

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 14 March 2019

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 Duggart
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
Lewis Ritchie
Cameron Rose
Neil Ross
Jason Rust
Stephanie Smith
Alex Staniforth
Mandy Watt
Susan Webber
Iain Whyte
Donald Wilson
Norman J Work
Louise Young

1 Funding of Temporary Accommodation for Homeless People – Motion by Councillor Watt

(a) Deputation from the LIFT Project

The deputation expressed concern that homeless families were still being placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, sometimes families being split amongst different premises or children being separated from their parents on different floors. She stressed that there was a huge effect on the mental health of parents and children who were having to be provided with this type of accommodation and that the situation had not improved in the past few years.

(b) Motion by Councillor Watt

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

“That Council

- Notes the work of the Homelessness Task Force which has included extending the PSL contract and the ongoing development of a private rented framework, both of which seek to further increase the supply of temporary flats resulting in a reduction in the number of families with children being housed in bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Recognises the development of a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) for Edinburgh, which sets out the options for improving prevention of homelessness and increasing the supply of permanent, affordable accommodation with the aim of ending the use of temporary accommodation.
- Further notes that the forecast expenditure on Bed and Breakfast accommodation for 2018/19 is £12.8m with the Council receiving a housing benefit contribution of £4.1m. Therefore the Council subsidy to support Bed and Breakfast accommodation in 2018/19 is estimated at £8.7m.
- Calls for a report to be submitted to the Finance & Resources Committee, within four cycles, which sets out a business case for a model of temporary accommodation for people with low support needs. This should include options for investment in council owned property and consideration of shared housing. The report should explore what role the model could play within our RRTP, demonstrate how this could work and analyse the impact on existing business models.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Watt.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Corbett declared a financial interest in the above item as an employee of Shelter Scotland.

2 Edinburgh Tram – York Place to Newhaven Final Business Case – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

a) Deputation from Moray Feu Residents Association and West End Tram Traffic Workshop

The deputation expressed concerns at the potential health impact of tram displaced traffic which they alleged would move air and noise pollution from commercial areas of the city into residential areas.

The deputation asked the Council to wait for Lord Hardie's report to be published and use the time to measure road noise, explore the mitigation of air and noise pollution in terms of the existing displacement and include the health impacts within the cost-benefit calculations. They felt that to go forward without thinking of the impact on people in the wider area was an inappropriate basis on which to assess the investment returns to the Council on this particular infrastructure.

The deputation urged the Council to apply a precautionary principal and refuse to authorise the tram extension until the environmental and health impacts had been properly assessed.

(b) Deputation from Sustrans, Spokes and Living Streets

The deputation indicated that a series of design workshops had been held in summer 2018 which represented effective and meaningful engagement and had resulted in an overall design approach which recognised the importance of the tram project in enabling more active travel journeys.

The deputation were very supportive of the extension of the tramline to Newhaven as it would provide a viable alternative to the car both for existing residents along and near the route and for the significant number of new residents of the planned developments along the route.

The deputation welcomed the commitment that the improvements would be funded from the capital programme and delivered in parallel with the tram project. They indicated that they and other stakeholders had engaged in the Active Travel Advisory Group and looked forward to continued involvement and early engagement should the project be agreed.

(c) Referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

The Council had approved the Outline Business Case and the commencement of Stage 2 activities for the Edinburgh Tram York Place to Newhaven project.

The Transport and Environment Committee had referred a report detailing the Final Business Case for completing the existing tram line to Newhaven to the Council for approval.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Tram – York Place to Newhaven Final Business Case.
- 2) To approve the increased prudential borrowing authorised limit and operational boundary reported in paragraph 5.3 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Doran

Amendment 1

- 1) The City of Edinburgh Council rejects:
 - (a) The Edinburgh Tram - York Place to Newhaven Final Business Case; and
 - (b) The increased prudential borrowing authorised limit and operational boundary reported in paragraph 5.3 of the report by the Executive Director of Place

And in doing so, Council:

- 2) Notes the Edinburgh Tram - York Place to Newhaven Final Business Case, as referred from the Transport and Environment Committee.
- 3) Notes that the anticipated cost of the project and associated funding arrangements, including that the project cost has risen significantly since Councillors were last presented with the Outline Business Case (OBC), with the Full Business Case delivering a project cost (inclusive of risk) of £257.3m against OBC cost of £165.2m.
- 4) Rejects the intention for the project to proceed prior to publication of the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry, the comprehensive understanding and incorporation of which is an essential component of any case to extend the tram.

- 5) Considers it unacceptable that, as per the FBC, Lothian Buses will see significant operational disruption, revenue loss and incur additional costs of operation, with a significant proportion of bus users on the proposed tram route modelled to transfer to tram.
- 6) Notes the recent budget process which required Council to deliver £33.1m of cuts to public services, demonstrated competent alternative investment in public services through re-allocation of both the Lothian Buses dividend and capitalisation of tram fares along the existing tram route. Therefore, instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to Council in three cycles detailing options for alternative investment.

- moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Whyte

Amendment 2

To delete all and insert:

The City of Edinburgh Council:

- 1) welcomes the considerable work undertaken by officers to finalise the Final Business Case and the substantial programme of engagement with elected members, residents and other stakeholders to allow for an informed decision on the proposed tram extension.
- 2) continues to support the principle of extending the tram to Leith and Newhaven.
- 3) notes paragraph 3(c) of the Transport and Environment Committee Motion on the Updated Outline Business Case, approved by full council in September 2017, and continues to believe it wrong to approve the proposed extension before the full recommendations of Lord Hardie's independent tram inquiry are known.
- 4) notes paragraph 8 of the Transport and Environment Committee Motion on the Updated Outline Business Case, approved by full council in September 2017, and believes the administration has failed properly to set out how the tram extension project will be linked to broader public transport improvements across the city.
- 5) believes there has been insufficient information provided on the impact the project could have on the resourcing and prioritisation of other transport and infrastructure projects across the city.
- 6) believes there has been insufficient information to explain what impact the £20m extraordinary dividend from Lothian Buses could have on bus ticket prices and operations.

- 7) notes that the current Increased Costs Scenario would involve the significant use of the Council's reserves, leaving the Council financially exposed should unexpected pressures arise which would normally call on the use of reserves.
- 8) notes the wider economic and fiscal uncertainty which has intensified since the Council last considered the tram extension; recognises that a disastrous Brexit remains a possibility, given the current policy position of the UK Government, and could impact the assumptions on which the Final Business Case is based; all of which could expose the Council to further financial risk and none of which has been formally evaluated.
- 9) therefore agrees to continue consideration of the tram extension until the matters raised in this motion are addressed.

- moved by Councillor Gloyer, seconded by Councillor Aldridge

Voting

The requisite number of members having so required in terms of Standing Order 23(1), the vote was taken by calling the roll.

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion		36 votes
For Amendment 1	-	19 votes
For Amendment 2	-	7 votes

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

For Amendment 1: Councillors Bridgman, Brown, Bruce, Jim Campbell, Cook, Doggart, Douglas, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Ritchie, Rose, Rust, Smith, Webber and Whyte

For Amendment 2: Councillors Aldridge, Gloyer, Graczyk, Lang, Osler, Neil Ross and Young.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Macinnes.

(References: Act of Council No 1 of 21 September 2017; Transport and Environment Committee of 28 February 2019 (item 5); referral from the Transport and Environment Committee, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Booth, Doran, Laidlaw and Macinnes declared a non-financial interest in the above item as members of the board of Transport for Edinburgh.

Councillor Gloyer declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the owner of a property near the proposed tram line.

Councillor Whyte declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the owner of a property adjacent to the tram line.)

3 Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Special Meeting of the Council of 7 February 2019 as a correct record.
- 2) To approve the minute of the Council of 7 February 2019 as a correct record.
- 3) To approve the minute of the Council of 21 February 2019 as a correct record.

4 Questions

The questions put by members to this meeting, written answers and supplementary questions and answers are contained in Appendix 1 to this minute.

5 Leader's Report

The Leader presented his report to the Council. He commented on:

- Sustainable transport and sustainable development
- City Deal

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Whyte	-	City Deal – business case aspects for scrutiny
Councillor Mary Campbell	-	Strike by school pupils for meeting climate change challenge
Councillor Aldridge	-	Lack of political leadership in Edinburgh
Councillor Day	-	New Trinity Academy
Councillor Kate Campbell	-	International Women's Day – Business Gateway - Closing the gender pay gap

Councillor Mowat	- Data gathering – pest control issues
Councillor Booth	- Condolences to family and friends of cyclist killed in Portobello – delivery of active travel within the City
Councillor Lang	- Councillor Kate Campbell
Councillor Munro	- Request to Scottish Government for additional funding
Councillor Gordon	- Plans being put in place to mitigate the effects of Brexit
Councillor Johnston	- Tourism Tax – 2021 enforcement date
Councillor Jim Campbell	- Professor Kumar Bhattacharya who died on 1 March 2019 – achievements at Warwick Manufacturing Group
Councillor McNeese-Mechan	- Congratulations to council staff in delivering successful Leith Chooses participatory event
Councillor Burgess	- Torness Nuclear Power Station – Community Liaison Committee meeting
Councillor Main	- Locality Committee Conveners – Ceasing of payments from 1 April 2019
Councillor Brown	Road mole
Councillor Douglas	Chief Superintendent's comment that enforcing 20mph speed limits is not a priority
Councillor Arthur	Climate change targets – rail service conditions
Councillor Cook	Parking Permits

6 Senior Councillor Allowances/Appointment of Vice Conveners

Decision

To note that the report had been withdrawn.

(Reference - report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

7 Outcomes of the Statutory Consultation Proposing to Realign the Catchment Areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School

Details were provided on the outcome of the statutory consultation undertaken on the proposed realignment of the catchment areas of Currie Primary School, Nether Currie Primary School, Dean Park Primary School, Currie High School and Balerno High School.

Decision

To continue consideration of the matter for a further report on the proposals, to the next meeting of the Council.

(Reference: report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

8 Licensing Forum – Update on Constitution and Membership

The Council had previously approved a revised structure for the City of Edinburgh Licensing Forum and the method for the appointment of members.

Details were provided on a proposed revised constitution and process for recruiting and selecting future members of the Local Licensing Forum.

Decision

- 1) To note that the appointment process for recruiting Forum members and that its constitution, with a revised recruitment process, had been reviewed by the Licensing Forum.
- 2) To approve the revised constitution and proposed recruitment process.
- 3) To agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make such changes as necessary to the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions to enable the discharge of the Council's statutory functions with respect to the Licensing Forum to be included into the remit of the Regulatory Committee.

(References – Act of Council No 9 of 23 November 2017; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Smith declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of her family was Chair of the Licensing Forum.

9 Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2019-2020 – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for the Council for 2019/20, which included estimates of funding requirements, an economic forecast and borrowing and investment strategies to the Council, for approval of the Treasury Management Strategy.

Details were also provided of a proposal to make a change in the Treasury Management Cash Fund Policy Statement to remove the no limit criteria on placing deposits with local authorities and replace it with a monetary limit of £50m with a single authority.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy.
- 2) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 7 March 2019 (Item 11); referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

10 Capital Strategy 2019-2024 – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report which set out the capital strategy for 2019-2024, to the Council for approval.

The strategy provided a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of council services and also provided an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

Decision

To approve the Capital Strategy for 2019-2024.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 7 March 2019 (item 10); referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

11 Street Change Glasgow – Motion by Councillor Whyte

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes the success of the Street Change initiative in Manchester and Liverpool has led to Glasgow’s decision to adopt the scheme.
- 2) Calls on the Director of Place to engage with partners in the City and Scotland wide to create a similar scheme.
- 3) Calls on the Director of Place to report within one cycle on the possibility of this Council adopting this scheme to help transform the lives of people who participate in begging in addition to those who are homeless or rough sleeping.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Whyte.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor McLellan

Amendment 1

Delete all and replace with:

Council:

- 1) Notes the report “Street Begging in Edinburgh” commissioned by Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership and published last week.
- 2) Notes that the above report sets out 16 key recommendations in relation to street begging in Edinburgh.
- 3) Notes Glasgow’s decision to adopt the Street Change scheme.
- 4) Notes Street Change is a brand and platform that had been developed in Edinburgh but ceased operating last year.
- 5) Agrees that officers should report to the Housing and Economy Committee within three cycles on whether the scheme could be reinstated using a partnership model based on a multi-agency response, gauge the appetite from partners to reinstate the scheme, and assess the role it could play in our wider homelessness strategy. This should include consideration of the Rapid

Rehousing Transition Plan, the 16 key recommendations from Shelter's report 'Street Begging in Edinburgh' and draw on examples of initiatives elsewhere in the UK where appropriate.

- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Cameron

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the report "Street Begging in Edinburgh" commissioned by Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership and published last week.
- 2) To note that the above report sets out 16 key recommendations in relation to street begging in Edinburgh.
- 3) To agree to a report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within no less than two cycles, setting out council actions in response to the above recommendations and drawing on examples of initiatives elsewhere in the UK where appropriate.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Rae

In accordance with Standing Order 21(11), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Whyte:

- 1) To note the report "Street Begging in Edinburgh" commissioned by Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership and published last week.
- 2) To note that the above report set out 16 key recommendations in relation to street begging in Edinburgh.
- 3) To note Glasgow's decision to adopt the Street Change scheme.
- 4) To note Street Change was a brand and platform that had been developed in Edinburgh but ceased operating last year.
- 5) To agree that officers should report to the Housing and Economy Committee within three cycles on whether the scheme could be reinstated using a partnership model based on a multi-agency response, gauge the appetite from partners to reinstate the scheme, and assess the role it could play in our wider homelessness strategy. This should include consideration of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, the 16 key recommendations from Shelter's report 'Street Begging in Edinburgh' and draw on examples of initiatives elsewhere in the UK where appropriate.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Corbett declared a financial interest in the above item as an employee of Shelter Scotland.

12 Royal Institute of Navigation – Motion by the Lord Provost

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Council notes that:

The Royal Institute of Navigation have confirmed that they intend bringing the International Navigation Conference 2019 to Edinburgh at the EICC on 18 November 2019. The Patron of the Institute is HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Conference will bring together; academia, industry and government to advance knowledge and understanding of navigation technology, systems, applications and practice, in particular related to the City’s leading research on; robotics, data analytics, artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

As well as the Conference, importantly, the Institute has also selected Edinburgh for their triennial event, which will bring together all global institutes of navigation, to form the International Association of Institutes of Navigation World Congress in 2021.

Both of these events in Edinburgh in 2019 and 2021 will showcase what the Capital (and wider-Scotland) has to offer globally, in regards to world-leading technology, and which could apply in the field of navigation.

The Conference will be complemented by a banquet at Edinburgh Castle.

Convention Edinburgh identify that the conference is expected to attract 200 delegates and contribute £0.412m in economic benefit to the city.

In welcoming this international event to the City, Council requests that the Lord Provost, marks it in an appropriate way.”

Decision

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

13 Edinburgh Branch of the Embroiders Guild – 65th Anniversary Year – Motion by the Lord Provost

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Council notes that:

That in 2019, members of the Edinburgh Branch of the Embroiders Guild will celebrate their 65th anniversary.

Over the years, the Edinburgh Branch of the Guild, have made many charitable donations of members’ work to the City and for the benefit of our citizens, including:

- the pennant on the Lord Provost’s official car;
- the robes for the dignitaries of Napier University;
- hangings for the world headquarters of the Royal Bank at The Gyle;
- cushions for the patients’ lounge at the Marie Curie Hospice;
- lace for the robes of the Moderator of the General Assembly;
- chair backs for the General Assembly (as designed by Malcolm Lochhead);
- repaired altar frontals and made robes for St Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral;
- pulpit falls and hangings in several churches in Edinburgh;
- participated in sewing several panels of The Great Scottish Tapestry;
- worked with students at the Edinburgh College of Art;
- helped to preserve the Needlework Development Scheme, operated by Edinburgh University
- sew once a month at the Scottish Art Gallery, helping to promote the Scottish collection of paintings;
- provided Linus quilts for traumatised people and heart shaped cushions for the Western General Hospital to enable mastectomy patients to put on a seatbelt when they leave hospital;
- as part of Embroiderers Guild Day of Stitch in August 2018, members sewed poppies for the WW1 Remembrance at Liberton Kirk; and.

- in order to pass on their skills, run classes for Young Embroiderers at James Gillespie's School.

The Edinburgh Branch have exhibited at the City Arts Centre, Edinburgh Palette and are returning to St Mary's Cathedral in September 2019.

In recognition of the Edinburgh Branch of the Embroiders Guild substantial and continuity contribution to civil society, and in recognition of this milestone, Council requests that the Lord Provost marks it in an appropriate way."

Decision

To approve motion by Councillor the Lord Provost.

14 Waverley Care – 30th Anniversary Year – Motion by Councillor McVey

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

"That Council:

- Notes that on February 17th Waverley Care celebrated their 30th anniversary of operating in the Capital and beyond.
- Welcomes the impact the charity has had in delivering positive change for those experiencing HIV and breaking down the stigma of HIV in the city.
- Agrees that the Lord Provost write to Waverley Care to congratulate them and marks their achievements in an appropriate way."

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

15 50th Anniversary of the Kilbrandon Report — Motion by Councillor Dickie

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

"Council notes that 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking Kilbrandon report, which led to the creation of Scotland's unique children's hearings system.

In recognition of this, and also to mark the commitment of volunteers who support children in need through the hearings system, in some cases for over 25 years,

Council requests that the Lord Provost marks the anniversary and commitment of Panel members in an appropriate way.“

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Dickie.

16 Imagine – Scottish Children’s Festival – Motion by Councillor Fullerton

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

“Council notes:

That in May 1990 the first Scottish International Children’s Festival took place. The name of the organisation changed to Imagine in 2000 and 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of Imagine.

Imagine promotes, develops and celebrates theatre and dance for children and young people. They celebrate this by producing the Edinburgh International Children’s Festival which showcases high quality, distinctive Scottish and international performances to an audience of around 10,000 children, their teachers and their families each year.

In recognition of this anniversary, Council requests that the Lord Provost marks it in an appropriate way.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Fullerton.

17 EU Registration – Motion by Councillor McVey

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

“That Council:

- Notes the UK Government’s appalling decision to force EU nationals to “register” to sustain their rights.
- Notes that Edinburgh’s registration services took part in the Home Office settlement pilot which ended in late autumn 2018 which included an application assistance scheme to help “read” chipped EU passports to smooth the process.

- Notes that the Home Office settlement has now gone live and residents can register for free from March 30th 2019 and fees paid before this time can now be reclaimed.
- Agrees that Edinburgh City Council will use existing resources to publicise the free UK Government based service and existing support services available through citizen's advice to citizens across the City.
- Agrees that to help further support EU nationals remaining in Edinburgh, Council authorises use of up to £25,000 from the Council's priorities fund to support Edinburgh's registration services and avoid any administration fees being applied to any EU nationals registering with the Home Office settlement scheme through Edinburgh's registration services.
- Agrees that this expenditure will be monitored on a monthly basis and reported through the business bulletin of the Finance and Resources Committee and delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to limit free registrations to citizens who live in Edinburgh, subject to service demand.
- Agrees that the Leader will write to the Home Office to request this funding is reimbursed in return for providing this service."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

To take no action on the matter.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Doggart

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	42 votes
For the amendment	-	16 Votes

(For the Motion: The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Bird, Booth, Bridgman, Cameron, Ian Campbell, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Henderson, Howie, Key, Lang, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Main, Miller, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rae, Rankin, Ritchie, Ross, Staniforth, Watt, Wilson, Work and Young.

For the amendment: Councillors Brown, Bruce, Jim Campbell, Cook, Daggart, Douglas, Hutchison, Laidlaw, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Rose, Rust, Smith, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

18 #notafavour Campaign - Tobacco Free Nation 2034 – Motion by Councillor Main

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

“Council notes that:

it is illegal to sell tobacco to under 18s, to buy tobacco to give to under 18s or for under 18s to try to buy tobacco products themselves,

36 young people in Scotland take up smoking every day; adolescents get dependent on nicotine faster than adults do; the earlier a smoker starts the more health damage results and the harder it is to quit,

most young people who smoke get their cigarettes from friends, family and other people they know. Often this is thought of as “doing them a favour”,

National No Smoking day was 13th March and that almost 70% of smokers wish to give up.

Further notes

the #notafavour campaign to stop young people being given tobacco which is part of the wider effort for Scotland to become “tobacco-free” by 2034.

the Council has signed up to the Charter for a Tobacco-Free Nation by 2034 and that members of the Edinburgh Partnership have agreed to do the same.

Trading Standards Officers are to be congratulated for their work in smoking prevention and their support of #notafavour campaign.

Requests that councillors support #notafavour campaign, in particular in their wards and when engaging with families and young people.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Main.

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 4 of 14 March 2019)

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Corbett for answer by
the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

Further to the council meeting of 31 May 2018 and the oral answer given by the Convener to the supplementary question to 5.2

Question **(1)** What progress has been made on the review of councillors' free car parking passes?

Answer **(1)** There has been no further review since May 2018.

Question **(2)** Which councillors have passes for

i) the APCOA parking at Waverley Court?

ii) George IV Bridge (Central Library)?

iii) any other parking in the vicinity of the City Chambers?

Answer **(2)**

Via APCOA Waverley Court Car Parking	
Councillors	
Claire Bridgman	Ind
Norman Work	SNP
Gavin Barrie	Ind
Joan Griffiths	Lab
Jason Rust	Con
Cammy Day	Lab
Ian Perry	Lab
Waverley Court CEC Garage Car Parking	
Councillors	
Lezley Cameron	Lab

George IV Bridge (Central Library)	
Councillors	
Iain Whyte	Con

**Supplementary
Question**

Thanks very much Lord Provost. I asked which Councillors were free parking in the city centre, the answer was 9 in total. This compares to 11 when I last asked in May 2018. Lord Provost, just for clarification, when I last asked the question the Convener said that he recognised this was an area that needed more scrutiny and a review would, to quote, not be out of place, but despite that there's been no review. So can the Convener now commit to instructing the appropriate officers to review the allocation of free car parking passes, both as to the justification and to whom they're allocated and will he also include in that the use of the city chambers quadrangle?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I hear what you're saying, but let me also repeat something that I said when this came out last time, which is that parking spaces have historically been made available to Council members and I think in some cases and I know one or two female Councillors have mentioned this to me in the past, that there could be issues of personal safety when they leave here to go about their ward business. So I think there are a range of considerations that are quite serious that need to be taken into consideration, but I'm happy to look at the case in terms of a review, and I think that as you can see the numbers have actually decreased. I don't think it's a huge issue, but if it pleases Councillor Corbett to have us review it, I think the consequences are likely to be marginal at best but nevertheless I'm prepared to do that in this case.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

At the meeting of November 2018, Council passed a motion agreeing that the Convener should write to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, requesting an increase in the maximum level of fixed penalty notice which could be issued against a utility company for failing to comply with its responsibilities under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.

Question (1) On what date did she write to the Cabinet Secretary?

Answer (1) 18th December 2018. The Executive Director of Place and I had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 9th January 2019 and this matter was also raised as part of the wider discussion.

Question (2) Will she publish a copy of her letter?

Answer (2) Appended.

Question (3) What response has she received from the Cabinet Secretary?

Answer (3) Feedback awaited.

Question (4) Will she publish a copy of the response if received?

Answer (4) Yes.

Supplementary Question Thank you very much and thank you to the Convener for her answer. In her answer she made reference to the meeting which she held with the Cabinet Secretary on 9 January and I was just interested to know whether she'd managed to get any indication from the Minister as to whether he was open to looking at this issue?

Supplementary Answer Thank you Councillor Lang. It was a wide ranging discussion as it always is and we touched on it. It was quite clear though however that you recognise that there was an issue attached to this.

Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure
and Connectivity
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Date 18 December 2018

Dear Mr. Matheson

PENALTIES FOR UNDERPERFORMING STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS

I write in response to a motion agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council on 22nd November, which seeks stronger penalties for tackling underperforming statutory undertakers.

The City of Edinburgh Council faces continued poor performance by Statutory Undertakers against their duties, and this is causing significant disruptions to the city's road network. Despite officers using powers under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (as amended), they are regularly proving not to be sufficient in ensuring compliance.

Powers to ensure that statutory undertakers comply with duties through the issue of fixed penalty notices are currently limited. In addition, the maximum fine level of fixed penalty notices are not considered to be high enough to deter potential offenders.

Whilst the City of Edinburgh Council welcomes the introduction to the Scottish Parliament of the Transport (Scotland) Bill in June 2018, we wish to suggest an addition to the Enforcement section of the Transport Bill to help tackle this issue. Specifically, the amendment would be in relation to the level of the penalty imposed for the failure by a statutory undertaker to comply with their duties, and that this should be raised to a sufficiently high level so as to provide a deterrent for future non-compliance.

I look forward to discussing this and other important matters with you at our scheduled meeting on 9th January.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Lesley Macinnes
Transport and Environment Convener

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

At the meeting of December 2018, Council passed a motion agreeing that the local authority would write to the Scottish Government making clear the City of Edinburgh Council's support for increasing the default on-the-spot litter fine, including fines for dog fouling and fly tipping, and to request that Ministers implement this change as quickly as possible.

Question (1) On what date was this letter sent?

Answer (1) I issued a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform on 7th March 2019. Discussions with relevant officers in the Place Directorate were required to verify content. In addition, given significant challenges faced around tackling graffiti I wanted to explore any opportunity to seek further powers to tackle this related issue. Discussions as part of the recently established Graffiti Working Group were key to informing this. A meeting with the Convener of Culture and Communities is being re-arranged to continue such discussions.

Question (2) Will she publish a copy of this letter?

Answer (2) Appended.

Question (3) What response has been received from the Scottish Government?

Answer (3) Feedback awaited.

Question (4) Will she publish a copy of the response if received?

Answer (4) Yes.

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate
Change and Land Reform
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Date 7 March 2019

Dear Ms Cunningham

**INCREASING FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR LITTERING, UNAUTHORISED
DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC OR TRADE WASTE, DOG FOULING AND GRAFFITI**

I write in response to a motion agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council on 13th December, which seeks increases to on-the-spot fixed penalty notice fines (FPNs) for littering, unauthorised disposal of domestic or trade waste and dog fouling.

The City of Edinburgh Council welcomed the Scottish Government's commitment to increasing fines for littering (from £50 to £80) and the unauthorised disposal of domestic or trade waste (from £50 to £200) in April 2014 in connection with the National Litter Strategy. The increase to fines for dog fouling (from £40 to £80), which came into force in April 2016, was also strongly supported by the Council.

However, despite the increase in FPNs - littering, unauthorised disposal of domestic or trade waste and dog fouling remain a significant challenge and further deterrents are now needed.

The City of Edinburgh Council therefore seeks support from the Scottish Government to review and increase the fines for littering, unauthorised disposal of domestic or trade waste and dog fouling. Increased sanctions would provide the support needed to further tackle this ongoing issue.

In addition to this, the City of Edinburgh Council experiences significant challenges in tackling graffiti. As graffiti is a criminal offense, perpetrators are dealt with directly by Police Scotland who can issue Antisocial Behaviour Penalty Notices. These notices result in a relatively modest fine of £50. The City of Edinburgh Council also therefore seeks support from the Scottish Government to increase the fine for graffiti to act as a further deterrent and support Police Scotland in terms of prevention.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Lesley Macinnes
Transport and Environment Convener

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 March 2019

Question

Asks the Convener for an update from her meeting with Transport Scotland regarding arterial road maintenance with specific regard to:

- Scope of overall programme for arterial roads across the City of Edinburgh
- Prioritisation of roads
- Timescale for beginning work on the A1

Answer

As you will know from the written answer provided to you at last month's Council meeting it was officers who were meeting with Transport Scotland on 5 February, along with their Operating Contractor, to discuss opportunities for collaboration, including maintenance of the city's arterial routes. Officers are now discussing these opportunities with the Operating Contractor with a view to establishing a programmed maintenance schedule.

It is intended that this could lead to the trial of a new maintenance arrangement on the A1 and A720 which would be reviewed after 12 months.

The Operating Contractor's programme of cyclic works commences in April / May 2019 and it is intended to tie the maintenance for the A1 and A720 into this programme of work.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost I will be brief and I thank the Convener for the answers, it's really good to see that progress is being made. I just wondered, it says in the answer that it is intended the A1 and A720 will be rolled into this programme of works. Given this is scheduled provisionally for April – May, will this be confirmed rather than just be intended?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Not entirely sure I understood the question, but yes we will come back with a bit more detail if you need to, directly to you.

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

Could the Convener advise of the following;

Question **(1)** What is the cost to the council per tonne of processing uplifted recyclable waste?

Answer **(1)** This information is commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be included within this response. Publishing this rate per tonne could compromise the Council's ability to make procurement savings in future.

Question **(2)** How much does the Council get paid for processed recycle?

Answer **(2)** As above.

Question **(3)** What is the notional cost per tonne of collecting recyclable waste?

Answer **(3)** The notional cost for the Council's collection of recyclable waste per tonne is approximately £76.

Question **(4)** Where does recycled waste go?

- a) How much goes abroad?
- b) How much goes beyond Scotland?
- c) How much goes beyond Edinburgh?

Answer **(4)** The Council has a number of contracts for reprocessing of recycled waste. Within these contracts the responsibility for the final destination of recycled waste lies with the contractor.

The information provided below shows where the waste is processed.

a) How much goes abroad?

No waste is processed abroad.

b) How much goes beyond Scotland?

20,502 tonnes per annum are processed outside Scotland (Jan – Dec 2018).

c) How much goes beyond Edinburgh?

60,506 tonnes per annum are processed outside Edinburgh (Jan – Dec 2018).

Question (5) Are there types of recyclable waste from which it could be considered more environmentally friendly to extract energy via heat?

Answer (5) It is widely acknowledged that the recycling of waste is more environmentally friendly than recovery of energy from waste.

Question (6) Are there types of recyclable waste from which it would be cheaper to extract energy via heat?

Answer (6) No

Supplementary Question Lord Provost I thank the Convener for her answer which clarifies that the costs paid and received for recycling are confidential, from which I understand as is to be expected, that these figures exist. In what Committees have these figures been scrutinised, and if they have not been so presented, at which Committee and when will they be available to be so scrutinised?

Supplementary Answer Thank you Councillor Rose. I am not certain when they last came to Committee, they may very well have come to a Transport and Environment Committee before. I doubt it however, if they are commercially sensitive. I will discuss with officers and I'll come back to you to let you know whether or not we're going to take this forward, thank you.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Webber for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

Could the Convener advise of the following;

Question **(1)** Using data from the last 10 years (if that is available) How many potholes have been re-repaired following their initial repair

- a) within 6 to 12months,
- b) within 2yrs and
- c) within 5year period?

Answer **(1)** The Council does not hold information which would allow the identification of specific potholes which have been re-repaired.

Question **(2)** And from these RE-repairs how many have had to be carried out more than once?

Answer **(2)** See answer above.

Question **(3)** Are the potholes logged as to the date appeared, time taken to repair, method and material used? Longevity of repair? If not, how are they logged?

Answer **(3)** Potholes are logged at the time they are inspected and identified as a pothole. This may be immediately upon formation of the pothole or some time after and depends on the timings of safety inspections and/or customer reporting. Longevity of repair(s) is not captured. All pothole information including the time to repair it, is captured in the council's Asset Management System (Confirm).

Question **(4)** When looking at the cost of the pothole repairs / re-repairs does the Council include the cost of any road traffic management, if required?

Answer **(4)** Yes.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost and thank you Convener for your answers although you'll notice that on question 1 and question 2 there wasn't any answer and so I am just a bit concerned that in terms of us managing our budgets and for cost control and management of the wider infrastructure planning of our roads across the City, could you perhaps commit to reviewing our process to permit data to be collected in this manner to ensure that we can look at the total cost of repair on a longer term basis?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I am particularly concerned about the amount of officer time that is spent answering questions that come at the same problem from different angles on a repeated basis. I will however go back and talk to officers to see whether or not there is anything that we can do, but it will be done based on a sensible use of officer time.

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Young for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

Question (1) What meetings have taken place between officers and representatives of the Queensferry community, regarding the issues over traffic and parking on the days of the Cruise Liner visits over the last year? (please provide dates).

Answer (1) There have been 12 meetings held, as follows:

Date	Meeting Details
10 May 2018	Site meeting between Queensferry and District Community Council (QDCC) and Port Facilities Security Officer (PFSO)
17 May 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO
22 May 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO
30 May 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO
3 June 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO
8 June 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO
15 June 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO
20 June 2018	QDCC Evening meeting
27 June 2018	Site meeting between QDCC and Port Facilities Security Officer PFSO

3 September 2018	QDCC and Ward Councillor meeting held with the Executive Director of Place
30 January 2019	Informal discussion was held at the Cruise Summit between QDCC and PFSO
20 February 2019	QDCC/PFSO/Locality meeting

Question (2) What options have been discussed on how to mitigate the impact on the community and local businesses from the closure of the parking at the east of the town?

Answer (2) The options discussed include:

- Managed reduction of coach parking during morning and afternoon periods.
- The introduction of a one-way system through the existing car park to increase on-street visitor parking.
- Excursion coach off-site holding areas.
- Changes to Pierhead layout to improve public safety (defined areas for emergency vehicles, taxis, Lothian Buses, private coaches and visitors).
- New layout to keep all pedestrian activity on one side of the road (safer layout for foreign visitors).
- Creation of a defined central pedestrian crossing point.

Question (3) What proposals are now being progressed by officers on changes and improvements to traffic and parking arrangements, and when is it intended that these will be implemented?

Answer (3) Officers will invite excursion operators to attend an urgent meeting to manage the coach morning and afternoon operating areas.

Following the meeting above, if appropriate, a reduced coach parking trial will take place in May 2019.

Taxi parking areas have been relocated to reduce road crossing movements. This public safety improvement will be implemented for the start of the cruise season on 10 May 2019.

Proposed active management of existing unregulated parking spaces in the area to encourage vehicle movement and increase parking availability.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you very much Lord Provost and thank you very much to the Convener for the very detailed answer which was extremely helpful and also to the commitment in that answer for an urgent meeting. I'd also like to note my appreciation for the Director's involvement since we've exchanged correspondence on this and appointing a head officer to help. So my follow-up is just to say with the very helpful commitments in the answer about changes being implemented from May, can I just ask the Convener if she'd be happy to agree to ensuring that ongoing senior officer oversight continues, that local members receive details of those made proposals, and that we have a review meeting after the summer?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes, I'm happy to commit to that. I will also commit to a greater degree of involvement in the area and I'd like to have a site visit at some point preferably with Councillor Young.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Housing and
Economy Committee at a meeting of
the Council on 14 March 2019**

Question

What action is being taken by the Council to support and assist small retail businesses in the city?

Answer

Small retail businesses in the city are supported in a number of ways, not only by the Council. The Economy Strategy sets out a commitment to ensure that growth benefits all and that the city remains one of the most innovative, entrepreneurial economies in the UK.

As well as the support provided by the Business Gateway service, small retailers receive support and guidance from across the Council (e.g. from Planning, Building Standards and Regulatory Services). Local initiatives such as 'Pop into Porty' and retail developments (as has recently delivered in Pennywell) are also supported by the Council. In addition, the Council works closely with the city's Business Improvement Districts and Scottish Government policy means that most small retailers are not charged business rates.

In addition to the direct and indirect support provided to small retailers, a number of other activities will benefit small retail businesses. These include:

- Strengthening existing town centres
- Investment in public realm and active travel, enabling people to walk around the city more easily
- Improving accessibility of town centres
- Development of a City Mobility Plan
- Planning policy designed to encourage new developments to create local centres/hubs
- Developing a strong and vibrant economy

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you and my appreciation to the Convener for her answer. As she knows the genesis of my question Lord Provost really centred around some concerns which exist in Davidson's Mains in my ward where we were about to lose one long-standing business and there have been fears for the future of some more and I know it's an issue which she both cares about and has experience of particularly with Portobello in her own ward. Does she agree with me that it would perhaps be helpful to try to have a structured process of trying to gather best practice, maybe from parts of our own city, perhaps elsewhere as well where we've actually managed to not just protect small businesses but actually to grow and enhance high streets or main streets so that those areas where we are facing challenges can learn from that best practice elsewhere? Thank you.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you Councillor Lang for your question. I think we discussed earlier in the week that there is a changing and a challenging landscape for retail at the moment and I completely understand your concerns for your local high streets. We've talked about retail quite a lot recently, I have in different forms and it's something that I have asked to be addressed in the economy strategy update that's coming back to Committee in June. In terms of looking at best practice, that seems quite helpful so I would be happy to look into that and perhaps have a meeting with yourself to discuss it in and shape what comes back to the economy strategy in June.

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Young for answer by
the Convener of the Regulatory
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 14 March 2019**

Community Councils and elected members receive weekly lists of all planning applications in their ward area - both applications and decisions. Members are also notified about certain license applications - such as public entertainment or trading licenses. This helps to ensure awareness and transparency. A similar notification process for license applications such as HMOs would be equally valuable.

Question **(1)** What options currently exist, to allow a similar notification process to that used by planning for the categories of license application covered by the Regulatory Committee and its Licensing Sub-Committee?

Answer **(1)** There is an established work stream to improve accessibility and transparency of information for all permissions and licences types, which seeks to take a holistic approach to all applications.

Questions **(2)** What limitations exist at present that have prevented this process being set up to date?

Answer **(2)** At present there is huge variance in the density of HMO licenced in the city. This would result in elected members and Community Councils in areas such as the City Centre and Southside receiving lists with many hundreds of applications whereas other areas would have weekly lists often with no applications. Previous arrangements of providing paper lists of applications were discontinued following feedback from elected members and others about their usefulness.

Question **(3)** What practical options can be taken forward to look at implementing license weekly lists and what are the likely timescales?

Answer	<p>(3) At present a register of all licence applications, including HMOs is published on the Council website - http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20023/licences_and_permits/902/licensing_registers. Notwithstanding the piece of work outlined in (1) above, elected members or community councils can request to be notified of applications.</p>
Supplementary Question	<p>Thank you very much and again thank you very much to the Convener for the answer. I just wanted to pick up on the answer to point three which is that local members and community councils can ask to be notified of this and if it's acceptable to the Convener can I just follow up by e-mail to make sure that we have the correct details for her to meet that request thank you.</p>
Supplementary Answer	<p>Thanks to Councillor Young for your further question. I have several points and issues I can bring forward to you and I'll e-mail you them.</p>

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Johnston for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

Given the Tram Extension Business Case highlights that March 2021 is the expiry date for 'Powers to Commence Construction under Section 74' in relation to Line 1;

Question (1) Has the Council commissioned and/ or received legal advice advising them of the process should they fail to meet this deadline?

Answer (1) No.

Question (2) If so can it be provided?

Answer (2) Not applicable.

Question (3) Is it the Council's understanding that failure to meet this deadline would require petitioning the Scottish Government for an extension?

Answer (3) Yes.

Question (4) Is the Council in receipt of formal legal advice that they have already met this deadline by virtue of works thus far undertaken, and if so can it be provided?

Answer (4) Yes. This can be provided confidentially to councillors, if requested.

Supplementary Question Thank you. I'm confused by this answer because at the beginning says there is no legal advice and at the end says there is legal advice and it can be provided on a confidential basis. If the legal advice exists can it please be circulated to all Councillors now?

Supplementary Answer When I read this question and I presumed that there were two different questions, I find it odd that the person who wrote it hasn't got the full understanding of it, which is what's produced those answers. You asked whether it can be provided to all Councillors, yes it can be but it will be on a strictly confidential basis, so I would expect it not to go any further than circulation, thank you.

QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Cook for answer by the
Convener of the Housing and
Economy Committee at a meeting of
the Council on 14 March 2019**

Question

Can the Convener confirm how many times, since coming to post, she has had meetings with each of the following organisations:

- a) Essential Edinburgh
- b) The Federation of Small Businesses
- c) Marketing Edinburgh
- d) Edinburgh Hotels Association
- e) Edinburgh Taxi Association
- f) Lothian Buses

Answer

I meet with many organisations in my role as Housing and Economy Convener, as do other Conveners, Vice-Conveners, the Leader and Deputy Leader. If there are organisations that any member feels it would be useful for me to meet in my role, I'd be happy to take on board suggestions.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thanks Lord Provost, I have to admit I'm slightly confused by this answer. For the benefit of the webcast, I asked the city's Economy Convener how many times she met with Essential Edinburgh, FSB, Marketing Edinburgh, Edinburgh Hotels Association, Edinburgh Taxi Association and Lothian Buses. Can you please tell me why you're unable to provide a straightforward request?

**Comments by
the Lord
Provost**

Just before you answer that Councillor Campbell, there's no need to read out the questions. The questions are posted on-line, people watching can see them.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you Lord Provost and thank you Councillor Cook and for your question. I meet lots of people in lots of organisations across the city. Just last week I met with the Chamber of Commerce, the Scottish Property Federation and as I said I'm happy to take on board any suggestions from members if there's any organisations that they think that I should be meeting with, so please do let me know.

QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Cook for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 March 2019**

Question

Can the Convener confirm how many times, since coming to post, she has had meetings with each of the following organisations:

- a) Essential Edinburgh
- b) The Federation of Small Businesses
- c) Marketing Edinburgh
- d) Edinburgh Hotels Association
- e) Edinburgh Taxi Association
- f) Lothian Buses

Answer

I meet with many organisations in my role as Transport and Environment Convener, as do other Conveners, Vice-Conveners, the Leader and Deputy Leader. If there are organisations that any member feels it would be useful for me to meet in my role, I'd be happy to take on board suggestions.

**Supplementary
Question**

A similar supplementary Lord Provost, there's six organisations listed which I asked how many times you'd met with them, why are you unable to provide this information?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Two reasons. One I can't access my electronic diary before August 2018 unfortunately, CGI issue which we're trying to get resolved, so yes slight problem, but in addition to which some of these ones are ones that I wouldn't normally need to meet with. So given that there is a cut and paste job between the two questions it didn't make it very easy to answer it. I will however stress the fact that as an Administration we work as a team and so therefore whilst we will have had occasions where the Council Leader or Deputy Leader has made with an organisation there will be other times that I have been talking about the same topic.

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 March 2019

Question

When will the Council Re-use Cabins at Household Waste Recycling Centres be re-opened to allow residents to present household items such as furniture for re-use?

Answer

There are currently no plans to re-open the Re-use cabins at Household Waste Recycling Centres. However, information on how residents can dispose of re-usable household items can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Supplementary Question

Thank you, Lord Provost my understanding was the closure of the re-use cabins where residents can take unwanted furniture to be re-used was temporary because of the redevelopment of the household waste recycling centres. So can the Convener clarify that re-use cabins have now been closed permanently, and if so, as that is a significant reduction in re-use facilities in the city, whether this decision should be made by the Transport Environment Committee based on a report?

Supplementary Answer

Thank you Councillor Burgess I think it's an important topic that you've raised actually and clearly our work has moved on to an extent in terms of the circular economy. We have for example on the website as I mentioned there a system where if somebody has reasonably good quality furniture that would be useful to pass on to somebody, they can call and get a free up lift so that is some degree of movement around that. However it's a topic I'd like to go into a bit further, I think it's one that is certainly worth looking at in more detail than I've had in terms of the timing of this question and I would suggest that you and I get together for a meeting so we can elaborate on some of the key questions, meet with officers and then on the basis of that, take that forward through Committee.

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 March 2019

Question

What progress is being made on improving the provision of council allotments and growing spaces for residents?

Answer

A progress report on allotment and food provision will be considered by the Culture and Communities Committee on 26 March 2019.

The report is expected to note the measures undertaken to date to increase allotment provision and support, expand the network and the number of community gardens and food growing initiatives.