR PARK
SEAPORT STREET	SEAPORT STREET CAR PARK

SIGHTHILL ROAD	CAR PARK - GATE 55
SILVERKNOWES ROAD	SILVERKNOWES ROAD CAR PARK
SOUTH GYLE CRESCENT	
SOUTH GYLE ROAD	SOUTH GYLE STATION CAR PARK
ST LEONARD'S STREET	ST LEONARD'S CAR PARK
STRAITON ROAD	STRAITON PARK & RIDE
SWANSTON ROAD	CAR PARK AND ORNAMENTAL GROUND
TOLBOOTH WYND	CAR PARK AND LANDSCAPING
WHITEHILL STREET	CAR PARK
WEST SHORE ROAD	

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 December 2017**

Question

What report has been received from the police following the fatal accident at the Davidson's Mains roundabout in May of this year and what changes are planned to the roundabout as a result?

Answer

An initial report, providing basic details of the fatal collision that occurred on the morning of 14 May 2017, was received from Police Scotland by e-mail that evening. The Police investigation into the collision has been concluded and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal's Office, which is currently sub judice.

The Road Safety team undertakes an annual collision investigation into all streets within the City of Edinburgh Council area, using collision details supplied by the Police.

From this analysis, it is possible to determine locations where the collision rate is giving cause for concern and where remedial measures may be required. This location was not identified as a site for concern in the investigation that was undertaken in early 2017.

However, following the fatal collision on 14 May, the location was added to the list of Accident Investigation and Prevention sites for further investigation and the potential implementation of remedial measures.

It is intended to consult with the local community and other stakeholders over possible improvements to the roundabout in spring next year.

**Supplementary
Question**

I thank the Convener for her answer and I hope that she will understand that there have been concerns about the roundabout for some time and that those concerns were exacerbated by the terribly tragic incident that we had in Davidsons' Mains in May of this year. Can I just ask the Convener, whether a decision has been taken in principle, on whether changes are required at this roundabout or whether that decision has still to be taken. What I'm just trying to understand, as I tried to explain to the Convener before, it's just whether there's going to be a consultation on the detail or has a decision actually been taken as to whether the roundabout may be left as it is.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you Councillor Lang. I can confirm that no decision has yet been taken on this particular roundabout and whether or not it requires change partly in response to what was clearly a tragic incident. It'll be considered as part of the Council's work on road safety and in conjunction with any accident report which is not yet forthcoming.

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

Whether the council will replace lighting in tenement stairs with more energy efficient LED lighting?

Answer

On [30 April 2015](#), City of Edinburgh Council approved prudential borrowing of £2.13 million over 10 years for the replacement of lighting in tenement stairs.

On [21 January 2016](#) Council agreed to retrofit LED lighting in stairs where a Council tenant lived. There were 3,755 stairs identified for installation of LED lighting and the installation programme commenced in 2016. Work on this will be completed by the end of the year.

Supplementary Question

Thanks very much. My question was about whether the Council will install efficient LED lighting in tenements stairs to replace less efficient lighting. Colleagues may be aware that the Council's electricity bill for tenement stair lighting is around £1million a year, installing LED lighting would reduce that bill as well as cutting climate changing pollution. I welcome the Convener's answer that approval has been given for a Spend to Save project to do this, although it wasn't clear from the written answer when the replacement on tenement stair lighting will begin. I welcome the progress that's been made on Council house stairs and I wonder if the Convener would be willing to provide an update in the next Business Bulletin for the Transport Environment Committee.

Supplementary Answer

Yes I think that's an entirely reasonable request Councillor Burgess, so thank you for that, I will do so. My understanding is that the work is due to be completed by the end of this year, so thank you.

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Aldridge for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question (1) What are the latest available figures for potholes repaired using the 'Right first Time' hot box approach since May 2017?

Answer (1) Since 1 May 2017 Edinburgh Road Services has attended 13,201 defects (largely potholes).

11,596 (88%) of these have been filled with hot material. It is not possible to confirm how many of these constituted a permanent repair however changes to the recording system are currently being progressed to enable this information to be available in future.

Question (2) What are the latest available figures for potholes repaired using the standard cold tar pothole filling method in the same period?

Answer (2) 1,605 (12%) defects have been repaired using standard cold tar due to their severity and/or the Traffic Management required. All were completed by the night shift crews who only have access to cold tar at present.

A static hotbox (sited at Bankhead Depot) trial is scheduled for the new year which will give the nightshift teams (which predominantly using cold material) access to hot material. If successful this will help reduce the number of potholes filled with cold material and therefore increase the number completed 'right first time'.

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Aldridge for answer by the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

- Question** (1) What proportion of managed or owned sheltered housing, which have gas boilers, are fitted with carbon monoxide detectors?
- Answer** (1) There are 1,789 City of Edinburgh Council sheltered homes. 1,369 homes have gas and all of these have either a battery or hardwired carbon monoxide alarm fitted.
- Question** (2) Of these, how many are hard wired and how many battery driven?
- Answer** (2) 1,054 properties have been upgraded with hard wired carbon monoxide detectors, leaving 315 properties with battery driven carbon monoxide alarms. These remaining properties will be converted to hard wired alarms within the next 12 months.
- Question** (3) What are the maintenance arrangements, including battery replacement, where appropriate, for battery driven carbon monoxide detectors in council owned or managed sheltered housing?
- Answer** (3) Testing of carbon monoxide alarms is part of the annual gas check in every Council property. All battery operated alarms have a low battery warning sound and tenants are asked to alert the warden for their property if this begins to sound. If the warden is unable to replace the battery, the Housing Property team will do so.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thanks very much Lord Provost, and thanks to the Convener for the answer which was relating to carbon monoxide alarms in sheltered housing. What prompted my question was a rather disturbing email that local Councillors in my Ward received a while back, where my constituent said that his mother was staying in sheltered housing locally, that after contacting the Council he was informed that they had received an email saying that they do not have to maintain the carbon monoxide detectors.

I note from the responses that this is not the policy of the Council and I just would ask the Convener if he could ensure that staff are aware that the policy is that the carbon monoxide detectors will be maintained, because these are vulnerable people who may be unable to change batteries themselves if its battery driven.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you for the supplementary. I'm absolutely clear that they should be maintained. I'll seek officers to clarify that position and I'd like to be copied in, and I'm sure they're watching online today. I'd like to be copied in on any response they give out to the staff who are responsible for this action.

QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Staniforth for answer
by the Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 14
December 2017**

Question

Has there been discussion between the council and Underbelly regarding the scale and nature of volunteer use at Edinburgh's Hogmanay?

Answer

Council officers have been in discussion with Underbelly on the Hogmanay Ambassador programme as part of the on-going discussions on the programme. The scheme has been 'live' since 19 July 2017 and to date 92 Ambassadors have signed up.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost, I thank the Convener for his answer confirming that Council officers were in discussion with Underbelly on their Hogmanay Ambassador Programme, however, I am sure you would agree that there has been a lot of confusion and some anger over that problem, over that programme. Would he therefore support the idea of a report calling for a best practice on volunteers and volunteering that can be applied to all our future procurement contracts so that when the Council is asked if Council contractors volunteering is ethical, we can say that it is without fear of confusion or doubt.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you Lord Provost, the answer to that is yes, I'm very happy to support guidelines being brought forward and indeed I know that the Fringe Society are bringing forward their own guidelines and so this will be in parallel with that and of course we are in our preparation stage of the Fair Fringe report which will be brought forward and I am also happy to ensure that guidelines in volunteering are included as part of that.

QUESTION NO 15**By Councillor Miller for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017**

Question (1) How many complaints and enquiries by month over the last 12 months have been received regarding vehicles parked in the pedestrian-only areas of Castle Street, Grassmarket, and Riego Street, where bollards protecting the pedestrianised areas are currently awaiting repair?

Answer (1) There have been 9 complaints in total for these three streets over the past 12 months, broken down as:

Castle Street	Riego Street	Grassmarket
20/01/2017	10/11/2017	14/12/2016
	30/11/2017	19/07/2017
		02/11/2017
		07/11/2017
		16/11/2017
		24/11/2017

It is not possible to distinguish whether these complaints relate to pedestrian and non-pedestrian areas.

Question (2) How many visits, vehicles logged, and tickets issued have there been for the pedestrian-only areas of Castle Street, Grassmarket, and Riego Street, broken down by month over the last 12 months?

Answer (2) The table below details the number of visits, vehicles logged and tickets issued at each location over the past 12 months. It is not possible to distinguish whether these visits relate to pedestrian and non-pedestrian areas.

Question (3) Are there any additional measures or metrics which City of Edinburgh Council asks NSL to report, in order to quantify increased patrols where these have been requested and agreed?

Answer **(3)** Streets that are reported as problematic on a regular basis are recorded on our priority street log and our enforcement contractor is required to make additional visits to these locations. The priority street log records the number of visits, vehicles logged and parking tickets issued in each week that the street remains on the log for discussion with the contractor on a weekly basis. All adhoc requests for enforcement are also logged, prioritised and feedback for each request is provided on a weekly basis.

Question 2 – Number of Visits, Vehicles Logged and Tickets Issued

	Castle Street	Riego Street	Grassmarket
Dec-16	474 visits	139 visits	317 visits
	83 vehicles logged	0 vehicles logged	202 vehicle logged
	51 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	73 PCNs issued
Jan-17	491 visits	141 visits	338 visits
	50 vehicles logged	0 vehicles logged	144 vehicles logged
	25 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issue	66 PCNs issued
Feb-17	449 visits	110 visits	313 visits
	112 vehicles logged	0 vehicles logged	142 vehicle logged
	49 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issue	62 PCNs issued
Mar-17	607 visits	136 visits	315 visits
	126 vehicles logged	1 vehicle logged	175 vehicles logged
	60 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	61 PCNs issued
Apr-17	519 visits	167 visits	244 visits
	98 vehicles logged	3 vehicles logged	162 vehicle logged
	41 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	74 PCNs issued
May-17	503 visits	122 visits	304 visits
	75 vehicles logged	1 vehicle logged	205 vehicles logged
	34 PCNs issued	1 PCN issued	49 PCNs issued

Jun-17	477 visits	115 visits	275 visits
	76 vehicles logged	2 vehicles logged	215 vehicle logged
	34 PCNs issued	2 PCNs issued	80 PCNs issued
Jul-17	477 visits	122 visits	238 visits
	93 vehicles logged	0 vehicles logged	177 vehicle logged
	40 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	77 PCNs issued
Aug-17	468 visits	130 visits	343 visits
	93 vehicles logged	2 vehicle logged	307 vehicles logged
	45 PCNs issued	1 PCN issued	123 PCNs issued
Sep-17	453 visits	136 visits	239 visits
	74 vehicles logged	1 vehicle logged	229 vehicle logged
	34 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	86 PCNs issued
Oct-17	469 visits	146 visits	264 visits
	110 vehicles logged	2 vehicle logged	285 vehicles logged
	53 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	75 PCNs issued
Nov-17	325 visits	182 visits	250 visits
	12 vehicles logged	3 vehicle logged	150 vehicles logged
	2 PCNs issued	0 PCNs issued	79 PCNs issued

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost and thank you to the Convener for her answer to my question. I had been contacted by quite a lot of local residents around areas where there are bollards to protect pedestrianised areas but the bollards, because they are currently broken, are unfortunately not keeping cars out. The data that I have been provided by the Convener with does show that unfortunately even though I asked for and had agreement from parking that they would increase the coverage in those areas, that that didn't actually happen, So I was wondering if I could ask the Convener if she shares my concern that we need to protect these valuable pedestrian zones and my concerns that our residents are losing confidence in the Council's resolve to maintain and protect those zones and therefore would she work with me to ensure that until physical barriers are reinstated, that we

put in place measures to ensure that we can target and ticket repeated offenders.

**Councillor
Macinnes**

I apologise but I couldn't actually hear that last part of the question, if you wouldn't mind repeating it please.

**Councillor
Miller**

Of course, it was to ask if you would work with me to ensure that until the physical barriers are reinstated in these areas, that we put in place measures to ensure that we target and ticket the repeat offenders that we know were parking there.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you very much particularly the repetition, I apologise. Yes, I mean clearly the issue of selfish and illegal parking where it shouldn't take place is an endemic problem across the city and in this particular instance I'd be happy to work with you to try and see what we can do about targeting precisely that behaviour, thank you.

QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Rae for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 December 2017**

Question

Will the Convener list the number of parking enforcement visits, vehicles logged and parking tickets issued on Leith Walk in each of the last 12 months?

Answer

The table below lists the number of parking enforcement visits, vehicles logged and parking tickets issued on Leith Walk in each of the last 12 months:

Nov-17	318 visits
	396 vehicles logged
	82 PCNs issued
Oct-17	283 visits
	304 vehicles logged
	87 PCNs issued
Sep-17	211 visits
	191 vehicles logged
	53 PCNs issued
Aug-17	234 visits
	181 vehicles logged
	42 PCNs issued
Jul-17	242 visits
	78 vehicles logged
	29 PCNs issued
Jun-17	248 visits
	86 vehicles logged
	27 PCNs issued
May-17	285 visits
	196 vehicles logged
	29 PCNs issued
Apr-17	237 visits
	121 vehicles logged
	33 PCNs issued
Mar-17	312 visits
	152 vehicles logged
	41 PCNs issued
Feb-17	313 visits
	227 vehicles logged
	68 PCNs issued

Jan-17	334 visits
	238 vehicles logged
	58 PCNs issued
Dec-16	338 visits
	327 vehicles logged
	73 PCNs issued

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost, thank you Convener. I also had an answer to my question and I would echo what my colleague just said but I would like to point out that my constituency Leith Walk is suffering from severe abandonment issues, in that in Leith Walk abandonment is what seems to pass for parking.

We have terrible issues with double parking, particularly in relation to the Walk and also there seems to be an issue with cycle paths which have been confused with parking lanes. For christmas we would quite like to see, for our christmas if we could have targeted for repeat offenders too. It would make my constituents very happy.

We are so distressed and confused by this abandonment and double parking that our parking has its own Twitter account and so if we could see some enforcement and increased enforcement, they would appear in our Twitter account as the lesser striped enforcement officers, you can see them there if you go to Leith/Park. So I would really appreciate working with you on that, thank you.

Supplementary Answer

Thank you very much Councillor Rae, and you raise a number of very interesting points.

Leith Walk has traditionally had amazing levels of display of precisely what I've just referred to as selfish and illegal parking. We have of course some limitations and how we can deal with that but I have been talking to our parking team about targeted efforts as much as we possibly can. I would say this is something which bothers me across quite a lot of my remit because the actions that were having to take mitigation against whether it's applying additional enforcement in a particular area, whether it's adding to, you

know collections of litter bins etc etc, this is down to individual human behaviour and the Council is mopping that up. If any of the Councillors are hearing from people who are complaining about cycle lanes, about things that they believe intrude on their rights to park or to take any of those other actions, I'd ask them to consider making that point to them, that we want people to behave, we want people to sit within the rules, not because of some kind of draconian Council but because it makes the city work better. It makes Leith Walk work better if people can get up and down whether it's by bike or whether it's on pavements and they're not having to work their way around badly parked cars. So I agree with you about the requirement for targeted efforts and I would be very happy to sit down and talk with you about some further measures.

QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Convener of the
Education, Children and Families
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 14 December 2017**

Question

Can the Convener detail all instances of school building failures from May 2014 to date, including all buildings that were in use as Schools in May 2014, where the reasonably foreseeable worst-case injury would be life threatening?

Answer

17 education buildings were temporarily closed as a precautionary measure as part of the PPP1 crisis. These were Oxgangs PS, St Peters PS, Braidburn SS, Firrhill HS, Castleview PS, Royal HS, Pirniehall/St Davids PS, Broomhouse/St Josephs PS, Forth View PS, Craigroyston PS, Rowanfield SS, Craigour Park PS, Drummond Community HS, Gracemount HS, Craigmount HS.

Duncan Place Resource Centre (inclusive of Leith Primary School Gym and Nursery) was closed permanently in September 2014.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost, I thank the Convener for the answer to a different question and I wonder if I could ask the Convener if he has attended a briefing with officers where it was detailed three instances of school building failures where the reasonably foreseeable worst-case injury may well have been life threatening. That was two instances of Victorian school buildings where the ceiling fell in only days after students had vacated the building and one instance where a rugby ball sized piece of concrete fell from the ceiling and would have hit a girl in a toilet cubicle had it not been stopped by the metalwork of the suspended ceiling. So I would like to know if the Convener has attended that briefing and I would like to know if the Convener can give this Council an assurance that these are the only three instances of potentially serious incidents that have happened in the schools estate since May 2014?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I have been briefed on all three incidents and all three incidents have been dealt with. The thing that threw me a little bit was the reasonably foreseeable worst-case injury, that phrase is not something that the official views, so there may be some confusion or measure against these three incidents have been reported to me we have dealt with them.

QUESTION NO 18

**By Councillor Smith for answer by
the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 14
December 2017**

Question **(1)** What date was the full consultation on schools in the South West of Edinburgh first shared with all Councillors with a ward interest, and with all members of the Education, Children and Families Committee?

Answer **(1)** The briefing for ward Councillors was held on 22 November 2017.

Question **(2)** Are similar strategic consultations in plan for other areas of the City?

Answer **(2)** The update report *Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review – Informal Consultation Update* to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12 December 2017 provides the details of all current or planned informal consultation. The details of the informal consultation in the west and south west of the city are available on the Council’s website and involve several high schools and primary schools. A statutory consultation for a replacement Castlebrae High School is in progress. Informal consultation on the future of GME will be progressed in January 2018.

Question **(3)** If so, what area?

 (i) When is it anticipated each of these consultations will be launched?

 (ii) What plans have been made to brief Councillors with a ward interest and all members of the Education, Children and Families Committee?

Answer

(3) The other significant informal consultation proposed relates to the future accommodation requirements for secondary Gaelic Medium Education. A statutory consultation continues involving Castlebrae High School.

(i) The statutory consultation for a replacement Castlebrae High School is in progress. Initial discussions with the schools involved in the GME informal consultation will take place in January 2018.

(ii) The details of the informal consultation are included in the Education, Children and Families Committee report mentioned above and all elected members have been sent a copy of this report and briefing sessions have been offered if required.

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Webber for answer by
the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 14
December 2017**

Question (1) Section 3.7 of the *Future Investment in the School Estate - Wave 4* Council report from 20 August 2015 states that Currie High School is rated (B) satisfactory for both condition and suitability.

Please detail the deterioration since that report which has led to a proposal to close the school.

Answer (1) The deterioration relates to condition and not suitability. The condition of Currie High School has been reduced to a C (poor) rating from a B (satisfactory) rating. The latest condition report has been made available on the consultation website. If required, meetings with appropriate officers can be arranged to discuss with elected members the details of the current report and comparisons with previous condition reports.

Question (2) When considering possible site locations for the proposed South West High School:

a) What weight was given to the Council's stated goal that by 2030, 60.9% of school journeys will be by walking or cycling?

b) What estimates and assumptions have been made regarding the mode of transport that students and parents will use to access proposed sites?

c) What traffic modelling has been completed or is planned to understand the impact of any increase in car journeys on Lanark Road West at the start and end of the school day?

Answer

- (2) The 60.9% figure in the Transport Vision 2030 document is a baseline figure and the target is to increase that year on year. The assumption is that any additional transport infrastructure which will be required to ensure safe routes to schools and encourage the use of sustainable travel for any new school will be provided as part of any new school project.

The sites shown in the initial proposal that has been circulated as part of the informal consultation are suggestions for where a new high school could be located within the catchment areas shown. Part of the informal consultation process, particularly during the workshop events to be held with every school community, will be to discuss views on the travel to school implications for each site shown including if any new infrastructure requires to be provided. These views will help to shape any final options which are brought forward in a draft statutory consultation paper which would need to be considered and approved by the Education, Children and Families Committee before the statutory consultation could be progressed. Any draft statutory consultation paper prepared would include detailed analysis of the travel to school changes between the current situation and any option included in the paper.

Detailed transport modelling, if required, would be developed during the planning process for the delivery of any new infrastructure which has been approved by the Council as a result of the statutory consultation process.

Supplementary Question

I thank the Convener for his answer. Thanks Councillor Perry for your opportunity flagged up to meet with the officers and to review the two structural reports and compare them. We would like to note that this question was alluded to; that we have got those reports now but the reason I put the question was that it was quite a long time getting the reports published. Can I also ask the Convener to confirm that I can attend along with an independent expert given I'm not qualified in that, I'm a biochemist. Given any survey instructed to be carried out by a particular party may have a built in bias and the outcome perhaps

geared towards their objective which is why after all in the commercial property world both buyers and vendors have their own surveys carried out.

**Supplementary
Answer**

This matter was raised at a meeting I had with parents last night about how do we justify or if we get a surveyor's report how do we then make sure it's correct. What I did say to them at the time I'll repeat here, these are two independent consultants that gave that report and I said to them at the time if they were unhappy about it we'd get another independent consultant report. However they did say to me that might provide the same bias because we as a Council pay for it, so if there is any other way that I can reassure you that these structural reports are correct, then please tell me and we're happy to do it.

QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question (1) Please can the Convener confirm which CEC schools in Edinburgh received combined condition / suitability score of less than 70 in the Council's strategic review launched in 2014, including the score each of these schools received.

Answer (1) The Wave 4 [report](#) to Council in August 2015 included the following table of combined condition/suitability scores:

Secondary School	Suitability Rating	Suitability Score	Condition Rating	Condition Score	Combined Score
Trinity	C	54.5%	C	58.0%	56.25%
Liberton	C	51.5%	B	62.0%	56.75%
Balerno	C	59.0%	C	55.0%	57.0%
WHEC	C	50.5%	B	66.0%	58.25%
Leith	B	70.0%	B	67.0%	68.50%
Currie	B	69.5%	B	82.0%	75.75%

Question (2) Have these scores been updated since the last Strategic Review?

If so, what are the updated scores?

Answer (2) Condition relates to the state of the building (e.g. is it well maintained); Suitability relates to if the building is fit for purpose. Only new condition reports have been completed.

The updated table below uses the updated condition information but the same suitability scores as the table above.

Secondary School	Suitability Rating	Suitability Score	Condition Rating	Condition Score	Combined Score
Trinity	C	54.5	C	52	53.3
Liberton	C	50.5	B	61	55.8
Balerno	C	59.5	B	62	60.8
WHEC	C	49.5	C	56	52.8
Leith	B	70	B	82	76
Currie	B	69.6	C	58	63.8

Question (3) Do the scores remain the rational to prioritise investment in the maintenance of core school facilities?

Answer (3) The scores are used as one part of the decision making process for which schools are recommended for investment in terms of replacement or major refurbishment should funding become available. They are not used to prioritise ongoing maintenance in existing schools.

Ongoing maintenance is determined by the Asset Condition surveys which commenced in 2015 and comprise a five year rolling programme of condition surveys across the operational estate.

Visual inspections of the building fabric and mechanical and electrical services for each building are undertaken, identifying areas of non-compliance with statutory obligations. Backlog and maintenance requirements are also identified with associated costs allocated within a 5 year period.

The Council currently operates a system whereby each defined element of a building is allocated a condition rating

of A-D. This same rating system is then used to determine the overall condition of the building.

The Council currently select from a number of priority ratings when deciding upon the nature and urgency of the works required. These ratings are generally based on the type of work required and indicative timescales.

- Priority Rating 1 - Must Do (immediate) - To address essential H&S/ comply with law/ avoid service disruption
- Priority Rating 2 - Should Do (within years 1 and 2) - To achieve/ maintain basic standards
- Priority Rating 3 - Would Do (within years 3 to 5) -Desirable works if affordable

The condition and priority information subsequently feeds into an overarching prioritisation matrix that helps to inform strategic asset management decisions.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost, I thank the Convener for his answer although I suspect the usually very plain speaking Councillor Perry had little to do with what was a fairly florid response, here's his chance. To get the Council select from a number of priority ratings when deciding upon the nature and urgency of the works required. The condition and priority information subsequently feeds into an overarching prioritisation matrix that helps inform strategic asset management decisions. Now I was unclear as to whether or not the tables in that question were the Strategic Asset Management decision matrix or not, so I don't know if the Convener might be able to clarify that, but really it's the numbers I have the supplementary question on.

I thought it was slightly strange that in 2015 Currie Community High School got a condition score of 82 putting it well into Band B, nearly into Band A for condition while at neighbouring Balerno got a shocking 55, a Grade C in fact worse than Trinity Academy. Those figures were updated

for this year, obviously Balerno has had a little bit of remedial work it's now up to 62, middle Grade B, perfectly acceptable. Currie has dropped 24 points so all the way down to a lowly 58. Now it was admitted at Education Committee this week that there needs to be at least £1million spent on immediate remedial works for Currie, so I would ask the Convener if perhaps we should be looking once such remedial works are completed at doing another condition assessment because it may not surprise anyone that the condition review might go up and we might see what we've seen with Balerno so I think maybe a nip and a tuck is all that is required rather than complete demolition, thank you.

**Supplementary
Answer**

The question is similar to the answer and I knew I wouldn't be able to answer it. What I suggest we do given the two tables, and I actually asked for in terms of Answer 3, the answer I got originally was quite a short answer and I said look that won't do because somebody's going to ask a question, but even if you ask me a question about this I still can't answer it. So I suspect what we should do is, that I'll call a Working Group Briefing for anybody in this Council who won't understand these figures because they are quite detailed and go quite precise and be very difficult for me to stand up here and try and answer that question. So I'll organise a working party or a briefing for all Councillors to understand these figures.

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Council Leader at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question (1) Can the Council Leader please provide a copy of the application by the City of Edinburgh Council to Scottish Government for additional funding as described to media 1st December as follows: "We will be applying to the Scottish Government for additional funding in specific areas like our schools to help us provide the level of investment required."

Answer (1) "We will" is a common reference to future events, "We have" would have referred to events already occurred.

However, at a meeting of the Finance and Resources committee on September 5th a commitment was given to give all parties briefings on the Council's estate. This took place on November 30th 2017 for the Conservative Group. This briefing included information on the relevance of new schools as an important part of dealing with the issues in the Council's wider estate.

The requirements for new high schools across the city have been reported at Education, Children and Families Committee throughout 2017 and the Council will be applying for any future capital funds made available to help fund these new buildings, in line with previously agreed projects such as Queensferry High School.

Question (2) Can the Council Leader please provide date and signatory details, amounts sought and any references to the Council estate?

Answer (2) See answer 1.

Supplementary Question (1) Lord Provost, the Council Leader's answer indicates by omission that he has not written to the Scottish Government seeking funds for the Council for schools as was publicised in a press release on the 1 December. This strikes me Lord Provost, being a bit like Councillor Day on Tourist Tax where the press release said one thing and as we've heard this morning the formal response is another.

So given this Lord Provost, and given that today is Budget day, wouldn't it have been better for the Council Leader to contact the Scottish Government in advance of that budget, given they're deciding the settlement today. What discussion has the Council Leader had with Councillor Day on this, who's publicly suggested the Scottish Government should be funding Local Government and Edinburgh to higher level and perhaps most importantly for the public of Edinburgh, will he give an assurance that he will end this approach of delivering fake news via the Council's press machine?

Supplementary Answer (1) Thanks very much Lord Provost, I think my answer was actually fairly self-explanatory in terms of the process we're going through with the Scottish Government, but I'll reiterate it just in case Councillor Whyte didn't understand it.

When we put out a press release in terms of the full estate, obviously the element of this which is if you like blind in terms of our approach between buildings as in our facilities management approach, the difference between how we address the full capital requirement and some of the buildings that need replaced, there is a distinction between how buildings are taken forward ie community centres and schools and it's that that's particularly relevant for how we can solve some of these problems with engagement and gaining capital funds from the Scottish Government.

I have written to the Education Secretary asking them for the meeting to make sure that when waves, additional waves, of funding are available he understands Edinburgh's position and Edinburgh's requirements as part of that.

In terms of the wider budget, I'm continuously engaging with the Scottish Government. I've been engaging last week with

Derek MacKay on what's coming later this morning, other meetings, other conversations with other government ministers. Obviously as you would expect, Lord Provost, I'm not going to go into those in any great detail but I have written to the Scottish Government to make sure that when those waves of funding are available that our school estate is in as good a position as possible to receive that funding.

Supplementary Question (2) Lord Provost could I ask a supplementary. If the Council Leader has written, as he indicates, can he tell us why he didn't then release that letter given that it's a matter of public interest, or does he expect Councillors to have to ask under freedom of information rules to gain information?

Supplementary Answer (2) Thank you very much. Lord Provost, I remember the good old days when a Member would just write and ask for something rather than pretending that they have to submit a freedom of information request. If Councillor Whyte wants that information, I'm more than happy to share the letter.

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

Woodlands Special School has recently achieved the SportsScotland Gold School Sport Award. With the proposed demolition of Currie Community High School, how will Woodlands Special School (who currently share the sports facilities with Currie HS) continue with their sporting activities?

Answer

The proposals for Currie High are currently subject to consultation. Council officers are clear that, whatever the outcome of the consultation, appropriate sports facilities will still be made available to the Woodlands school community.

QUESTION NO 23

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

To ask the Convener for the following statistics in relation to the provision of both network (wired) and wifi (wireless) internet connections across the full school estate in the City of Edinburgh Council area:

- Question** (1) Of the total number of primary schools what percentage have network internet and what percentage have wifi?
- Answer** (1) 100% of the primary schools are connected to the internet and all have access to the council Wi-Fi. Please note that there is no public internet connectivity switched on at any of these schools.
- Question** (2) Of the total number of secondary schools what percentage have network internet and what percentage have wifi?
- Answer** (2) 100% of the secondary schools are connected to the internet and all have access to the council Wi-Fi. Please note that there is no public internet connectivity switched on at any of these schools.
- Question** (3) How many of the schools included in (1) and (2) have complained more than once about the reliability of their network service in the last 12 months and how many about the reliability of their wifi service?
- Answer** (3) The schools' estate has recently gone through a major transformation to replace both Network and Wi-Fi components. Since this transformation there have been 28 reports of Wi-Fi coverage issues, in both primary and secondary schools.
- Question** (4) Please provide a list of all primary and secondary schools where there have been long term problems with reliability of service (ie pre-dating the current academic year).

Answer (4) The following schools have had issues with Wi-Fi since the transformed network was implemented:

Royal High School
Holyrood RC
Craigmount High
Broughton High
Trinity High
Drummond Community High School
Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce
Corstorphine Primary
Currie Community High
Flora Stevenson Primary
Gilmerton Primary
Gorgie Mills Special School
Gracemount Primary
Kaimes Special School
Leith Primary
Liberton Primary
Longstone Primary
Sciennes Primary
St Augustines RC High
Wester Hailes Education Centre
Craiglockhart Primary School
Queensferry Primary
Colinton Primary
Trinity Primary

Question (5) Please provide details against each school identified at (4) regarding what action is being taken to resolve the problem and the target timescales for resolution.

Answer (5) Each of the sites that have coverage issues have a detailed improvement plan. CEC and CGI are working closely with each of those schools directly to improve the overall performance.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you very much Convener for your answer. A couple of points if I may.

One of them is around if you could convey your level of trust in the accuracy of the list that's provided in the report of the scheme. I know of at least one school for example that has a huge problem with their wi-fi provision which has been raised twice with CGI and that's Roseburn Primary, but yet it doesn't appear on the list, so what my first part of my supplementary is, can you commit to getting that list reviewed please to make sure it's comprehensive?

The second part is the around Royal High School which does appear on the list which I know has particularly long term problems which date back to the way in which the infrastructure set up for their wi-fi. Indeed by way of example, they have 200 iPads that are currently sitting in a cupboard unable to be used by the S2 pupils because of the fact that they don't have a reliable wi fi service. So the second part of my supplementary is to ask if we can get please a breakdown of the detail of the action plan mentioned in the answer in which to address both the issues at the Royal High School and indeed at Queensferry Primary which is also in my ward and I'll leave other Councillors to the decide the action they want to take on their own schools, thank you.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you for your supplementary. This is an interesting answer to your question because if you look at page one you've got Answer 1 – 100% of primary schools are connected to wi fi; Answer 2 – 100% of secondary schools are connected to wi fi. When we turn the page there's a whole list of schools which are having problems with wi fi. What I suggest we do is to get a report to the next Education, Children and Families Committee which goes into all that detail because clearly this is not satisfactory. I know it may be another Committee which are looking at the CGI contract but we and the schools need to find out what's actually happened. I'll call for a report to the next committee to detail all that you were talking about and everybody else's problems they're having.

QUESTION NO 24

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question (1) What was the cost of Queensferry Traffic Management and Parking Study which was carried out by Halcrow in September 2013?

Answer (1) The cost of the study was £26,619.

Question (2) What actions were taken in response to this report and its recommendations?

Answer (2)

- The Queensferry Infrastructure Improvement Group (QIIG) was established to consider recommendations from the report and other infrastructure issues in Queensferry.
- Tender interviews have taken place for the £1m investment in road reconstruction works on the High Street and it is expected that consultants will be appointed in January 2018.

Supplementary Question Thank you very much..Just flicking between the different bits of information I had. I just wanted to ask the Convener if she can understand the frustrations and to a point, kind of anger, felt in the community that after four years, with four years having passed since the Council invested a fairly substantial amount of money in twenty seven almost twenty seven thousand pounds but the only actual tangible outputs we have are the establishment of a working group and initiating a tender and that secondly other than the High Street project which we're now seeing some progress on, can the Convener say what other recommendations or actions have come from the new infrastructure group that was set up for other parts of Queensferry?

**Supplementary
Answer**

There was a lot in that question so if you'll excuse me I'll take it bit by bit. Yes I do agree with you, it's been a very long time but I understand that there were strenuous attempts to get the works underway through a scheme framework contract. When the contract was about to be awarded the contractor then had particular issues and that had to stop. So that that led to the tender being advertised on the open market to ensure that best value could be achieved. Hence that explains some of the degree of delay attached to it.

This will sound like I'm not listening this morning, I apologise, not the intention, but could I ask you please to repeat the second part of your question.

**Councillor
Lang**

Certainly, when we have long supplementaries it's perfectly reasonable.

Other than the High Street project which is now under way as you mention, what other recommendations or actions have come from this new infrastructure group that has been set up for other parts of Queensferry?

**Supplementary
Answer
continued**

My understanding is it is recommending improved footpath and pedestrian links from the Loan towards the High Street and that this will be considered as Phase 2 of the town centre improvement plans. I will however come back to you on a more individual basis with more detail out of that report.

QUESTION NO 25

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2017

Question

At the June meeting of Full Council the Convenor agreed to a full traffic study in Kirkliston and the establishment of a working group. It was agreed that the study should be done once the school term started and after the new bridge opened. The bridge has now been open for 14 weeks and the school is coming to the end of its first term and the traffic study proposals have not progressed and no reply has been received in response to requests for details of the proposed scope or timescales. Could the Convenor therefore provide an update?

Answer

I understand that Councillor Young has now received a response from the North West Locality team on the proposals for a full traffic study and establishment of a working group for this.

Now that the bridge has been open for a short period, it is clear that driver route choice has changed, particularly in Queensferry, and therefore it is proposed to widen the scope of the study to take account of both Kirkliston and Queensferry, as well as the adjacent trunk road.

A plan of the study area is currently being prepared, in advance of an initial meeting with local members and community council representatives to agree outcomes for the study.

Following agreement of the scope and outcomes, a working group will be established, comprising representatives from:

- Ward Councillors
- Community Councillors
- School Parent Councils
- Police Scotland
- Transport Scotland or Amey
- Transport Active Travel and Public Transport reps
- Council Officers

The Edinburgh Old Town Community Council

OUR STREETS

How unpleasant they have become – and what to do about it

NOVEMBER 2017

This is a collection of the observations of the Community Council together with some of our now vast collection of photographic evidence.

Please be aware that these do not represent some 'worst cases' or unusual events, these are the things that the residents and workers in the Old Town, along with our millions of visitors have to put up with all of every day.

Although the overall effect is of an unsustainable mess, we have broken this down into specific problem areas to which we proffer our suggestions as to solutions.

Some of those solutions may seem radical to CEC, but they are mostly standard long ago in other world Heritage Cities. But please note our comments on enforcement at the end, as to us it seems a lot could be done at little or no cost by simply robustly enforcing the rules we already have, and perhaps widening the scope of other existing regulations.

- [Advertising boards on the footpath](#)
- [Rubbish, unemptied bins and waste](#)
- [Other clutter, Council and Contractors junk](#)
- [Traffic, too much and too many large vehicles](#)
 - [City tour buses](#)
 - [Tourist coaches](#)
 - [Band tour coaches](#)
 - [Delivery vehicles](#)
 - [Heavy goods vehicles](#)
 - [Waste collection vehicles](#)
- [Poor State of Repair of our Roads & pavements](#)
- [Market Street & Cowgate](#)
- [Enforcement](#)
- [Conclusion](#)



ADVERTISING BOARDS

In addition to the phalanx of oversize 'A' boards obstructing the pavement, here are some new extreme examples:



Note also non-containerized trade waste -->



This 'building' does not have planning consent.
In any case, is 'Pub Crawl' how the City wishes to promote itself ?



The Community Council consider;

Pavement advertising devices should be banned outright within the WHS. They are also a severe problem in certain peripheral areas, eg. Clark St. where they should also be banned

They cause serious obstruction of the footpath. They are deliberately placed by businesses for that purpose; to stop passers by. The previous regulations on size, number and location, proved unenforceable. Pavement advertising is an absolutely unnecessary thing, it is just an 'arms race' Apart for a small number of businesses that are located down closes, who could apply for a permit for a small 'A' board. (60x40cm max.)

RUBBISH.

Generally Edinburgh is a clean city compared to others, we like to keep it that way, when we can...

Sunday morning in July Outside City Chambers -
"I'm a bin – Nobody cares"



Payfair Steps (note also abandoned barriers)



Cowgate – trade waste + fly tipping.

Grassmarket-
Rising bin controller broken and used as a bin.



The Community Council consider;

This seriously degrades the liveability of our City and seriously degrades it as a visitor destination. The Community Council believes that the City Council should direct resources to this issue before it spends money on promoting and advertising what a wonderful City it is to visit.

OTHER CLUTTER

Grassmarket,
contractors rubbish dumped on a
bus top.



South Bridge,
a narrow pavement that is one of the
busiest pedestrian thoroughfares in
the city.

So nice to get your ankle gouged on
the way to work.

George IV Bridge, 50 metres from the 'Royal
Mile' - at the time of this photo this had been
here for over a year.

The Community Council considers;

If anyone else left crap like this laying about they
should be charged for fly tipping.

And if any of these things were on a business
premises, they would constitute a prosecutable
Health & Safety breach.

These things seriously degrade the liveability of
our City and seriously degrade it as a visitor
destination

The Community Council would like
the City Council to clean up it's own act !



TRAFFIC



Without question The City is congested, but it is blind dogma to continue to blame 'the cars' alone. This picture of Candlemaker Row is fairly typical, it shows a lot of pedestrians crowded onto the narrow pavement, one public bus, two huge virtually empty tour buses, two taxis and only two private cars.

Too many cars, possibly too many huge half empty tour buses, definitely.

CITY TOUR BUSES

1. There are far too many of them.
2. They are far too large vehicles. rarely more than half full.
4. They may be 'low emission' but they still emit, and the 'Vintage bus' especially so.

Here on a nice sunny summer Saturday morning, 3 buses in a row, all half empty
The one at the back is not moving, here they sit and wait for ages with engine running blocking the Grassmarket public bus stop.



To get up the 15% gradient on West Bow, as with most HGVs they need to take a run up of at least 35 mph. If they don't they get stuck on the bend, and then have to reverse down the one way street, and out onto the main road (both RTA offences)



Note the second bus, also empty, just behind
Events like this make Victoria St into a logjam several times a day

The Community Council considers;

Edinburgh is a WALKING CITY especially the Old Town, these oversized buses congest our narrow streets and represent a serious degradation of liveability of our City and serious degradation of it as a visitor destination for the very people that these buses are supposed to serve.

They should be BANNED from the old town. (as they are elsewhere in our sister city, Florence)
Visitors who are too infirm to walk, should be transported in much smaller ELECTRIC vehicles.

TOUR COACHES

The situation is much worse, these vehicles

- They are very very large.
- They are designed for Autobahn not City use.
- Driven by temporary or foreign drivers who have little or no regard to our regulations.
- They attempt to use narrow and unsuitable streets, Cockburn St, Victoria St. etc.
- They park selfishly and illegally, usually with their engines running for long periods.



Or maybe just park in the middle of the road in front of the Bow Well
Or maybe just double park in Johnston Terrace.
(Here blocking access for emergency vehicles)

No problem to park with engine running, the wrong way round in a one way street, which is a pedestrian only area as well !



The Community Council considers;

Obviously a £30 ticket, even if issued is no deterrent whatsoever.
But these coaches are contracted to service particular Hotels or tour operators etc.
Clearly the solution is through them to find a way to more tightly control these vehicles.

Coaches should be banned from the Old Town, unless they apply for a permit to service a particular hotel or venue, with no waiting or parking allowed.

The current £20 for idling is a joke, for large vehicles it should be vastly increased.

BAND TOUR BUSES

This problem occurs mainly at night when there is less congestion of the roads, but also when enforcement becomes non-existent. It only effects a few specific locations but is a serious loss of amenity none the less.



Here in Victoria St we allow overnight camping on the pavement.



Still 4 pm. This one has taken up residence on ten loading spaces (it has a trailer as well) during the hours of restriction. Notice the hazardous open hatch, and the roadie preparing to run power cables across the pavement into the venue.

A serious H&S issue.

This not just the Festival, it happens all year round. Cowgate and Forrest road are also effected

The Community Council considers;

We don't think a £30 fine (even if they paid it) is going to deter these people.

The solution here is very simple:

Obviously venues that allow this sort of thing are not 'fit and proper' and should have their Entertainment Licences restricted.

DELIVERY VEHICLES

The problem is that it is cheaper for delivery companies to use larger vehicles and fewer drivers. Advantageous for them, horrendous for other road users, pedestrians and everyone else.

Here a 26 tonner goes to make one small drop.



Drink is heavier, so perhaps requires a heavier vehicle, but not one three times the length of the loading bay. Meaning it has to double park and block West Bow



In Cockburn St a 26 tonner decides it is better to park on the pavement completely blocking it.

In the wider Nicolson street at 4:30 pm it is perfectly OK for this full size 44 tonne artic. to take up the bus & cycle lane.



It is not just deliveries, tradesmen's vans are a severe problem also. Here these two park all day on the narrow Cowgate pavement somehow without fear of a £30 ticket



The Community Council considers;

The use of such large vehicles for small deliveries is purely and simply for the convenience of the operators. They must be forced use small, preferably electric vehicles for City centre deliveries, if necessary by re-distribution from peripheral depots. Ban all delivery vehicles over 7.5 tonnes (already a licence class) with exception of drinks deliveries which could apply for 16 tonne vehicles.

HEAVY LORRIES

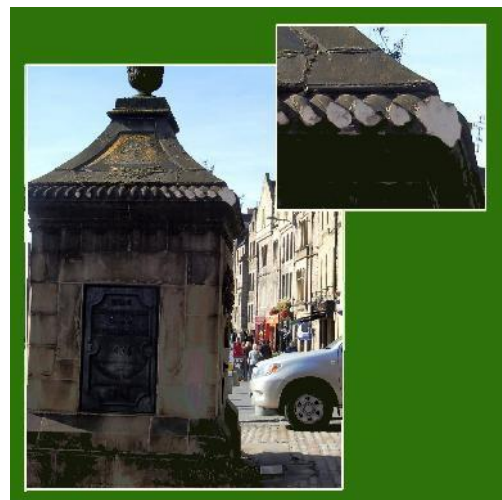
This is the only World Heritage Site in the World that has no restriction on LGV through traffic. The damage to the roads, the kerbs, to the listed buildings and of course to our lungs is totally unacceptable.

Quickest route to take these cables from the docks to west side of town, up the Cowgate of course



44 tonne bulker straight through the Grassmarket – no problem.

Damage to the recently restored Bow Well, 3 metres up, this was certainly caused by a heavy goods vehicle, probably a refuse truck, trying to negotiate West Bow.



The Community Council considers;

Vehicles over a certain weight, say 26 Tonnes gross, should be banned from the whole City Centre, and vehicles over 16 tonnes gross be banned from the Old Town.

Permits could be issued in the rare case of needing to deliver a particularly heavy item within the area. Heavy duty bollards could be deployed to deter HVGs on certain streets.

REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES

In addition to multiple private contractors all duplicating the same collection runs, gain the problem is that it is cheaper for refuse companies to use these vast vehicles and fewer drivers. Advantageous for them, abominable for other road users, pedestrians and everyone else.



OK at least these two engage in their bin lorry race during permitted access time in the Grassmarket.
(note also the 'A' boards as well as bins obstructing the pavement)

Later in the day this huge bin lorry decides to try and mow down hundreds of pedestrians.

(note also the ancient polluting 'Party Bus' parked up)

(and note also the visible damage to the Bow Well caused by just such a truck)



Here the High St. this one just parks on the pavement while the crew gets their lunch.

(note the much more sensible sized Council bin lorry trying to get down the High Street)

The Community Council considers;

But there is no sense, economic or otherwise, in having many separate operators using these huge vehicles to make one or two collections in every street.

The real culprit was of course privatization of what really should be a public service, and a creative solution may take a while, meanwhile vehicles over 16 tonnes gross should be simply banned.

The Council and some companies manage to collect using these smaller vehicles.

Any proposed restrictions on refuse vehicles, delivery lorries or coaches, will have the operators squealing that it will damage their viability etc. etc. The same invalid argument used to try and perpetuate every antisocial and harmful business practice since time began.

POOR STATE OF THE ROADS & FOOTPATHS

The undeniable extremely poor state of the streets is a shame on the fine City that Edinburgh rightly likes to consider itself. Some streets are easily worse than places in the third world



Obviously there is no cheap fix for this problem

Money will have to come from some other part of the budget, we suggest that it is so urgent that the Council should divert some funds away from other more glamorous projects.

We need to maintain and treasure what we have, before creating more things to maintain.

For example; facilitating cycling is a wonderfully admirable cause which wholeheartedly support, but solving the problems we outline will do a lot to improve and promote cycling in the centre, maybe more so than spending the money on expensive peripheral cycleway projects, and solving the above problems would be a huge benefit for EVERYONE, not just those fit enough to cycle.

A bigger elephant in the room is the proposed tram extension at £200M +Why not spend a lot less on an equally good trolleybus system, and have loads of money left over to sort out these and a host of other things that the City needs done ?



See <http://www.tbus.org.uk>

Nearly all the damage to our roads and pavements is caused by vehicles that are too big and too heavy for use in the Old Town. These vehicles also produce nearly all the pollution.

The Community Council considers that at the very least;

Traffic calming and a large vehicle ban in

Victoria St. West
Port Candlemaker
row Cowgate
Cockburn St.
Lawnmarket
East Market St.

lower High St.
Canongate
Jeffrey St.
St Mary's St.
and probably a few others

MARKET STREET

Market Street is a shocking embarrassment to the City, currently the building works and the inactive refurbishment of North Bridge only serve to make it worse. But at any time the street represents a total failure of public transport integration. The chaotic and uncontrolled taxi rank, and the total lack of adequate drop off and collection points for Coaches (including 'rail replacement') as well as any facilities for private cars to set down and pick up passengers, make the place a vehicular scrum. A dangerous and unfriendly place to negotiate for the dense crowds of pedestrians as well. It is seriously over congested and definitely not conducive to the promotion of public transport. Not to mention the pathetically poor connecting links with city bus stops and the tram.

COWGATE

A comprehensive street audit on Cowgate has already been compiled for the City Council, and the Old Town Community Council fully endorse the findings and the recommendations made.

Most of the recommendations would be equally well applied to other locations in the Old Town.

FINALLY – ENFORCEMENT

It seems to us that a great deal of the pain of the problems above could be solved almost instantly and at very little or no cost, how? Just by enforcing the traffic regulations, by-laws and licence terms as they stand.

We observe that the privatized parking 'enforcers' routinely fail to write tickets for commercial vehicles and coaches, probably because they know that they won't be paid.

The Enforcers' contract needs enforced, and the police will be required to do their job too.

- Grassmarket bollards made to work (regardless of how the breweries want it).
- Vehicles on footpaths.
- Coaches parking on loading zones.
- Enforcement of 20mph speed limit in West Bow, West Port, Cowgate, Johnston Terrace etc.
- Enforcement against vehicles producing visible smoke, (including Lothian buses).

Quick further steps might be;

- Substantially increase parking and other fines for commercial vehicles and coaches.
- License conditions applied to premises to make them responsible for controlling vehicles that service them.

Further,

Until legal restrictions on oversize vehicles can be made into law, if the will was there, it would be easy and cheap to engineer deterrence to their use in certain areas. Just as speed bumps are already used to slow traffic, why not have a few awkwardly placed heavy obstacles that would force the use of smaller more nimble vehicles.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

- we are perpetually told that it is necessary to sacrifice everything including our architectural integrity to attract ever more tourists to our City.
- That this is necessary because these tourists bring vast amounts of money into our City.
- Meanwhile we are told that the City is nearly bankrupt and cannot afford to undertake basic maintenance let alone upgrade anything.

If this is the case then there is something SERIOUSLY WRONG
