

Supplementary Questions

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 30th June, 2022

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Supplementary Questions and Answers

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Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Further to the answer given by the then Leader of the Council to question 10.4 at the March 2022 meeting of the Council;

Question (1) Did the statutory process for the Redetermination Order required to deliver the proposed changes to the Davidsons Mains roundabout commence by the end of March 2022 as suggested?

Answer (1) No, I have asked officers to complete this as quickly as possible

Question (2) Was the street lighting design completed by the end of March 2022 as suggested?

Answer (2) The lighting design was completed in June 2022.

Question (3) Was the Stage 2 Road Safety Audit on the proposals started by end of May 2022 as suggested?

Answer (3) This scheme has been included in the programme of Road Safety Audits planned for June/July 2022.

Supplementary Question Given the answers provided, can the Convener clarify when the changes to the roundabout are now expected to be implemented?

Supplementary Answer The critical outstanding task affecting the timescale for delivery of the improvements is the promotion of the required Redetermination Order. All other tasks that still require to be undertaken, prior to procuring a contractor, can be completed within the timescale needed for the statutory process for this Order. Should no objections be received when the proposed Order is advertised publicly, construction should begin within the next 12 – 14 months. However, any objections that are received will require to be referred to Scottish Ministers for determination.

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Younie for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question (1) What is the current rationale for the bollards and extended pavements on Barnton Avenue?

Answer (1) These were implemented through Spaces for People to provide more space for pedestrians on the route to The Royal High School.

Question (2) What traffic order is in place for the extended pavements on Barnton Avenue?

Answer (2) A Traffic Order is not required for these temporary footway widenings.

Question (3) What risk assessment was carried out prior to the installation of these bollards with respect to the safety of cyclists using the NCR1 cycle route?

Answer (3) A risk assessment was undertaken for all of the temporary pedestrian walkways implemented at schools under the Spaces for People programme. This risk assessment did not identify any specific risks to cyclists at this location. Please contact me to see a copy of the risk assessment.

Question (4) When is a decision to be taken on whether to retain or remove these bollards?

Answer (4) A decision on whether to retain, modify or remove the existing measures will be agreed through the school travel plan, which is anticipated will be considered in August 2022.

Supplementary Question 'In answer to question 1, the Convener provided the original rationale for the bollards. Can the Convener clarify whether this rationale still stands given the requirement for social distancing outside has ended?'

Supplementary Answer As noted in answer 4 the decision to retain modify or remove the existing measures will be considered by the school travel plan, not as a public health response.

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Dilkstra-Downie for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

The October 2021 meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee considered a report 'Active Travel Measures – Traveling Safely Update'.

Paragraph 4.13 of the report said that "it is expected that the review [of School travel plans] will be completed, and draft plans developed by early 2022".

- Question** (1) Is the review of school travel plans now complete?
- Answer** (1) In the context of the report, paragraph 4.13 referred only to the school travel plan reviews for those 35 schools that had temporary measures put in place as part of the Spaces for People programme. The reviews for all of these schools are currently in the final draft stage, with formal sign off by the schools expected to take place at the beginning of the new term in August. However, as the plans are largely complete, officers will be progressing some of the measures identified within them for early delivery over the summer break.
- Question** (2) Which if any school travel plans reviews have yet to be completed?
- Answer** (2) As above, the reviews for all 35 schools are currently in the final draft stage, with formal sign off expected in August.
- Question** (3) Which schools now have revised draft travel plans in place?
- Answer** (3) The 35 schools are:
- Bonaly Primary School
 - Boroughmuir High School
 - Brunstane Primary School
 - Bruntsfield Primary School

Buckstone Primary School
Carrick Knowe Primary School
Castleview Primary School
Corstorphine Primary School
Craigentenny Primary School
Craigour Park Primary School
Dalry Primary School
Davidson's Mains
Ferryhill Primary School
Gracemount Primary School
Granton Primary School
Gylemuir Primary School
Hermitage Park Primary School
Holy Cross RC Primary School
James Gillespie's Primary School
Juniper Green Primary School
Leith Walk Primary School
Longstone Primary School
Lorne Primary School
Murrayburn Primary School
Parson Green Primary School
Pirniehall / St David's RC Primary Schools
Preston Street Primary School
Prestonfield Primary School
Royal High School
Rudolph Steiner School
Sciennes Primary School
St Catherine's RC Primary School
St Francis RC / Niddrie Mill Primary Schools
St George's School
St John Vianney RC Primary School

**Supplementary
Question**

Can the Convener clarify if ward councillors will be given copies of school travel plans for schools in their wards (or with catchment areas in their wards) once they receive final sign off?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Once the plans are signed off, they will be made publicly available to view on the [Streets Ahead Edinburgh](#) website. Links to download the plans will be shared with ward councillors.

Item no 10.15

QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Convener of the Licensing Board
at a meeting of the Council on 30
June 2022**

Question

What steps will the Convener take to ensure that the proceedings of Board meetings remain open and transparent, and what steps will she consider to improve openness and transparency?

Answer

At the time of submitting this answer (Monday 27th) I was appointed as the Convener of the Edinburgh Licensing Board only this morning. As a new member of the Board, it's difficult to comment on how to 'improve' transparency without a baseline. The need for openness and transparency in terms of the discharge of the Board's statutory functions is a matter for the full Licensing Board, not only the Convener, and as a member of the Board, Councillor Booth's suggestions for meetings will be welcome.

My preference is to hold meetings in person in the City Chambers (as long as not contrary to any changing health advice) and whenever possible to conduct deliberations in public (rather than withdrawing to another room). That is of course subject to any confidentiality or application-specific requirements advised by the Clerk.

Board meetings have until now, not been webcast, which I understand is due to the nature of the personal information which may be discussed regarding applicants, and also to protect objectors from being 'broadcast' which, for some members of the public, may be a deterrent to participating. Again, this is a matter for the Board to discuss but I am open to reviewing this approach and to align where appropriate, with the other quasi-judicial committees of the Council.

Supplementary Question

Can the Convener please clarify whether she will seek views from the Licensing Forum on the issue of transparency and accountability of board meetings?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes, it is my intention to raise this with the Forum when it is re-established. It ceased during the last term and one of my first actions following appointment as Convener, was to ask that Officials start the process of recruiting to the Forum. I welcome their views on not only the licensing policy and operations, but how the Board and the Forum can work effectively together.

Item no 10.16

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Vice-Convener of the Licensing Board at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question

Does the Vice-Convener believe that the Board should review its policy on Hours of Trading as part of the forthcoming review of the Board's statement of policy?

Answer

The new Board has 18 months within which to agree the terms of its new Statement of Licensing Policy. It will be for the Board as a collective to decide the manner in which the consultation is carried out and with whom it consults (though this will include a number of mandatory statutory consultees). Before the consultation process begins, the Board has to decide what it will be consulting upon. It would not be appropriate to go into the specifics of aspects of the policy and what precisely will be consulted upon, before the Board has begun that formal process.

Supplementary Question

Can the Vice-Convener please clarify whether he will seek views from the Licensing Forum on the issue of whether Hours of Trading should be considered as part of the consultation on the board's statement of policy?

Supplementary Answer

The Board will require to consult with the Licensing Forum as part of the preparation of its policy statement. The decision on what is to be consulted upon will be for the Board to make and the Forum's views will be welcomed, as a statutory consultee in the policymaking process.

Item no 10.17

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question

Does the Convener have confidence that the Planning service has sufficient resources in place to deal with the expected increase in applications for short-term lets?

Answer

The Planning service has been experiencing a rise of applications including short-term let applications. The Planning service has recently recruited six Planning Assistants and one Planning Officer in addition to implementing service improvements to ensure the application process is efficient and the service can meet its demand.

Supplementary Question

Can the Convener please clarify what action he is taking to speed up approval of City Plan 2030, which will allow the council to more effectively deal with applications for short-term lets?

Supplementary Answer

The Planning Service is working hard to ensure City Plan 2030 is brought back to Planning Committee as soon as practicable. However, given City Plan 2030 will have to go through a period of examination by Scottish Ministers, I am engaging with Officers to explore whether there are any other mechanisms available to Committee to strengthen our position on short-term lets in the meantime.

Item no 10.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Development Management Sub-Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question

Please can the Convener clarify whether she intends to change the start time for future committee meetings, and if so what consultation will be carried out with members before such a change is made?

Answer

The times of committees will be considered as part of the political management arrangements due to be considered by Council in September 2022 and consultation will take place with all political groups.

Supplementary Question

Can the Convener please clarify whether any changes to the start time for committee meetings will ensure that they remain family-friendly and take into account childcare or other caring responsibilities?

Supplementary Answer

Yes.

Item no 10.19

QUESTION NO 19

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question

Please can the council leader set out the reasons behind reducing the size of the Licensing Board from 10 to 9, while also appointing a vice-convener?

Answer

The Council agreed the appointments of members to Committees, Boards and Joint Boards, including the Licensing Board at the Council meeting on 26 May 2022 (adjourned from 19 May 2022).

Supplementary Question

Please can I invite the council leader to answer the question: what were the reasons behind his changes to the licensing board?

Supplementary Answer

Please see answer to the question above

Item no 10.20

QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question

Will the council respond to the current consultation on the draft National Gaelic Language Plan, and if so, will the draft consultation response be considered by the Gaelic Implementation Group prior to submission?

Answer

Yes, a Council response is being prepared and will be submitted to the national consultation.

No, the Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) will not be able to consider the response prior to submission. The GIG was a formal working group appointed by the Education, Children and Families Committee in 2021/22. This group ceased at the end of the previous Council term. Future working groups will be considered as part of the review of political management arrangements and will require to be appointed by the appropriate committee.

The consultation response will be submitted by the deadline and submitted to the Policy and sustainability Committee for noting.

Supplementary Question

The council leader's answer implies he wants to abolish the Gaelic Implementation Group. Can the council leader clarify whether that is his intention, and if so what would replace it to develop the council's own Gaelic plan and ensure its effective delivery?

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Booth should read the response to the question - *Future working groups will be considered as part of the review of political management arrangements and will require to be appointed by the appropriate committee.*

Item no 10.21

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2022

Question

Will the Convener please confirm there will be no delay to the roll-out of the Leith Low Traffic Neighbourhood as expected in September 2022?

Answer

I share your concern about risk of delay this project faces, it is one of many across the Transport and Environment remit. I hope that from August TEC will be able to provide transparent and open scrutiny of project delivery to help ensure schemes have adequate resources to be delivered on time and on budget.

Officers assure me they are working towards delivery starting in November at the earliest, with a note of caution that the generally challenging market conditions and reduced capacity for tenderers to deliver to Council programme requirements could lead to delays. An update will be provided in the Business Bulletin for Transport and Environment Committee in August 2022.

Supplementary Question

Can the Convenor please clarify that he will work with ward councillors to drive forward progress on the low traffic neighbourhood, to ensure there is no delay in delivering safer streets in Leith?

Supplementary Answer

Yes, I would be happy to ensure ward councillors receive regular updates going forward.