

# Questions and Answers

## City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 24th November, 2022

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

### Questions and Answers

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# Agenda Annex

## Item no 10.1

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question** (1) Following the conclusion of the ETRO processes, is it his expectation that a standard TRO consultation process will be undertaken for making any of the 'travelling safely' schemes permanent?

**Answer** (1) Under the regulations which were introduced in November 2021, there is no requirement for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process to make the measures permanent.

Under these new regulations, the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) can be made permanent if approved by the appropriate Committee.

The transition from the ETRO could be as per the original ETRO scheme or with amendments in response to the findings during the ETRO monitoring period.

However, it is possible there are ETROs and TROs in place across the city (not limited to those relating to Travelling Safely) which may need to be reconciled in to one overarching TRO. In these circumstances, the overarching TRO would need to follow the normal statutory process for such orders.

**Question** (2) What communications plan is proposed in order to alert residents to the need to submit comments to the 'travelling safely' ETROs within the first six months?

**Answer** (2) Notification, with an accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) has been sent to all statutory consultees, Councillors and Community Councils. In addition, the Council website has been updated, providing a link to the ETRO documents, a press release has been issued and social media communications have been used to communicate more widely.

STV News carried a report on the consultation - <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/controversial-temporary-spaces-for-people-covid-scheme-to-be-retained-for-18-months-in-edinburgh>

## Item no 10.2

### QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Fullerton for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

The Convener will recall that the SNP/LABOUR Coalition budget was agreed by Council this year. It allocated £1.072m for deep cleaning of the city, graffiti removal, street cleaning, a City Centre programme of works and work across every Ward in the City as well as hot washing equipment for city centre closes.

**Question** (1) Can the Convener confirm that a minimum of £50,000 will be spent in each of the wards if required, and more where required, with the balance going further towards the City Centre programme of works?

**Answer** (1) When I inherited the Convenership in May 2023, Officers Confirmed to me that street-cleansing in Edinburgh was underfunded in our Capital. I was left in no doubt that a single payment of circa £1m would do little to meet the aspirations of residents. We have a duty to be honest about this, and I am committed working with all of Edinburgh's political parities to secure the funding this service needs.

Although there was no spend commitment for individual Wards, £750,000 has been allocated to a street care team and this team has been working across the city since May and will have covered all wards by the end of March 2023. The team started in the East of the city and are moving West. Further information on this programme of work is available from the Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services. It is not possible to breakdown the cost by ward.

In addition, £250,000 has been allocated to a City Centre deep clean and this has been tendered and is in the process of being evaluated and awarded. A further £72k was allocated to purchasing a hot wash machine by the end of 2022/23.

**Question** (2) Can the Convener give details of when the work on the Wards will begin?

- Answer** (2) As per above, work outside of the City Centre area has already started.
- Question** (3) Can the Convener confirm if the 0.25m to set up a Neighbourhood Action Team, to tackle hot spot areas of unkempt land, areas with dumping, vegetation and other issues to improve the look and feel of areas in need of additional attention has been set up and when it was?
- Answer** (3) This initiative has not yet commenced. However, Councillors will shortly be contacted to seek their views on priority areas within their ward which require additional attention. This information will be collated, and a programme of work created.
- Question** (4) Can the Convener give details of a) what has been carried out so far by the Action Team; b) give ward details; and c) supply a timetable and list of work scheduled to be carried out to achieve “the look and feel of areas in need of additional attention”?
- Answer** (4) See answer 3.
- Question** (5) Can the Convener confirm that local Ward Members will be consulted on work to be carried out?
- Answer** (5) Yes.

## Item no 12.3

### QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Work for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

I asked the Council Leader to apologise to McCrae's Battalion Trust in September Council and again in October Council and I've been informed by the Trust that as of November 9th no apology has been forthcoming.

This is an important ceremony of commemoration for those who lost their lives from our City and it means a great deal to communities in Edinburgh, not least with the supporters of Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian Football Clubs, respectively.

**Question** (1) When will the Council Leader finally apologise for his Administration's failure to attend? And will he attach the apology letter sent (with the date) to McCrae's Battalion Trust in the answer?

**Answer** (1) A letter has been sent by the Lord Provost and a copy is attached. I have offered to meet McCrae's Battalion Trust.

**Question** (2) Will the Labour Group repay the public purse for travel and accommodation that was booked and failed to be used by Labour's last-minute non-attendance?

**Answer** (2) This was a Council Civic event funded from the appropriate Council budget.

**Question** (3) Will the Council Leader commit to this never happening again? And ensure that a civic leader for the City, Lord Provost, Depute Provost or Bailie attend next year's commemoration?

**Answer** (3) Yes, absolutely.

*Robert Aldridge*  
*The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh*

John Dalglish  
Secretary  
McCrae's Battalion Trust  
17 Juniper Avenue  
Juniper Green  
EDINBURGH  
EH14 5EG

16 November 2022

Dear John

**CONTALMAISON 2022**

I write in relation to the planned visit to Contalmaison in June 2022 by Councillor Lesley Marion Cameron, the Depute Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Council.

I wanted firstly to apologise to you for Councillor Cameron being unable to attend the event. This led to the City of Edinburgh not having representation at Contalmaison, where we have proudly taken part for many years, supporting the McCrae's Battalion Trust.

Due to a number of reasons, including attempting to re arrange alternative travel around a busy Council meeting, Councillor Cameron found it impossible to arrange this in time.

Please accept my sincere apologies for this and my assurances that I have spoken to Councillor Cameron.

I will be honoured if requested to ensure representation on any other involvement with Contalmaison and the McCrae's Battalion Trust.

Yours sincerely

**ROBERT ALDRIDGE**  
**LORD PROVOST**

Cc Councillor Cammy Day, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council

## Item no 10.4

### QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

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

### Question

Pursuant to the supplementary answer given to question 12.7 on 27 October 2022 and, given the decision was taken not to carry out the works in the 2022 school holidays and to defer to the 2023 school holidays, why was the resurfacing listed as a project for delivery in the 2022/23 operating year?

### Answer

The capital investment report includes schemes which have been selected using the prioritisation system within the capital investment strategy. It is always intended that the schemes will be delivered within the financial year reported. However, when this is reported to Committee, detailed work plans for delivering each scheme are not always fully developed.

In the case of Station Road, once the detailed design was developed and the traffic impact of the scheme was fully understood, it was decided that the most effective time to carry out this scheme was during the school summer holidays due to the conflict with three schools.

Station Road will be carried forward and works will take place in summer 2023.

## Item no 10.5

### QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Campbell for answer  
by the Convener of the Housing,  
Homelessness and Fair Work  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 24 November 2022**

Can the Convener provide:

**Question** (1) The number of void properties on the 31 October 2019, 2020 and 2021 (or nearest snapshot data available).

**Answer** (1) The following figures are the number of rent loss voids as at the 31 March each year based on the Scottish Housing Regulator technical guidance for voids.

Rent loss void figures exclude new build homes awaiting final handover, homes in the disposal process, those that are pre-allocated following advertising or being used as decant accommodation.

2019 = 664

2020 = 864

2021 = 823

**Question** (2) The number of properties that are currently void.

**Answer** (2) As of 31 October 2022, there were 722 rent loss voids. Improvements are currently being made to the categorisation, tracking and reporting on status of empty homes on the IT system from the date they become vacant, through the repair, advertising and letting process.

**Question** (3) The average void length for 2019, 2020, 2021 and this year so far, and the longest current void length.

- Answer** (3) The average void length (time taken to let) as reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) in the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC):
- 2019/20 – 29 days
- 2020/21 – 64 days
- 2021/22 – 76 days
- 2022/23 (to end of October 22) – 97 days
- Question** (4) A breakdown of all void properties including address, number of bedrooms and current length of time void compiled by ward.
- Answer** (4) Void property data is not currently monitored or reported by Ward.
- Question** (5) A breakdown of annual rent loss due to void properties for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and a projected rent loss for 22/23.
- Answer** (5) Figures are provided on the void rent loss for the period homes are empty as a percentage of the total rent due and the cash value. These figures are reported to the to SHR as part of ARC):
- 2019/20 – 0.71% (£712,854)
- 2020/21 – 0.93% (£944,521)
- 2021/22 – 2.0% (£2,044,656)
- 2022/23 – estimated based on forecasted debit/void rent loss to end of October 2022 – 1.4% (£1,544,487)

## Item no 12.6

### QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

To ask the Housing Convener:

**Question** (1) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for homelessness seeking a four bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?

**Answer** (1) Under the Choice based letting system, operated by Council and the majority of Housing Associations in Edinburgh, the waiting time to be housed or to get a move to another home is dependent on how actively applicants bid for available homes, the areas/property types they are prepared or can consider and how often homes become available that meet households needs.

Households with a silver priority for homelessness are expected to bid for three homes a week if there are homes that meet their household needs. Applicants with an overcrowding priority are not required to actively bid each week but the priority waiting time that can accrue is capped at 365 days.

The figures on the average waiting time in days are for lets during 2021/22 as applicable.

The waiting time for households with silver priority for homelessness to get a four bedroom home was 1,222 days.

**Question** (2) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for overcrowding seeking a four bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?

**Answer** (2) No four bedroom homes were let to households with Overcrowding priority during 2021/22.

**Question** (3) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for homelessness seeking a five bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?

- Answer** (3) The waiting time for households with silver priority for homelessness to get a five bedroom home was 1,640 days.
- Question** (4) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for overcrowding seeking a five bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?
- Answer** (4) No five bedroom homes were let to households with Overcrowding priority during 2021/22.
- Question** (5) What is average waiting time for households with Gold priority seeking a four bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?
- Answer** (5) The waiting time for households with Gold priority to get a four bedroom home was 243 days.
- Question** (6) What is average waiting time for households with Gold priority seeking a five bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?
- Answer** (6) No five bedroom homes were let to households with Overcrowding priority during 2021/22.
- Question** (7) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of households with Silver for homelessness are seeking a four bedroom property?
- Answer** (7) As of 14 November 2022, there were 4,958 applications on Edinburgh's common housing register (EdIndex) with a silver priority status due to homelessness. 242 (4.8%) were nominally eligible for a four-bedroom home.
- Question** (8) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of households with Silver for homelessness are seeking a five bedroom property?
- Answer** (8) As of 14 November 2022, there were 4,958 applications on Edinburgh's common housing register (EdIndex) with a silver priority status due to homelessness. 76 (1.5%) were nominally eligible for a five-bedroom home.
- Question** (9) How many (raw figure) four bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council's programme and that of RSL partners?

- Answer** (9) The Council and RSL affordable housebuilding pipeline is submitted to Scottish Government each year as the “Strategic Housing Investment Programme” (SHIP), which covers the next five years. Details of property sizes do not feature within the SHIP because the majority of projects will still be subject to planning consent, and the number, mix and proposed sizes of properties can change during the planning process.
- Scottish Government’s planning regulations require that a Local Development Plan is submitted by the Council and approved by Scottish Government. Part of the supporting documentation for the LDP is The Council’s “Edinburgh Design Guidance”, which requires that 20% of homes in new planning applications are for family housing, with three bedrooms or more.
- Of those affordable homes currently under construction in the city, there are 12 with four bedrooms. 6 being developed by the Council and 6 being developed by RSLs.
- Question** (10) How many (raw figure) five bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and that of RSL partners?
- Answer** (10) Please see answer to Q9. There are currently no 5 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city.
- Question** (11) What proportion of properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and that of RSL partners are four bedroom?
- Answer** (11) Of those affordable homes currently under construction in the city 1% are four bedrooms.
- Question** (12) What proportion of properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and that of RSL partners are five bedroom?
- Answer** (12) There are currently no 5 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city.
- Question** (13) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of four bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and of RSL partners are wheelchair accessible?

**Answer** (13) The Housing Service commissioned a study into accessible housing to increase understanding of accessible and wheelchair housing in the city and to inform future need. An indicative cross tenure wheelchair housing target, informed by the Accessible Housing Study, is included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023/24-2027/28, which will be presented to Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 1 December 2022.

The City of Edinburgh Council was one of the first local authorities to have a Wheelchair Accessible Homes target; with 10% of all Council social rented homes being wheelchair accessible. A 10% wheelchair accessible target has also been in place across the grant funded element of the affordable housing programme.

There are currently no wheelchair accessible 4 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city

**Question** (14) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of five bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council's programme and of RSL partners are wheelchair accessible?

**Answer** (14) There are currently no wheelchair accessible 5 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city.

### QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

Following the closure of the Edinburgh Cycle Hire Scheme in September 2021 the City has been without a bikeshare scheme despite the previous popularity of the scheme during its operation.

The Energy Savings Trust manages Transport Scotland funding which enable the eBike Grant Fund for 2022/23 which under **Category B** offers up to £200,000 per application towards large-scale fleets of pool bikes or public bikeshare/hire schemes and promoting large scale uptake of ebikes.

These funds were available to local authorities and applications closed on 18 November 2022.

#### Question

Has the Council applied to the fund to help enable the reinstatement of a Bikeshare scheme and, if not, why not?

#### Answer

The Council has not applied to the fund for the following reasons:

- 1) The fund is solely for e-bikes, adapted bikes, and trailers and is not available for general (non e-bike) bikeshare schemes.
- 2) The fund covers capital expenditure. Unfortunately the main issue with re-establishing a bikeshare scheme is not capital funding, but ongoing revenue support. Such support is even more necessary for e-bikes with their higher maintenance and operating costs.
- 3) The fund provides up to 50% funding. The Council's Active Travel budget is fully committed and additional match funding at the necessary scale is not available.

## Item no 12.8

### QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

#### Question

Residents in the New Town who have been working on the alternatives to communal bins and how to increase recycling found a visit to the Biffa recycling centre most informative in shaping their proposals which are currently being trialled. They were concerned to hear that officers and councillors had not visited this recycling plant and I have committed to visit the plant to learn more about recycling. Will the Convener join me and encourage officers to join us on a trip to see the Biffa recycling plant?

#### Answer

I would be delighted to tour the recycling centre with you.

Elected Members and officers have visited the facility in the past and officers continue to do so as part of the contract monitoring arrangements which are in place with Biffa. If any Elected Member wishes to visit the facility, please contact the Place Directorate mailbox ([place.directorate@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:place.directorate@edinburgh.gov.uk)) and a visit will be arranged.

### QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question (1) Report 7.6 Cleaning Up Edinburgh – Motion by Councillor Whyte – Committee Meeting 6 October 2022**

Can the Convener confirm whether the actions described in the above report as:

“operational changes being made by officers within the existing approved budget in order to deliver improvements in the performance of the cleansing service”

have been implemented by the service?

**Answer (1)** I recognise the importance of dealing with Edinburgh’s street cleanliness problem so I am happy to confirm that Officers within the Neighbourhood Environment service are working on delivering these actions as a priority.

The first step in separating core cleansing from more specialist services is to merge the three separate depots in the east of the city into a single location. It is hoped that this will be completed by mid-December.

In addition:

- The recruit of an Improvement Manager will shortly commence;
- Residential sweeping routes have been developed and will be introduced on a phased basis;
- Specialist rapid response vehicles have been sourced and are expected to be delivered in February 2023;
- A Cleanliness Improvement Board has been established. This will meet monthly;

- Technical support has been identified to progress activities such as organising Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) to allow more efficient cleaning in areas with on-street parking; and
- City Centre barrow beat routes are being re-designed to better reflect service demand.

**Question** (2) For any action that has not yet been implemented please provide a date when it is expected that implementation will take place?

**Answer** (2) Updates will be provided to Committee via the Cleanliness update. Remaining dates for implementation will be included in this update

**Question** (3) Overall, what difference have these actions made to date on street cleanliness?

**Answer** (3) The latest LEAMS audit result has not yet been received. Once this is available, the results will be reported to Committee as part of the Cleanliness update reports requested by Committee.

## Item no 12.10

### QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for  
answer by the Convener of the  
Transport and Environment  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 24 November 2022**

#### **Question**

Further to the supplementary answer given to question 12.8 on 27 October 2022, can the Convener confirm what that maximum time will be?

#### **Answer**

I indicated in my answer to Council in October that details of the scheme will be communicated no later than 9 December 2022, and I am happy to confirm that Officers are still on track to meet that target.

## Item no 12.11

### QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor O'Neill for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question** (1) How many applications has the Edinburgh Access Panel looked at and/or commented on in the past 5 years?

**Answer** (1) Each month an architect member of the Panel reviews applications received. From these, the Panel consider around 5 or 6 proposals each month. Over the five-year period it is estimated the Panel will have looked at approximately 300 proposals. Where the Panel wishes to comment, it feeds back on Planning applications

**Question** (2) Has the Edinburgh Access Panel given any feedback on the process for disabled people engaging with planning consultations?

**Answer** (2) The Access Panel has not recently advised the Planning service on any of the service's consultations and the process for disabled people engaging with them.

**Question** (3) A report to Planning Committee on 3 February 2021, "Accessibility of New Buildings" states 'The Edinburgh Access Panel is supported by Council officers.' What exactly does this support entail?

**Answer** (3) The Panel is supported by one planning officer and one building standards officer, as well as representation from the Placemaking and Mobility team. In addition, other Council officers are invited to discuss specific issues with the Panel. The Council also supports the Access Panel by providing a room in Waverley Court for their meetings.

### QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Davidson for answer  
by the Convener of the Education,  
Children and Families Committee at a  
meeting of the Council on 24  
November 2022**

As at the end of October there were also 302 Ukrainian children in temporary accommodation attending CEC schools for which there is no agreed funding stream:

**Question** (1) Can the Convener advise what levers the Council has to move these children to settled status?

**Answer** (1) To avoid confusion with temporary accommodation funded by the Council for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, accommodation for Ukrainian arrivals who have not yet moved on to settled accommodation will be referred to as bridging accommodation.

Bridging accommodation, predominantly sourced and funded by the Scottish Government, is provided to all Ukrainian arrivals who need it. There is now a combined Council and Scottish Government team to coordinate matching Ukrainian arrivals to accommodation across Edinburgh, neighbouring local authorities, and other areas across Scotland. Options available are hosted accommodation, private sector leasing and a very limited amount of social housing.

We are currently able to claim one off funding for the provision of education for settled Ukrainian children i.e. those who have moved on from bridging accommodation. We are required to submit these returns quarterly, which we have, but we are still awaiting confirmation of the funding attached to these returns

The Council is in dialogue with both COSLA and the Scottish Government and are seeking agreement that the education tariff be drawn down from point of arrival to fund education placements for young people in both settled and bridging accommodation. This recognises that education

provision commences as soon as possible on arrival, irrelevant of accommodation type, unlike the resettlement tariff which is intended to support the longer term integration.

It is proposed that COSLA officers should seek agreement for the process of accessing this funding from UKG/SG as soon as possible. COSLA officers should also continue to work with SG to get reimbursement of the additional costs for providing education as part of the Super Sponsor Scheme which would not be part of the education tariff (e.g., transport from ships to schools) as part of that ongoing process.

- Question**            **(2)** If the answer to 1) is none what steps has the administration taken to push the UK and Scottish Governments to provide funding for the Education of these children whilst they achieve settled status?
- Answer**             **(2)** N/A

### QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Davidson for answer  
by the Convener of the Education,  
Children and Families Committee at a  
meeting of the Council on 24  
November 2022**

At the October meeting of Full Council, an amended motion was passed requiring reinstatement of restricted YouTube access for S4 – S6 pupils on 8<sup>th</sup> November if no solution had been found to the issues experienced before the half term break.

Can the Convener please confirm the following:

- Question** (1) Was a solution found by 8<sup>th</sup> November?
- Answer** (1) Yes, a solution to provide safe and appropriate access to YouTube from Empowered Learning 1to1 iPads was found by 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- Question** (2) If the answer to (1) is **yes**, when was access reinstated and if over a period of rollout please provide details of what year groups / schools were reinstated on each date that followed?
- Answer** (2) Following positive feedback from small groups of user testers on 8<sup>th</sup> November, the rollout began at Wester Hailes High School on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. CGI support staff were deployed to the school to actively monitor and ensure a smooth rollout. Following a positive experience at WHHS, the rollout moved to James Gillespie's High School, Clovenstone Primary School and Woodlands Special School on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. CGI support staff were deployed to these locations to further monitor.

Following positive experiences at these locations, the configuration was made available to all year groups and all devices with 1to1 Empowered Learning iPads on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> November. Staff and Students using 1to1 Empowered Learning iPads all have the new configuration available to them. Staff and Students must turn on their iPad, connect to WiFi and then restart their device in order for the configuration to take effect.

- Question** (3) If the answer to (1) is **no**, that restricted access (as per motion) provided to all senior pupils?
- Answer** (3) N/A
- Question** (4) As of the date that this question is answered, what percentage of pupils still do not have access reinstated and if greater than 0%, please provide a timeline of how these will be resolved.
- Answer** (4) As of 15<sup>th</sup> November, the solution has been rolled out to 100% of all 1to1 Empowered Learning iPads with 91% (28456) having successfully engaged the new configuration. The remaining 9% will get the solution when the iPad is turned on, connected to WiFi and restarted it will engage the new configuration. The need to do this has been communicated to all schools.
- Question** (5) Considering the motion at full council raised concern about the lack of communication with members, why have there not been regular updates issued to either all elected members or at least all members of the Education Committee?
- Answer** (5) Full communication on the rollout and relevant instructions were distributed to all schools. We acknowledge that Members could have been included in this communication and apologise for this omission.

### QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

Like other councillors the Convener will be aware of public concern about street cleanliness in Edinburgh and the views of members of the public that the Council does not adhere to its own requirements regarding street cleaning.

As an example, from my ward, I understand that the Council's cleansing regime for Willowbrae Road and London Road at Jock's Lodge stipulates a daily cleanse with the adjacent side streets being cleansed on a weekly basis.

Can the Convener confirm:

**Question** (1) That this is the Council's agreed schedule for street cleaning in this area?

**Answer** (1) Like other Councillors you will be aware of public concern about the resources available to the Council and how this means that many teams are not as resilient as we may wish.

This is the schedule the service aims to work to. However, as reported to Transport and Environment Committee on [6 October 2022](#), officers have identified the lack of resilience in the service for planned and unplanned staff absence and how this influences prioritisation of tasks and ability to deliver the schedule.

**Question** (2) Whether and how often in the last three years this schedule has been met?

**Answer** (2) This information over the period of three years is, regrettably, not available. However, I have asked officers to provide an overview of the past few months performance and for this to be shared directly with Ward members when available.

**Question** (3) Whether he believes the Council has provided appropriate resource to the service to meet its own standards as set out in statute?

**Answer** (3) This was addressed in the Cleaning Up Edinburgh report which was presented to Transport and Environment Committee on 6 October 2022.

Personally I feel that many teams right across the Council do not have the resources needed to meet the reasonable expectations of the public. Street cleanliness is no exception to that.

**Question** (4) What actions he believes can and should be taken to improve management and resourcing of the service to ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations in regard to its own street cleansing schedule at this and other locations throughout the City?

**Answer** (4) The actions to improve cleanliness in the city were included in the October report. The actions which can be contained within the existing service budget are currently being progressed. The level of funding required to deliver a fully effective street cleansing service was also outlined in this report, and I am keen to work with other parties to ensure this level of investment is found.

## Item no 12.15

### QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Jones for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

#### **Question**

Please could the Convener provide the traffic monitoring data used for the Brunstane Road ETRO from December 2021 to the current period.

#### **Answer**

Yes, all relevant data will be included in a report on the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Brunstane Road which is being prepared for Transport and Environment Committee on 8 December 2022.

## Item no 12.16

### QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

- Question** (1) How many outstanding housing repairs are there?
- Answer** (1) There were 3,829 outstanding housing repairs as at 16 November 2022. This includes repairs where appointments are scheduled to take place over the next 4 weeks.
- Question** (2) Of the total identified at (1), please provide a breakdown of how long they have been logged (grouped into <1mth, 1-3mths, 3-6mths, 6-9mths, 9-12mths and > 1 year?
- Answer** (2)
- Jobs raised in November 2022 – 1,405.
  - Jobs raised between August and October 2022 – 1,486
  - Jobs raised between May and July 2022 - 507
  - Jobs raised between Feb and April 2022 – 350
  - Jobs raised between Dec 2021 and Jan 2022 - 81
- Question** (3) Of the total identified at (1), how many of these relate to heating, hot water, cooking facilities, mould prevention or other repairs that affect a safe, healthy and warm home, and which may be resulting in increased cost-of-living costs for families awaiting repairs?

- Answer** (3) There are 780 in total.
- Window Repairs- 375.
  - Dampness – 177
  - Heating – 0
  - Glazing – 217
  - Sheet roofing – 11
  - Cooking facilities – The Council does not repair cooking facilities
- Question** (4) Of those identified at (1) which are greater than 1 month and which affect 'cost of living' pressures, please provide details of how this backlog is being addressed.
- Answer** (4) The actions being progressed include:
- Recruitment for additional in-house Craft resources are ongoing.
  - Flexible use of Craft resources within work types and areas.
  - Additional working hours are available to volunteers.
  - Support with resources from procured subcontractors
- Question** (5) For outstanding housing repairs, not impacting 'cost of living' pressures, and are greater than 3mths, please provide details of how this backlog is being addressed.
- Answer** (5) See answer 4.

## Item no 12.17

### QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question** (1) How many outstanding street lighting repairs are there?

**Answer** (1) Of the 65,121 streetlighting in the City of Edinburgh, 413 are currently faulty. This equates to 0.63% of the streetlights in the city, and is a significant improvement on previous performance.

**Question** (2) Of the total identified at (1), please provide a breakdown of how long they have been logged (grouped into <1mth, 1-3mths, 3-6mths, 6-9mths, 9-12mths and > 1 year?)

**Answer** (2) The table below shows the number of faults by the time periods requested:

Age	Faults
< 1 Month	126
1 - 3 Months	106
3 - 6 Months	43
6 - 9 Months	42
9 - 12 Months	41
> 12 Months	55

**Question** (3) Of those which are greater than 3 months, please provide a total per ward.

**Answer**

- (3) The table below shows the number of outstanding faults (older than 3 months) by ward:

	<b>Street Lights</b>	<b>Faults</b>	<b>% of faults</b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	6,257	9	0.14%
<b>Ward 2</b>	4,448	8	0.18%
<b>Ward 3</b>	4,375	8	0.18%
<b>Ward 4</b>	4,052	12	0.30%
<b>Ward 5</b>	3,898	7	0.18%
<b>Ward 6</b>	3,329	5	0.15%
<b>Ward 7</b>	4,550	10	0.22%
<b>Ward 8</b>	3,894	4	0.10%
<b>Ward 9</b>	2,382	8	0.34%
<b>Ward 10</b>	2,630	7	0.27%
<b>Ward 11</b>	4,572	44	0.96%
<b>Ward 12</b>	2,025	3	0.15%
<b>Ward 13</b>	2,371	14	0.59%
<b>Ward 14</b>	3,109	17	0.55%
<b>Ward 15</b>	3,074	6	0.20%
<b>Ward 16</b>	5,690	6	0.11%
<b>Ward 17</b>	4,465	13	0.29%
<b>Total</b>	65,121	181	0.28%

**Question**

- (4) Of those which are greater than 3 months please provide details of how this backlog is being addressed as we get into darker evenings and the impact this has on safe travel.

**Answer**

- (4) As there are various reasons for these faults, work is ongoing with various parties to them. This includes working with Scottish Power (to resolve historic power failures) and Edinburgh Trams (to fix faults along the Tram Route).

## Item no 12.18

### QUESTION NO 18

**By Councillor Flannery for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

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).'

**Question** (1) How many of these were EAL or TESOL posts?

**Answer** (1) **EAL Teacher:** 9 posts

**Bilingual Support Assistant** (Arabic, Farsi/Dari, Polish, Romanian, Ukrainian-Russian - in the EAL team): 10 posts

**ESOL Teacher:** 1 post

**Question** (2) How many of these were for Secondary Schools?

**Answer** (2) **EAL Teacher:** 5 posts

**ESOL Teacher:** 1 post

**Question** (3) How many of these were for Primary Schools?

**Answer** (3) **EAL teacher posts:** 4

**NB:** Bilingual Support Assistants work across primary and secondary schools.

**EAL (English as an Additional Language) teachers** advise and support schools on all aspects of meeting the needs of developing bilingual learners: learning teaching and assessment; personalised support; transitions; ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.

**ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teachers** deliver this subject / qualification as part of the school curriculum in some schools. Pupils can also study ESOL under the Schools College Partnership.

**Bilingual Support Assistants** provide targeted support to developing bilingual learners in the early stages of English language acquisition. They support development of English language skills using the home language and English; support access to the curriculum; advise on cultural issues.

### QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Beal for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question** (1) To ask the Leader of the Council what actions the Council is currently taking to restore the operation of the Edinburgh Filmhouse?

**Answer** (1) The Edinburgh Filmhouse was the primary asset of CMI (Centre for the Moving Image). As CMI is now in administration, the building that housed the Filmhouse at 88 Lothian Road is now on the market.

The Council continues to liaise closely on the matter, the Leader and the Convener of Culture and Communities are meeting weekly with Scottish Government and Creative Scotland/Scottish Screen colleagues to consider what might be possible depending on the outcome of the sale.

Common areas of concern/collaboration among these partners are:

- The future provision of cultural cinema for the residents of Edinburgh;
- The continuation of 75 years of Edinburgh's International Film Festival; and
- The continuation of the Filmhouse' education programme.

**Question** (2) To ask the Leader of the Council if he knows what actions the Scottish Government is taking to restore the operation of the Edinburgh Filmhouse and the Edinburgh Film Festival?

**Answer** (2) As noted above, the Leader and the Convener of Culture and Communities continue to meet weekly with Scottish Government colleagues.

The Leader has also written to the Chief Executive of Creative Scotland as well as the relevant Cabinet Secretary and MSP to reiterate commitment to working in partnership towards a positive future.



## Item no 12.20

### QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Beal for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

**Question** (1) To ask the Leader of the Council how many FTE employees are working on improving the efficiencies of processes in the Council?

**Answer** (1) We actively encourage all colleagues to identify and implement improvements to the way they work, these can vary in size from small incremental changes within teams to large scale service changes which require a formal organisational review. For the most part these changes do not involve additional FTE and are regarded as “part of the role”. Specifically in relation to roles whose primary focus is on change and quality improvements (by job title), there are approximately 86 FTE colleagues.

**Question** (2) To ask the Leader to give an indication of the number of these employees by department and indicative job titles?

**Answer** (2)

Service Area/ Job Title	FTE
<b>Education and Children Services</b>	
Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager	1
Quality Assurance Officer	4
Quality Improvement Education Officer	11.6
Quality Improvement Education Officer - Pre 5	8
Quality Improvement Manager	5
Quality Improvement Manager - Special Schools	0.972222222
Quality Improvement Officer	2
HOS Quality, Governance & Regulation & Depute Chief SWO	1
<b>Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	
EADP Change and Delivery Officer	1
Head Of Quality Improvement (NHS)	0
Strategy, Planning and Quality Manager	1
<b>Place</b>	
AMIS & Data Quality Support Officer	1
Systems, Quality and Performance Assistant	5
Systems, Quality and Performance Manager	1
Systems, Quality and Performance Officer	4.666666667

<b>Corporate Services</b>	
Change & Delivery Officer	10
Change and Delivery Manager	6
Head of Strategic Change and Delivery	1
ICT Lead (Change)	1
Lead Officer - Change and Delivery	1
Senior Change and Delivery Officer	18.72222222
Senior Planning and Quality Manager	1

## Item no 12.21

### QUESTION NO 21

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

#### **Question**

Further to his supplementary answer to my question at full council of 27 October 2022, can I repeat the question he has yet again failed to answer: what were the reasons behind his changes to the Licensing Board, as agreed by full council on 26 May 2022?

#### **Answer**

As noted above, the report which detailed the appointment of members to the Licensing Board was agreed at Council on 26 May 2022.

**QUESTION NO 22**

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question**

The meeting of full council in October 2020 agreed that officers would consult with stakeholders to develop a draft maintenance plan for the Council's footpaths, off-road paths and on-street cycle lanes. What is the progress of that plan, and when will it be presented to Transport and Environment Committee for a decision?

**Answer**

An update on the Council's approach to the maintenance of footpaths, off-road paths and on-street cycle lanes is being prepared for Transport and Environment Committee on 8 December 2022.

### QUESTION NO 23

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

#### Question

Did the council respond to the Scottish Government's recent consultation on Gaelic and Scots and Scottish Languages Bill? If so, what engagement with the Gaelic community took place before the response was submitted, and where is the response published?

#### Answer

The Council did not provide a response to this consultation.

This was not a consultation on a live Bill, but a prequel to a potential bill. It sought feedback on a series of commitments, including:

- to establish a new strategic approach to GME
- to explore the creation of a Gàidhealtachd
- to review the structure and functions of Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG)
- and to take action on the Scots language

The consultation document noted that “where primary legislation is needed for these, the commitment to a Scottish Languages Bill could serve as the legislative vehicle that will enable progress to be made with these commitments”.

Officers will aim to respond to a consultation on any future Bill. Members of the Gaelic Implementation Group will be offered to opportunity to contribute to the response, which would be considered by the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

### QUESTION NO 24

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

The signage for the tram extension to Newhaven has been installed in English only, despite a previous commitment (council questions, November 2021) to consider bilingual Gaelic/English signage, and despite council policy (Edinburgh Council Gaelic Plan) that bilingual signage should be considered when new signage is installed.

**Question** (1) What was the additional cost of installing bilingual signage along the tram extension route?

**Answer** (1) The cost of the translation of the place names into Gaelic was £210 and this work was undertaken in 2021.

The cost of additional signs on the new tram stops is not known at this time.

**Question** (2) Why was this ruled out?

**Answer** (2) The new tram stops are designed to be the same as the stops on the existing line, so that when the new section is open it feels like one line. Currently Edinburgh Trams have signs in Gaelic on their website but only in English on the tram stops. This has been carried forward to the new design.

**Question** (3) When was the decision made to install monolingual signage?

**Answer** (3) The decision not to install Gaelic signage on the existing line was taken at a meeting of the Gaelic Implementation Group on 8 September 2021.

The signage on the Trams to Newhaven line has been installed to ensure consistency with the existing line. If Gaelic signage was installed on the line to Newhaven the Operator is likely to request that additional signage is installed on the existing line to ensure consistency, which would come at additional cost to the Council. I would be happy to discuss this with you as part of the 2023/24 budget discussions.

### QUESTION NO 25

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

**Question** (1) What is the estimated cost of installing street lighting along the sections of path in Leith Links which are currently unlit?

**Answer** (1) The estimated cost of installing street lighting along the sections of path in Leith Links which are currently unlit is between £60,000 and £70,000. There will also be additional costs associated with the energy which each light consumes but it is not possible to estimate these costs until a detailed design is completed and a suitable lantern identified.

**Question** (2) Does the council have any existing budget for such street lighting installation works?

**Answer** (2) Yes, there is a budget of £150,000 in 2022/23 for lighting in parks. Given the costs outlined in answer 1, it is clear that this budget will not allow for lighting in many parks.

Therefore, to enable requests for lighting in parks to be considered consistently, officers are preparing Guidance for Park Lighting which will establish assessment criteria and other areas that need to be considered. As part of the preparation of the guidance, officers will evaluate existing requests and scope future park lighting installations.

**Question** (3) Does the council undertake any assessment of the brightness of existing street lighting? If so, has any such assessment been undertaken in Leith Links?

**Answer** (3) When the new lanterns were installed in Leith Links (as part of the Energy Efficient Street Lighting Programme), the lighting design was undertaken in line with current standards. New lanterns were installed in Leith Links in February 2021.

**Question** (4) Does the council have a standard for the maximum distance between street lighting columns, and does Leith Links meet this standard?

**Answer** (4) The distance between lights is dictated by the height of the column and the LED optic in the lantern and there is therefore no maximum distance between columns.

**Question** (5) What work is undertaken to ensure that vegetation does not obscure street lighting, and when was this last undertaken in Leith Links?

**Answer** (5) Following a site visit, if action is required, the Forestry Service will prune branches if they affect the zone of illumination.

When the Council puts in new public lighting or wishes to move a public lighting column, consideration is made of the impact on existing trees. Similarly, when new trees are being planted, these are to be placed so they do not cause problems to existing public lights.

Pruning work in Leith Links was carried out ahead of the installation of the new lights. In addition, the parks service will undertake an assessment of the park to determine any further vegetation is required to be removed.