

Supplementary Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 25th August, 2022

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

Supplementary Questions and Answers

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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 25 August 2022

Question

Further to his answer to my question at full council of 30 June 2022, can the council leader clarify that his administration will appoint a group to oversee the development of the council's Gaelic plan and ensure its effective delivery? If not, why not, and if so, when will this be appointed?

Answer

As with all working groups, the decision on whether to retain the Gaelic Implementation Group will be a decision for the relevant committee. However, future working groups will first be considered as part of the review of political management arrangements to be considered by Council in autumn 2022.

Supplementary Question

What steps is the council taking to engage the Gaelic community in oversight of the delivery of its Gaelic plan, in the absence of the Gaelic Implementation Group or its successor?

Supplementary Answer

In the interim, where specific policy issues require, roundtable discussions and engagement with stakeholders will take place.

I have also committed to meet with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to discuss Gaelic development in Edinburgh

Item no 10.21

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2022

Question

Further to his supplementary answer to my question at full council of 30 June 2022, I am aware that the decision to appoint members of the Licensing Board was made on 26 May 2022, since I was present at that meeting. My question did not ask what date the decision was made - my question asked what were the reasons behind the decision to reduce the size of the board while also creating a new position of vice-convener. He will be aware that the amendment making these changes was in his name.

So can I offer the council leader a third opportunity to answer the question: what were the reasons behind his changes to the Licensing Board?

Answer

Proposals for the appointments of members to Committees, Boards and Joint Boards, including the Licensing Board, and Senior Councillor Responsibility Allowances were presented to the Council meeting on 26 May 2022 (adjourned from 19 May 2022) and were agreed.

**Supplementary
Question**

Since the council leader has, for the third time, failed to answer the question, perhaps I can make it easier for him to answer by making the question multiple choice.

Please could the council leader choose from one of the following options. Did the council leader propose an amendment at full council on 26 May 2022, to cut the size of the Licensing Board while simultaneously creating a new position of Vice-Convenor and appointing a Conservative councillor to that role for the following reasons:

- a) In exchange for Tory votes for his Labour minority administration;
- b) To create a Labour / Lib Dem / Tory majority on the Licensing Board;
- c) To increase the influence of pro-business voices on the board;
- d) To reduce Green influence on Licensing Board decisions, since the reduction in the size of the board resulted in one fewer Green councillors on the board;
- e) All of the above.

**Supplementary
Answer**

As noted above, the Council agreed the composition and size of the Licensing Board at its meeting on 26 May 2022 (adjourned from 19 May).

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