

# Supplementary Questions and Answers

## City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 24th November, 2022

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

### Supplementary Questions and Answers

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## 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
- Supplementary Question** Thanks to officers for their answer. After several attempts the attached information on each ward was sent – a list, not saying what was done, when, why and no figures for spend in each ward. Can the Convener now please supply this information and spend for each ward, not an estimate. Elected Members expect to be furnished with proper financial information which is a fundamental part of financial record keeping?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

As noted in the above answer and in the supplementary briefing provided, officers have not collated the information on expenditure for the deep clean activities by ward.

The costs associated with this (including staff, vehicle and equipment costs) have been spent on a city wide basis to reflect the overall budget. The activities have been targeted at the areas of most need, and the work undertaken includes scraping and cleaning streets to a high standard. Progress is dependent on the level of work required at each location and can be affected by other factors, such as car parking.

### 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.

**Supplementary  
Question**

The wording in the preamble to my question describing Category B of the scheme is a direct lift from the Energy Savings Trust website which indicates that category B includes bikeshare AND large-scale e-bike schemes.

Why did he answer part 1 by indicating this was not the case?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

The information provided in the answer above is based on the details of the scheme provided on the Energy Savings Trust website and clarification from Council officers that the information provided on the website makes clear that funding was available for eBikes of various categories.

Council officers have, however, contacted the Energy Savings Trust to seek clarification on the questions raised by Councillor Whyte and the response will be shared with Councillors when received.

### 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.

**Supplementary Question** The information provided is welcome. Can the Convener give an indication when he expects all the actions described in parts 1 and 2 will be complete?

**Supplementary Answer** As noted in the answer provided, it is expected that the single depot for the east of the city will be operational by mid-December 2022.

Many of the remaining actions do not have finite time periods for completion (e.g. the Cleanliness Improvement Board will meet monthly and technical support to progress activities such as TTROs will be long term changes to improve cleanliness on an on-going basis).

It is anticipated that the remaining actions will be completed within the first six months of 2023.

