

Supplementary Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 27th October, 2022

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Supplementary Questions and Answers

Contacts

Email: gavin.king@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 4239

Nick Smith

Service Director, Legal and Assurance

This page is intentionally left blank

Item no 12.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Mattos Coelho for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question (1) School staff recruitment is of major importance for young person's success in their learning journey.

Can the Education, Children and Families Convener clarify why headteachers have not been able to post adverts to recruit support staff recently?

Answer (1) The Corporate Leadership Team approved a change to the recruitment approval process from 11th August 2022, as a step to seek to manage in year costs given the projected financial position of the Council. This change, along with a high volume of recruitment particularly within Education, meant that there were delays in the approvals and recruitment process.

Question (2) Can the Education, Children and Families Convener clarify when will headteachers be able to post adverts to recruit support staff again?

Answer (2) Schools have always been able to advertise posts, however recruitment remains exceptionally busy - since the school term started on 16th August 2022, 632 adverts have been posted on Myjobscotland for 1,152 positions (just for schools). Centralised recruitment is about to be implemented which will significantly improve the candidate experience, as well as reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

Supplementary Question I thank the convener for her answer. Could the Convener clarify, roughly, where the HR new procedure

Can the Education, Children and Families Convener give us a rough timescale when the new recruitment approval process will be fully operational?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The new recruitment process is already fully operational. Schools must submit all vacancies with 3 levels of approval:

- 1.Headteacher
- 2.Education Dept
- 3.HR

As part of the Education Dept approval, all promoted teaching posts in schools are approved at a weekly Staffing Board. For non-promoted teaching posts and school-based support staff posts these are checked against DSM budgets and staffing allocations before approval.

The central recruitment process for PSAs has also already started with 2 adverts (one for mainstream and one for special schools) already live on My Job Scotland. These adverts are due to close on 14th November.

Item no 12.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor McVey for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question (1) How many meetings have you had with either the Director or officers directly involved in the delivery of Christmas and Hogmanay to monitor progress on the delivery of the contract? Can the dates of the meetings be provided?

Answer (1) I had one meeting with officers specifically on the contract for Edinburgh's Christmas. This took place at the conclusion of the Council meeting on 22 September 2022.

In addition, the contract for Edinburgh's Christmas was discussed at the Leader's Meeting on 26 September 2022.

Finally, I attended the All Party Oversight Group (APOG) meeting on Winter Festivals on 3 October 2022.

Question (2) When were you first aware that parts of the contract, such as 3rd sector and Voluntary Stalls on Castle Street were not going to be delivered within the Angel contract?

Answer (2) As noted above, I met with officers at the conclusion of the Council meeting on 22 September 2022 and was briefed on the issues relating to delivery of the Edinburgh Christmas contract.

Question (3) When were you aware that deadlines for planning permission required to host the events were missed?

Answer (3) See answer 2.

Question (4) When were you first made aware that the financial contribution of Angel Events, which was the basis of them winning the contract, would unlikely be delivered?

Answer (4) See answer 2.

- Question** (5) Why did you not ensure briefings were provided to Councillors as instructed by the Finance and Resources Committee in June 2022?
- Answer** (5) As reported to Finance and Resources Committee, officers have acknowledged that they could have done more to keep Elected Members updated on the risks surrounding the delivery of Edinburgh's Christmas.
- However, as soon as it became clear that it would not be possible to deliver Edinburgh's Christmas in the way which had been reported to Finance and Resources Committee, a briefing was set up with me, and with the Conveners of Culture and Communities and Finance and Resources. Thereafter, an APOG was set up with representatives from all political groups invited.
- Question** (6) Was there a planned briefing for Councillors, or any discussions with officers on the creation of a briefing that was not shared with other Councillors?
- Answer** (6) No. A briefing was provided by officers at the APOG on 3 October 2022.
- Supplementary Question** Can the Council Leader confirm how many emails he has had directly from anyone involved in the Christmas contract, between the award of the contract in June 2022 and 22 September 2022, which raised issues or requested help from the Council Leader in relation to the successful delivery of Edinburgh's Christmas?
- Supplementary Answer** I can confirm I did not receive any emails from anyone involved in the Christmas contract between June 2022 and 22 September 2022 which raised issues or requested my help in relation to the successful delivery of Edinburgh's Christmas.

Item no 12.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question (1) On the basis of existing catchments, building capacity constraints and school roll projections, when is Queensferry High School expected to reach its maximum operating capacity?

Answer (1) Current projections show that Queensferry High School will reach its notional capacity in 2025. However, secondary schools can remain fully operational beyond the notional capacity. The projections are an indication of an issue, the specific year on year circumstances are monitored and addressed when necessary through the rising rolls programme.

Question (2) Given the draft CityPlan was published in November 2021, why did it take until September 2022 for the Council to write formally to landowners around Kirkliston regarding possible sites for a new high school?

Answer (2) The draft City Plan did not propose any new housing allocations in Kirkliston. All previous discussions about potential sites had been with housing developers who in turn have development agreements with landowners. The lack of housing sites in City Plan meant a new approach direct to landowners was required. This approach needed to be made by colleagues in the Estates Service and the whole process required time to be completed.

Question (3) Given the long-standing and pressing need to identify future high school capacity for Kirkliston, does the Convener believe it acceptable that landowners around Kirkliston were only written to formally in September 2022 regarding possible sites for a new high school?

Answer (3) As the informal engagement on options for learning estate infrastructure was significantly delayed due to the pandemic and is still ongoing, the approach to landowners is being carried out at an appropriate point in the overall engagement process.

Question (4) What is the time period which would likely be required between a new site being agreed for a new high school and it becoming open and operational, taking into account planning and construction periods?

Answer (4) If all the necessary elements were fully agreed for a new school (e.g., site, budget allocation, statutory consultation approval etc), then approximately 3 - 3.5 years would be required to design and build a new secondary school.

Supplementary Question Further to the answer to question 2, can the Convener please clarify what work was required by the Estates Services and which meant it took 10 months to write to landowners following the publication of the draft City Plan?

Supplementary Answer The Estates team had to complete title deeds checks and find contact details before making approaches to the landowners. Competing work pressures and priorities, for both the Estates and Learning Estate Planning teams also had a bearing on the time taken.

Item no 12.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question

What is the current timetable for the resurfacing of Station Road in Queensferry?

Answer

I am happy to confirm that works are currently programmed to start on 3 July 2023. The work is scheduled to take up to 3 months and will be phased around the school holidays. Undertaking the work during the summer break will reduce the risk to the children attending the schools nearby.

Supplementary Question

At its meeting of 18 August, the Transport & Environment Committee approved the Transport Infrastructure Investment - Capital Delivery Priorities 2022/23 which listed Station Road as being resurfaced in this financial year. Can the Convener clarify why, just two months on from this report being agreed, this project at Station Road has already been postponed into the 2023/24 financial year?

Supplementary Answer

The decision to re-profile the works in Station Road was taken by the Transport Contracts and Design Team. Due to the proximity to 3 schools in the area, the most effective time to carry out the works, to ensure safe working, is during a school holiday. It was not possible to carry out the works during the school summer holidays in 2022 due to existing commitments across Edinburgh. Due to the extent and duration of the works it was, therefore, decided to carry the works forward to the school summer holidays in 2023. This significantly reduces conflict with pupils and parents travelling to and from the 3 schools.

Item no 12.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question (1) In cases of road surface treatment, what is the normal scheduled time period between a road being treated and contractors returning to repaint road markings?

Answer (1) I have been informed that there is currently no scheduled time period between the roads being treated and the Contractor returning to replace the road markings, although it is normally expected that the work is undertaken within 4-8 weeks. However, it is worth noting that replacing road markings too soon after a surface treatment results in the markings wearing away within a matter of weeks.

Question (2) What monitoring is undertaken in terms of their adherence to this target time period?

Answer (2) As detailed above, there is no set time period for the markings to be reinstated. Council officers are in regular contact with the Contractor (including site and virtual meetings). Project managers for each site are aware of the work completed and any outstanding works to be followed up in the meetings with the Contractor.

Question (3) Are records held of the time taken between surface treatments and the subsequent painting of road markings for individual surfacing projects?

Answer (3) No records are held on the time taken to lay the treatment and the painting of the road markings. On the completion of each treatment, built drawings are provided, but these only record the date, extent and type of new road surface laid.

**Supplementary
Question**

Given the potential safety issues which arise from a lack of road markings, can the Convener clarify if he believes a maximum time limit for replacing road markings should be built into the contracts for surface treatment works?

**Supplementary
Answer**

All future surface treatment schemes will have a maximum acceptable time period between carrying-out the material laying operation and the road markings reinstatement operation built into the contract.

Item no 12.14

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question (1) How many applications have been received in each of the last five years for dropped kerb road occupation permits?

Answer (1) The number of applications for each of the last five years is shown the table below:

Year	Number of applications
2017	130
2018	126
2019	98
2020	97
2021	157

There have 112 to the end of September 2022.

Question (2) What is the target turnaround time for the applications for dropped kerb road occupation permits in terms of an application being received and a decision being issued?

Answer (2) There are currently no target turnaround times for processing applications for dropped kerb road occupation permits. This is because many sites are complicated by the presence of lampposts, parking bays, etc.

Question (3) What percentage of applications have been handled within this target turnaround time?

Answer (3) As noted above, there is no target turnaround time for processing applications.

Supplementary Question While there are no target times, can the Convener please clarify if records are kept of the time which has been taken to deal with individual dropped kerb permits?"

**Supplementary
Answer**

On average the Council receives 2000 Road Occupation applications a year and all applications are recorded on a spreadsheet which details the dates received and the date of issue of a permit.

Unfortunately, the different types of permit applications are not recorded separately. To gain the information requested an officer would need to manually go through all applications on an individual basis.

There are plans to introduce an on-line application and payment system for Permits which will automatically record the dates of initial application and date of issue of all Road Occupation Permits. These on line applications will be separated into the different types of permit types including Dropped Crossings in a 'drop down' menu format.

Item no 12.21

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question

What delay to the process of adopting City Plan 2030 does the Planning Convener understand would be caused by reconsidering the principles it sets out for development of purpose-built student accommodation, with regard to defining and tackling overconcentration of purpose-built student accommodation in particular areas of the city?

Answer

The proposed policy on student accommodation seeks to maximise opportunities for mixed use development including housing and affordable housing, to complement mixed communities.

Change to the proposed policy would trigger potential consultation and representation processes. This could result in the City Plan needing to be restarted under new legislation. The result would be a very significant delay to the eventual adoption of City Plan.

Supplementary Question

Given his answer, how does the planning convener intend to implement the Labour manifesto pledge to 'support effective planning restrictions on the number of purpose built student accommodation blocks within a community council area' (page 9, Edinburgh Labour manifesto 2022)?

Supplementary Answer

It is the goal of Edinburgh Labour to get the balance right between the need for accommodation for students as well as the urgent crisis regarding the need for buildings of other uses such as housing, City Plan 2030 is very much a step forward in this respect. Edinburgh Labour aims to deliver our manifesto pledges regarding Planning Policy when future development plans are brought forward over the next five years of Labour leadership of the Council.

Item no 12.29

QUESTION NO 29

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question

Further to his supplementary answer to my question at full council of 22 September 2022, can I give the council leader a further opportunity to answer the question: what were the reasons behind his changes to the Licensing Board, as agreed by full council on 26 May 2022?

Answer

The report detailing proposals for the appointment of members to Committees, Boards and Joint Boards, including the Licensing Board was presented to Council on 26 May 2022 (adjourned from 19 May 2022). The amendment to that report which outlined the political balance and membership of the Licensing Board was agreed with 32 votes.

Supplementary Question

Further to the answer to question 29 at Full Council on 27 October 2022, please can the Council Leader clarify why he has not answered the question, and when he intends to do so?

Supplementary Answer

An answer was provided to your question on appointments to the Licensing Board when you originally asked on 30 June 2022 and each time this was asked thereafter.

Item no 12.30

QUESTION NO 30

By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

- Question** (1) With regard to the kitchen upgrades at Trinity Primary School which started in April 2022, and which were initially due to be completed in August, but which are still ongoing, resulting in no warm lunches for pupils since 25 April 2022, what is the cause or causes of this delay?
- Answer** (1) The actual contract start date was 3 May 2022. The delays have principally been caused by previously unknown matters that were revealed when the intrusive works began, including the discovery of asbestos that had to be removed under licence; a defective roof structure over part of the kitchen area requiring the design and installation of steel beams; and the existing floor which was not expected to be removed resulting in design changes to the drainage system and installation. Works are now scheduled to complete on site by 11 November 2022.
- Question** (2) Which other schools are facing delays to kitchen upgrades?
- Answer** (2) None.
- Question** (3) What measures are being taken to ensure other schools are not facing similar delays and therefore disruptions to warm lunch provision?
- Answer** (3) While no other schools are facing similar delays, going forward, Catering Services are currently considering the use of a mobile kitchen unit to supply a limited hot service during larger projects should a similar situation arise in the future.
- Supplementary Question** If the 11 November deadline for use of the Trinity Primary School kitchen is not met, does the Convenor agree that an enhanced lunch menu should be in place for pupils at Trinity Primary from that date, given that they have been served the same sandwich lunch since April, and given that some pupils for whom school lunches are vitally important are therefore missing out on valuable nutrition?

**Supplementary
Answer**

We have received today (8 November) news from the contractor over that full demonstrations will be given on Monday 14th November with snagging being completed on Friday 11th so catering will take full possession of the kitchen from the 14th. This allows us a week of re-stocking the kitchen and being in a position to deliver a full service the following week.

Item no 12.31

QUESTION NO 31

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

- Question**
- (1)** Currie Community high School Swimming Pool
- a) When did the swimming pool at Currie Community High School close to pupils and the local community?
 - b) What were the reasons behind the closure?
 - c) When is the pool likely to re-open?

- Answer**
- (1)** The pool closed on 7th April 2022 following the failure of the (asbestos clad) calorifier in the male changing rooms.

Works relating to the licenced removal of asbestos, the calorifier replacement and building fabric re-instatement will be completed by 24th October. Separately, defects to tiling around the pool, situated outside the changing room and shower area are required and due to lead times on the fabrication of the pool tiles, this is scheduled to be completed 14th – 17th November.

There is also a high-level window which has been broken that will need to be replaced, this is made from toughened glass and is currently safe. There will be a requirement to clean and disinfect the pool and we would look to carry out the installation of a new window during this time.

- Question**
- (2)** Wester Hailes High School Swimming Pool
- a) When did the swimming pool at Wester Hailes High School close for maintenance on lighting?
 - b) Why is the lighting work taking so long to repair?
 - c) When is the pool likely to re-open?

Answer

- (2) a) The pool was initially closed on 13 June 2022 for necessary lighting repairs at high level to the pool area and consisted of the replacement of lamps, and associated control equipment.
- b) While the pool lighting has been concluded there is a separate and unconnected repair being carried out following leaks in the ceiling space affecting the male and female changing rooms. This also required licenced asbestos removal works prior to the subsequent repair and reinstatement works.
- c) The works to the changing rooms are scheduled for completion on 3rd November 2022.

Supplementary Question

Can I just confirm, for all the months that the swimming pools have been out of service in both Currie Community High School and Wester Hailes High School, that the pupils of both of these schools have had alternative swimming lessons in other swimming venues because it is essential for their health, fitness, exercise and wellbeing etc.

Supplementary Answer

Health and wellbeing is a priority within our schools and is addressed during P.E. through a range of sporting activities. As swimming is delivered in blocks over the school as part of the HWB programme it will be timetabled once the pools are re-opened.

Item no 12.32

QUESTION NO 32

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Question (1) Please could you tell me the number of recycling/garden waste bins that have been damaged by lorries when emptying residents bins per year and per ward for the previous 3 years?

Answer (1) This specific level of information is not collected. The Council does, however, hold information on the total number of new and replacement garden waste and recycling bins delivered in the last three years- this is tabulated below. The total number of replacement and new garden waste bins issued in each of the three years equates to less than 1% of our garden waste customer base.

Ward	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
01-Almond	31	42	68	141
02-Pentland Hills	24	38	39	101
03-Drum Brae/Gyle	21	22	41	84
04-Forth	12	31	15	58
05-Inverleith	16	24	27	67
06-Corstorphine/Murrayfield	22	27	63	112
07-Sighthill/Gorgie	12	20	33	65
08-Colinton/Fairmilehead	28	52	64	144
09-Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	15	13	18	46
10-Meadows/Morningside	8	13	22	43
11-City Centre	4	1	8	13
12-Leith Walk	2	5	5	12

13-Leith	4	2	3	9
14-Craigtinny/Duddingston	15	22	30	67
15-Southside/Newington	17	18	18	53
16-Liberton/Gilmerton	51	44	68	163
17-Portobello/Craigmillar	25	30	53	108
All Garden Waste Bins Delivered	307	404	575	1,286

Ward	2019	2020	2021	Total
01-Almond	62	116	181	359
02-Pentland Hills	67	95	124	286
03-Drum Brae/Gyle	28	64	117	209
04-Forth	45	79	95	219
05-Inverleith	29	50	62	141
06-Corstorphine/Murrayfield	33	75	81	189
07-Sighthill/Gorgie	53	87	120	260
08-Colinton/Fairmilehead	48	65	86	199
09-Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	30	51	54	135
10-Meadows/Morningside	22	45	58	125
11-City Centre	6	4	5	15
12-Leith Walk	14	12	10	36
13-Leith	10	22	23	55
14-Craigtinny/Duddingston	42	52	74	168
15-Southside/Newington	28	33	50	111
16-Liberton/Gilmerton	133	187	187	507
17-Portobello/Craigmillar	88	108	125	321

All Recycling Bins Delivered	738	1,145	1,452	3,335
-------------------------------------	------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Supplementary Question

There appears to be a steady rise or in some wards a dramatic increase in replacement garden waste bins - is there a particular reason for this? Has something changed recently with regards to these bins?

Supplementary Answer

There has been no change in the standard of the containers that has been purchased. All containers are sourced through Scotland Excel and manufactured to the European Standard for waste containers.

Item no 12.33

QUESTION NO 33

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

- Question** (1) What progress has been made in securing reliable and frequent bus services on routes 20, 63, and 68?
- Answer** (1) Contract extensions for 12 months have been secured from August 2022. A reduced frequency of service on routes 20 and 63 have been agreed to allow McGill's to operate the services more reliably within their available driver resource.
- Question** (2) It has been clear for many years that the vast majority of the residents of Ratho want a direct bus service re-instated into the centre of Edinburgh. For a lot of residents this service is essential for work and leisure. With two new large housing developments now in situ since the direct bus was stopped, what is the council doing to meet the needs of residents of Ratho in this regard?
- Answer** (2) A report on Supported Bus Services, including services 20, 63 and 68, is being prepared for Transport and Environment Committee in December.
- Question** (3) What discussions has the council had with regards to the First Bus services being sold to McGills?
- Answer** (3) I am pleased to be able to confirm that Officers have met with representatives from McGill's and have been reassured there is an ongoing commitment to fulfil the terms of the current contracts. McGill's have confirmed that they are actively working on recruitment of drivers and are keen to return the service 20 and 63 to their original frequencies as soon as resource permits.
- Supplementary Question** Is Service 68 no longer running at present?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The Service 68 is operating to its full contracted schedule. The only issues we are aware of, and highlighted to us by McGill's, were two vehicle breakdowns week beginning 24th October.

QUESTION NO 35

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

Three bridges and two paths in the very popular Colinton and Craiglockhart Dells are now closed through lack of repair, and increasing frustrations are felt by local residents and city-wide visitors alike at the slow progress of reinstatement:

Question (1) What is the Convener doing to ensure these bridges and paths are repaired as a matter of urgency?

Answer (1) I understand the concerns of local residents and their frustration over the delay in reinstating these bridges. Council officers are progressing with the development of designs for the remediation of the Pipeline and Redhall Weir bridges. The final design of both schemes is expected to be completed in the next three months. It is expected that an award of contract will be made in this financial year (subject to there being market interest in undertaking these schemes). On award of contract, officers will update ward Councillors on the programmed completion dates.

Alongside these two schemes, interim repairs to the Redhall walled garden bridge are being planned with the aim of delivery this calendar year.

Question (2) In light of ongoing inflationary pressures affecting the construction industry can the Convener confirm costs for repair of the Redhall Weir Bridge and the Pipeline Bridge are still within budget?

Answer (2) The original budget for remediation of these two bridges was £121,000. Given the pressures in the industry, the estimate has been revised up to £180,000. This will be contained with the Parks and Greenspace capital investment programme for 2022/23.

Question (3) Given three years have now passed since the Redhall Bridge was closed can the Convener confirm the timescales for its re-instatement?

- Answer** (3) See answer 1 above.
- Question** (4) What steps is the Convener taking to make sure systems are put in place to avoid having so many paths and crossing points of the Water of Leith out of action at the same time.
- Answer** (4) A survey of all bridges in parks and greenspaces has recently been completed. The information from this will be used to develop plans for future repair, replacement and, if applicable, rationalisation of bridges within the estate.
- Officers are prioritising the repair and reopening of the Redhall walled garden bridge in order to allow a crossing point over the Water of Leith for the local community in advance of the more significant remediation schemes to the other two bridges.
- Supplementary Question** In light of the continuing, frustrating and at time inexplicable drifting of timescales, Ward Councillors are finding it increasingly difficult to respond to questions from the public with any kind of integrity so is the Convener prepared to organise a public meeting so Officers can explain themselves to residents?
- Supplementary Answer** I am happy to organise a meeting of Ward Councillors, Community Council representatives and officers.

QUESTION NO 39

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

In response to increased instances of flooding across the city from extreme heavy rainfall events, and complaints from residents, the flood prevention team acknowledged the serious issue and said, in 2021:

- The Council and Scottish Water are collaborating through a drainage partnership, which also encompasses SEPA to address these issues together.
- The Council is working closely with Scottish Water to develop surface water management plans, which identify the most critical areas in this city for flooding.
- It is not feasible or practical to design road drainage or sewers to cope with extreme events until there is a better understanding of the extent of the problem across the city.

Question (1) When will the drainage partnership be reporting their findings to Council?

Answer (1) It is not currently anticipated that the Drainage Partnership will report its findings to the Council. The partnership is a forum which allows the partners to share data and identify areas of high flood risk and to work together to develop interventions.

As previously agreed by Transport and Environment Committee, an update report on the implementation of the Council's Vision for Water Management is expected to be provided to Committee in the Spring 2023.

Question (2) Have the most critical areas in this city for flooding been identified?

Answer (2) Flood risk areas across the city have been identified and mapping is being developed to better understand this. We are aware of historical flooded and at-risk areas identified by the SEPA flood maps. Whilst critical areas can be identified, this can vary depending on localised storms as has been seen over the last 4 years.

Question (3) What steps are being taken to understand the extent of the problem across the city?

Answer (3) The Council's Flood Prevention Team has been leading on the development of Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) for the whole council area. This will identify areas of the city at particular risk of flooding and develop mitigation measures for the effective management of surface water, where practicable.

The Council has started the process of designing the above ground changes required to help lower the risk of flooding working with Scottish Water. These studies are known as 'Blue -Green Neighbourhoods' and also address the Nature Emergency, 20 minute neighbourhoods work and improvements for active travel. As yet, there is no funding for these interventions.

Scottish Water are also developing studies to analyse impact from sewer flooding. Three catchment areas have been identified as the highest risk. Studies on the first catchment area, Craigmyle, has begun. Scottish Water's catchment flood managers also consider sources of flooding and wider surface water management in these areas. The other two highest risk catchments (Morningside and Oxgangs) will follow.

These studies being carried out by the Council and Scottish Water are being done in collaboration, with input from SEPA, and will be used to develop interventions for the management of flood risk.

Question (4) When will suggested reporting on a strategy for the Blue/Green Infrastructure in the City come before Committee or the Council?

Answer (4) The Vision for Water Management was approved by Transport and Environment Committee on 12 November 2020. As mentioned in answer 1, an update on the Vision will be presented to Committee in Spring 2023.

Supplementary Question When is this anticipated completion date for this mapping development?

Supplementary Answer Mapping to improve understanding of, and publicise flood risk areas is constantly under development and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. In addition to the projects previously mentioned, SEPA are currently refreshing their national surface water flood maps using the most up-to-date data on current and future rainfall, together with local input from local authorities including the City of Edinburgh Council. The Council is unaware of when this new mapping will be available to the public.

Item no 12.40

QUESTION NO 40

By Councillor Doggart for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022

- Question** (1) How many “Fitness to Teach” referrals have been made by City of Edinburgh Council in each of the last 10 years to the GTCS?
- Answer** (1) We are checking our archives given you are seeking information over the last 10 years and we will commit to bringing this information to committee members within the next week.
- Question** (2) How many “Fitness to Teach” referrals were made by members of the public to GTCS in each of the last 10 years in respect of teachers employed by City of Edinburgh Council?
- Answer** (2) We do not hold this information as it is held by the GTCS. We have requested this information from them but they are treating it as a Freedom of Information Request. Once the information is provided to us, we will ensure this is passed on to members.
- Question** (3) When will the GTCS review of the “Fitness to Teach” referral process in City of Edinburgh Council be completed and when will the results of that review be presented to the ECF Committee?
- Answer** (3) There is no such review underway. We have reached out to GTCS to discuss this.
- Question** (4) Have officers completed a review of current processes in relation to GTSC referrals and if so, when?

- Answer** (4) No formal review has been instigated. Andrew Kerr and Amanda Hatton met the Chief Executive and Registrar of GTCS on 4 February 2022 following a letter to Andrew Kerr dated 13 January 2022. There has been further correspondence between Amanda Hatton and the Chief Executive of the Care Inspectorate. It was agreed that GTCS will copy all fitness to teach information requests to Andrew and Amanda going forward. We also have development meetings with the GTCS every 4-6 months.
- Question** (5) Has City of Edinburgh Council ceased using Non-Disclosure Agreements in relation to teachers leaving the Council's employment to alleviate the GTCS's concern expressed in the Chief Executive's letter dated 16 February 2022 to the City of Edinburgh Council's Chief Executive? If so, what was the date of the last NDA
- Answer** (5) Officers are not aware of any Non-Disclosure Agreements this calendar year in relation to teachers. The Service is unable to attest or undertake to confirm that officers will not use Non-Disclosure Agreements in relation to teachers in future.
- Supplementary Question** In response to the answer given to question 3 and the GTCS letter of 16 February, in which it was suggested "it would be helpful to carry out a focused review of CEC fitness to teach referrals to help us both identify learning to improve", could the convener offer commitment to ensuring it is done and explain why the review is still not underway nine months after the original letter?
- Supplementary Answer** Amanda Hatton, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services responded to the letter of 16 February 2022 from the Chief Executive/Registrar of GTCS on 18 March 2022. Amanda advised that colleagues within her service were making referrals as and when required in line with the GTCS referral process and did not commit to a review at that time. Amanda asked GTCS for comparator referral data from other local authorities but to date this has not been received. Representatives from the Council continue to meet GTCS representatives regularly and will once again ask for the comparator data.

This page is intentionally left blank