

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 2

30 MAY 2019

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Miller for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question

For each project in this local authority which is receiving funding through the City Region Deal, what will the measurable contribution be towards meeting climate targets?

Answer

On May 14th the Council set an ambitious climate change target to achieve a net zero carbon position in Edinburgh by 2030. In relation to city deal projects at this stage it is too early to say. Project leads (across the entire Deal) have been asked to assess their projects in terms of environmental sustainability. This will form a key part of the Progress Report to each meeting of the Joint Committee for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question (1) Are records kept of the number of plant failures at Council Recycling Centres across the city?

Answer (1) Yes, records are kept of reported defects, breakdowns and faults for Council owned plant. For plant which is leased or on long term hire, records are kept in line with health and safety criteria

Question (2) Over the last five years, by year, how often has each centre had to cease normal public service due to:

- a. plant failure?
- b. staff shortages?
- c. any other reason?

Answer (2) Manual diary records are held at each centre to indicate when a facility has been closed and these diaries are not currently retained for more than one year. These diary entries may not always record the reason for closure or the length of the closure.

There are occasions when the sites have been closed due adverse weather conditions (high winds) and at Sighthill, during the construction phase of the new Depot and Waste Transfer Station for health and safety reasons, the site has closed for short periods. These are planned as far as possible however short notice closures have taken place where there has been an immediate health and safety concern.

I have asked officers to investigate the potential to create a central record of closures to include the reason and duration of closure. This will assist in maximising opportunities to learn lessons going forward and will be retained for five years.

Question (3) What communication strategy is in place to inform the public when then recycling centre becomes inoperative?

Answer (3) All closures are advised on social media and on the Council's web site. The Contact Centre is also informed to ensure customers calling the Council are kept up to date. On site, Council staff are located at the entrance of sites where a closure is taking place at short notice to advise customers of the closure, and to direct customers to alternative sites or likely reopening times.

Question (4) Is there a plant servicing agreement for all three recycling centres and can you confirm servicing is carried out in-line with this agreement?

Answer (4) Servicing and safety inspections for Council owned plant is planned and carried out by the Fleet and Workshops team according to manufacture and health and safety standards. The servicing and safety of hired or leased plant is the responsibility of the owner but is maintained to the Council's specified standards.

Question (5) What contingency arrangements are in place in the event of plant failures?

Answer (5) The Council has a reactive repair service in place to respond to any plant failure within and outwith the operating hours of the centres. If there is a failure which requires urgent repair and could potentially impact on the operation of the centre, a network of plant hire options are available

Question (6) What changes have there been to Council Recycling Centre opening hours, if any, over the last year?

Answer (6) As approved at the Transport and Environment Committee on 5 March 2019 new opening and closing times were introduced from 1 April 2019.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 0900-1700; Thursday 0900-1830.

Question (7) What is the Convener doing to ensure Recycling Centres are available to residents in the most accessible way to aid recycling?

Answer

- (7) The report approved by Transport and Environment Committee on 5 March 2019 outlined the activities in place for the operations of recycling centres in the city - [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/60144/item_79 -
_household waste recycling centre opening hours](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/60144/item_79_-_household_waste_recycling_centre_opening_hours)

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question

In wards with high numbers of residential students, at times of the year when the volume of waste is increased as students are

- a) settling into and furnishing their accommodation
- b) leaving and clearing their accommodation:

What arrangements are in place to increase collections of waste?

Answer

In addition to the normal collection service, additional waste and cleansing collections are in place in May/June and in September each year in Southside, Fountainbridge and Newington. The additional services from 27 May to 10 June 2019 are:

- Additional waste vehicle: Tuesday (pm), Wednesday (pm), Thursday (pm), Saturday and Sunday.
- Additional cleansing vehicle: daily.

In addition, Council officers work with Edinburgh University to put in place additional collections at their student halls of residence.

We have also been working with Zero Waste Edinburgh to support reuse projects in the area.

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Leader of the Council
at a meeting of the Council on 30
May 2019**

Question

The Leader may be aware of some disquiet in the development community regarding what they perceive as a lack of precision when contrasting advice given to them and subsequent commentary contained in reports or made in person to the Development Management Sub Committee.

If any such concern were evidenced through appeals to the Scottish Reporter, would the Leader agree that it would reflect poorly on the culture of the Planning Service?

Answer

It would obviously be completely inappropriate to speculate on planning appeals. Any recommendations or issues raised through planning appeals will be responded to appropriately.

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Convener of the
Transport and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 30 May 2019**

Question **(1)** What is the book value of private number plates owned by Lothian Buses, or any subsidiary organisations?

Answer **(1)** This information is not available to the Council.

Question **(2)** What is the estimated market value of these private number plates?

Answer **(2)** This information is not available to the Council.

Question **(3)** Are the purchase of private number plates subject to any oversight by Transport for Edinburgh?

Answer **(3)** No.

Item no 5.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question (1) How many on-street public waste bins are there in the city, broken down by ward.?

Answer (1) The list of on-street waste bins by ward is provided below. These are dedicated litter bins and do not include on-street communal bins which can also be used for street litter.

ALL LITTER BINS (EXCLUDING PARKS)	
Ward	Litter Bins
01-Almond	363
02-Pentland Hills	176
03-Drum Brae/Gyle	145
04-Forth	205
05-Inverleith	150
06-Corstorphine/Murrayfield	135
07-Sighthill/Gorgie	242
08-Colinton/Fairmilehead	123
09-Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	134
10-Meadows/Morningside	167
11-City Centre	567
12-Leith Walk	82
13-Leith	108
14-Craigtinny/Duddingston	170
15-Southside/Newington	169
16-Liberton/Gilmerton	223
17-Portobello/Craigmillar	221
No code allocated	7
Grand Total	3,387

Question (2) How does this number compare to:
(a) 2014; and
(b) 2009?

Answer (2) There are no records held for 2009 or 2014. Records were established in 2015 and are regularly updated.

Question (3) How many Council maintained waste bins are located in public parks, broken down by ward?

Answer (3) The table below shows the number of waste bins recorded as being located in a park:

LITTER BINS THAT CONTAIN "PARK" IN THE LOCATION DETAILS	
Ward	Litter Bins
01-Almond	45
02-Pentland Hills	43
03-Drum Brae/Gyle	7
04-Forth	19
05-Inverleith	24
06-Corstorphine/Murrayfield	12
07-Sighthill/Gorgie	52
08-Colinton/Fairmilehead	17
09-Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	19
10-Meadows/Morningside	19
11-City Centre	14
12-Leith Walk	37
13-Leith	14
14-Craigtinny/Duddingston	24
15-Southside/Newington	22
16-Liberton/Gilmerton	25
17-Portobello/Craigmillar	55
No code allocated	5
Grand Total	453

Question (4) How does this number compare to:

- (a) 2014; and
- (b) 2009?

Answer (4) There are no records held for 2009 or 2014.

Item no 5.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question

Further to question 5.2 at the 14 March 2019 meeting of the Council, has she received a response from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity to her letter of 18 December 2018 on fixed penalty notices against utility companies?

Answer

As set out in the response to question 5.2 at the 14 March 2019 meeting, the matter was raised as part of a broader discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity at the meeting on 9th January. Feedback is awaited from Scottish Government on where this matter sits in relation to the progression of the Transport Bill.

It should be noted that the Transport Bill will not contain the fine amounts for Fixed Penalty Notices – this is a matter of detail which will be set out in Codes of Practice/Specifications, to be determined as part of the final stages of the Transport Bill process.

Item no 5.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Brown for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question

Homework tracking apps such as 'Show My Homework' have been successfully introduced by a number of Scottish local authorities.

This web based initiative ensures that all pupils, staff and particularly parents / carers can become more involved with homework issued by the school.

Can the Convener confirm what current progress is being made with regards to the introduction of a Homework App, either 'Show My Homework' or equivalent across all CEC secondary schools?

Answer

The Council is currently reviewing the use of Show My Homework as an online system to support the management of homework. In line with Council policy and to ensure appropriate security and governance is in place, the Digital Learning Team has conducted a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) which is being assessed by the Information Governance Unit (IGU).

As part of the assessment, officers are working to ensure appropriate contractual arrangements and an information sharing agreement is in place to achieve compliance with data protection legislation. This work is being led by City of Edinburgh Council, and is recognised by other Scottish Local Authorities wishing to adopt Show My Homework as an opportunity to achieve and share best practice.

At the request of a school who wished to use the app, an initial DPIA was carried out. At the time, the assessment highlighted aspects that were not in line with council standards. After engaging with the Head Teacher on the

benefits of the app, officers are now working to address these concerns.

Should all be deemed in line with council policy, the Information Asset Owner will grant approval for use of Show My Homework in CEC schools. At this point the use of Show My Homework will become an available option for schools that feel it would provide appropriate support to their school community.

Item no 5.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Miller for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

- Question** **(1)** What is the estimated cost to
- a) City of Edinburgh Council,
 - b) Lothian Buses and
 - c) local businesses due to the unexpected closure of Leith Street at the request of Edinburgh St James development?

- Answer** **(1)** a) Approximately £1500.
- b) Council does not have this information.
 - c) Council does not have this information.

- Question** **(2)** What is the mechanism for
- a) City of Edinburgh Council,
 - b) Lothian Buses and
 - c) local businesses to recover direct costs and appropriate compensation related to the closure?

- Answer** **(2)** The Council managed the closure of this street by issuing a Roads Occupation Permit in line with the relevant Section of The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. The Council has an agreed schedule of rates for charging for issuing Roads Occupation Permits. The Council is not aware of any mechanism for third parties to be reimbursed costs or to be awarded compensation.

Item no 5.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Gloyer for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question (1) Over the last 12 months, how many times has permission been granted for commercial vehicles selling food, drink or merchandise to operate in the city's parks?

Answer (1) Six new let permissions have been granted in the last 12 months. These permissions are for 12 months unless shown below.

Question (2) Please list the parks where such permission was granted and the dates when the vehicles operated there.

Answer (2)

- West Princes Street Gardens (one, effective from May and another effective from June 2019);
- Inverleith Park (effective from April 2019);
- Meadows (effective July 2019);
- Roseburn Park (set dates only 8 June, 24 August, 6 September 2019); and
- Cramond (effective April 2019).

Question (3) What is the process for consultation with the respective community council, Friends of the Park (where such a group has been constituted) and other users and neighbours of the park, in advance of a catering concession being granted?

Answer (3) As these let arrangements are renewals, there was no consultation undertaken. When new concessions are considered, local ward members, community councils, friends of parks and park users are consulted as appropriate.

Item no 5.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question

When will the consultation be launched on extending bus lane hours to 7am-7pm, 7 days a week, as agreed at Transport & Environment Committee on 9 August 2018?

Answer

The consultation will be held between September and October 2019.

Item no 5.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 May 2019

Question

Further to the answer to question 28 on 23 August 2018, will the council publish the waiting times for pedestrians at key pedestrian crossings in the city centre?

Answer

Yes, the waiting times for pedestrians at key crossings in the city will be published shortly on the Council's website. A dedicated page will be setup and a link added to:-

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20016/roads_travel_and_parking

The analysis will cover the nine sets of traffic signals along Princes Street, from North Bridge to Queensferry Street.

Should there be any major changes be made to the signal timings in the future, the information will be re-calculated and updated on the website.