

Supplementary Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 4th May, 2023

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Supplementary Questions and Answers

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Item no 10.19

QUESTION NO 19

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 May 2023

A71 Dalmahoy Junction

The installation of a fully signalised junction at Dalmahoy was agreed at the December TEC Committee. The Ratho Community Council and local residents are concerned that no works have started.

Question (1) Please could you explain what is holding up the works?

Answer (1) While Committee on 8 December 2022 approved the motion from yourself and Cllr Jenkinson to proceed with the delivery of a traffic signal controlled junction, the decision on approving the proposed funding package was deferred for alternative proposals to be brought forward (due to a shortfall of £1.1m being identified).

Since Committee, work has proceeded to develop the detailed design for the traffic signal controlled junction and a contract will shortly be awarded for advanced works to implement the planned localised reduction in the speed limit to 30mph.

Discussions are ongoing over possible options for alternative funding packages.

In addition, three areas of land need to be acquired to permit the construction of the junction and a right of servitude is also required (through land outwith the Council's ownership for the piped drainage outfall that is required for a traffic signal controlled junction). None of these legal agreements have yet been concluded.

Question (2) If there are blockers to works starting, what are they?

- Answer** (2) Prior to issuing tenders to construct the junction, the Committee would have to approve a funding package to meet the shortfall in the project budget and all of the necessary land acquisitions/servitudes would have to be successfully concluded.
- Question** (3) How and when will these blockers be resolved?
- Answer** (3) A further report on funding options will be brought to the Committee for consideration in June 2023.
Officers are working on concluding the necessary land acquisitions/servitudes as quickly as possible.
- Question** (4) When do you expect the actual works to start?
- Answer** (4) It is not currently possible to provide a date for the conclusion of the land acquisitions/servitudes, and therefore for the start of construction work, with any degree of certainty.
- Question** (5) How long do you expect the works to take to complete?
- Answer** (5) A detailed construction programme will not be available until after a contract has been awarded. However, from previous experience of similar projects elsewhere, a construction duration of between six and nine months is considered to be likely.
- Supplementary Question** Please confirm the full cost for a fully signalised junction at Dalmahoy on the A71?
- Supplementary Answer** A cost estimate of £1.55m was provided for a traffic signal controlled junction in the report to the Transport & Environment Committee on [8 December 2022](#).

Item no 10.26

QUESTION NO 26

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 May 2023

In relation to the Gaelic Medium Education Secondary School Site Review recently circulated to councillors, please can the Convener confirm:

Question (1) What consultation took place with the GME community on the terms of reference to this review before it was tendered?

Answer (1) The purpose for the study – to assess if there was a site available that would meet the national SNP manifesto commitment to deliver a stand-alone GME secondary school in the city centre - was discussed at the Gaelic Implementation Group.

Question (2) Why were the size criteria set as a minimum of 2 hectares?

Answer (2) This was chosen as it was less than the legislative minimum site size for a 600 capacity school (which is 2.02 hectares without playing fields). A new GME secondary school would ideally be constructed for a 600 roll as a minimum and the clear view from previous consultations is that the city centre school must be stand-alone, including sports facilities, to ensure full immersion.

Question (3) Why the location criteria were set using distance from the foot of the mound, as opposed to some other criteria such as accessibility by public transport?

Answer (3) The requirement for a city centre location was based on the national SNP manifesto commitment. The Council asked for a 3 mile radius from the city centre as that is the distance for the secondary walk to school policy. The consultants chose the location as being the foot of the mound.

Question (4) Was any consideration given to smaller sites in close proximity to existing or planned CEC schools, with the ability to share sports facilities?

Answer (4) The focus of this exercise was to see if any sites were available to deliver the national SNP manifesto commitment for a dedicated city centre stand-alone school.

Question (5) What assumptions were made about the likely future school roll?

Answer (5) If a site and budget were available, then the construction of a new school would ideally be for a minimum of 600 pupils with an expansion plan to accommodate any future growth in pupil numbers. However, the resulting school building could be used for a smaller roll if required.

Question (6) How many new GME primary schools would be needed to achieve the likely secondary school roll in question 5)?

Answer (6) Approximately 4 streams of primary school children (28 classes) would be required to sustain a 600 secondary school roll. In theory, that could be achieved by one large 4 stream primary school or a variety of other combinations involving two, three or four primary schools. However, there are currently no approved plans or budgets allocated to develop proposals for additional GME primary schools in Edinburgh.

Supplementary Question Please can the Convener clarify, in relation to answer (1), on what date this was discussed at the GIG, and on what date the Review was commissioned?

Supplementary Answer The purpose of the study was discussed at the GIG on 23 January 2023.

There was no tender exercise for the study. It was commissioned by Officers through a consultant's framework in late November 2022 to provide additional information in relation to the ongoing consideration of options to deliver the national SNP manifesto commitment for a dedicated city centre stand-alone school.

Item no 10.27

QUESTION NO 27

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 May 2023

Question (1) Please will the Convener list the size (in acres/hectares) of each of the City of Edinburgh Council's secondary schools and in each case list whether the size complies with school premises regulations?

Answer (1) The table below includes data based on a desk top exercise. Further on site assessment would be recommended to obtain definitive site sizes.

For those schools that do not comply with the legislation, they either have a dedicated all weather sports pitch or use off site sports facilities (or both). The legislation was introduced in 1967 when all weather sports pitches were not available therefore this provision is not taken into consideration in the legislation.

Supplementary Question Please can the Convener clarify whether a dedicated all-weather sports pitch and/or use of off-site sports facilities has been considered as an option when setting the size requirements as part of the GME secondary school site review, and if not, why not?

Supplementary Answer Yes, the minimum site size was based on the legislative requirements for the school site only without the legislative area requirement for sports pitches.

High School	Capacity	Total Site (HA)	School Premises Regulations 1967
Balerno Community HS	850	5.92	Complies
Boroughmuir HS	1,560	1.67	Does Not Comply
Broughton HS	1,200	6.83	Complies
Castlebrae Community HS	700	3.91	Does Not Comply
Craigmount HS	1,400	6.07	Does Not Comply
Craigroyston Community HS	600	3.89	Does Not Comply
Currie Community HS	900	8.81	Complies
Drummond Community HS	600	1.93	Does Not Comply
Firrhill HS	1,150	4.89	Does Not Comply
Forrester HS	900	9.7	Complies
Gracemount HS	650	5.59	Complies
Holy Rood RC HS	1,200	19.49	Complies
James Gillespie's HS	1,950	4.21	Does Not Comply
Leith Academy	950	7.34	Complies
Liberton HS	1,000	7.93	Complies
Portobello HS	1,400	7.7	Complies
Queensferry Community HS	1,200	6.42	Complies
St Augustine's RC HS	900	9.7	Complies
St Thomas of Aquin's RC HS	750	0.69	Does Not Comply
The Royal HS	1,350	9.22	Complies
Trinity Academy	950	5.09	Does Not Comply
Tynecastle HS	900	2.26	Does Not Comply
Wester Hailes HS	750	5.73	Complies