

**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**

**MEETING 10**

**22 FEBRUARY 2018**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

## Item no 4.1

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 22 February 2018**

#### Question

In order to ensure that Edinburgh is fully and properly funded in setting its budget for 2018/19 please advise what representations you have made to Scottish Government making Edinburgh's case, including:

- a. The dates and times of any meetings;
- b. Who from Council attended those meetings;
- c. Which Scottish Government Ministers were in attendance;
- d. Whether a minute or any form of record is available;
- e. Any other communications you had by correspondence or otherwise in this regard?

#### Answer

With the final budget position of the Scottish Government around £27.1m better off than the Council's initial projections, I welcome the local government settlement.

As stated in my reply to the Conservative Group Chair on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, The Convenor of Finance, Deputy Leader and myself have made regular direct representations to the Scottish Government. This has mainly taken the form of conversations between the Leader and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance. It's important to maximise the effectiveness of these conversations with frank and robust exchanges of views and information so it would be inappropriate to provide further details which could undermine future engagement to the detriment of the city.

In order to make sure Edinburgh secured the best possible budget offer we have also made representations to key MSPs who represent the Capital to maximise the potential

positive impacts of the budget for the city. Again, it's important to maximise the effectiveness of these conversations in future so it would be inappropriate to provide further details.

I look forward to the Conservative Group's response to my email of the 9<sup>th</sup> February as I'm keen to know if the Conservative Group has made any representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of the Capital on issues such as the additional pressure being put on the Council's budget due to UK Government's welfare reform or any other issues relevant to the city's finances.

## Item no 4.2

### QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Webber for answer by the Deputy Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 22 February 2018**

#### Question

In order to ensure that Edinburgh is fully and properly funded in setting its budget for 2018/19 please advise what representations you have made to Scottish Government making Edinburgh's case, including:

- a. The dates and times of any meetings;
- b. Who from Council attended those meetings;
- c. Which Scottish Government Ministers were in attendance;
- d. Whether a minute or any form of record is available;
- e. Any other communications you had by correspondence or otherwise in this regard?

#### Answer

See answer to Question No 1

## Item no 4.3

### QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Johnston for answer  
by the Convener of the Finance and  
Resources Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 February 2018**

#### Question

In order to ensure that Edinburgh is fully and properly funded in setting its budget for 2018/19 please advise what representations you have made to Scottish Government making Edinburgh's case, including:

- a. The dates and times of any meetings;
- b. Who from Council attended those meetings;
- c. Which Scottish Government Ministers were in attendance;
- d. Whether a minute or any form of record is available;
- e. Any other communications you had by correspondence or otherwise in this regard?

#### Answer

See answer to Question No 1