

Supplementary Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 31st August, 2023

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Supplementary 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 31 August 2023

Question

In March 2023, ward councillors were told the works to install the new junction at Craigs Road and Maybury Road would start in "late May / early June". No works have yet commenced.

When is the reconfiguration of the Craig's Road / Maybury Road junction now expected to commence?

Answer

Designs have been prepared for the new junction which will allow buses to access the West Craigs sites from Maybury Road. Discussions have been ongoing with the housing developer for the neighbouring site regarding it. These discussions are expected to conclude soon. Once these are completed, works on the junction are expected to commence.

Supplementary Question

Can the convener clarify the outstanding issues that prevented the works proceeding in late May / early June as was suggested to ward councillors earlier in the year?

Supplementary Answer

Due to the complexities of the legal agreement in place, the information provided by the developer for the road has taken longer for officers to consider than originally anticipated.

Item no 10.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 31 August 2023

At the February 2023 meeting of the Transport & Environment Committee, report 7.7 on the Queensferry Town Centre Project stated the traffic regulation orders and redetermination orders would be promoted from March 2023. However, this has yet to happen.

Question (1) When will the necessary orders be formally advertised?

Answer (1) Unfortunately, the development of the required documentation has been delayed. A timeline is currently being finalised, but it is anticipated that the necessary orders will be advertised by the end of this calendar year. Local ward Councillors will be kept updated once the documentation is completed.

Question (2) What is the current funding arrangements for the project, especially in light of construction inflation?

Answer (2) When fully completed, the overall project cost is currently expected to be approximately £3m.

£1.05m has been allocated from the Place Based Improvement Fund over 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, further funding will need to be confirmed in order to deliver the proposed Town Centre project in full.

Supplementary Question Can the convener clarify why there was a delay in the development of the required documentation?

Supplementary Answer Until now this project has not had a dedicated project manager and therefore this has resulted in some delays in progressing the actions required, where other operational issues have regrettably had to take precedence. Recognising the importance of the scheme, arrangements are now being made to dedicate a project manager to progressing the scheme.

Item no 10.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 31 August 2023

Question

Can the Transport and Environment Convener detail what measurable progress has been made in the last year in reducing car usage in Edinburgh towards the target of a 30% reduction car kilometres by 2030?

Answer

Your attendance as a member of the Transport and Environment Committee has been commendable, so I am sure you will recall the progress which has been made in terms of policy.

Reduction in car kilometres is measured as part of the City Mobility Plan (CMP) Key Performances Indicators (KPIs). Progress against all the KPIs will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee in February 2024 as part of the CMP review process.

Since the baseline year (2019) up until August 2022 there has been a 7% reduction in car kilometres in Edinburgh. Information is provided by the Department for Transport's traffic count data annually and the next update is expected in summer 2024.

Supplementary Question

Given the Council collects the data, can it please be published annually, starting with releasing the data for 2022-23?

Supplementary Answer

As a review of the CMP is undertaken every two years and the results will be reported to Committee, an annual update will be provided in the Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for the interim year of the CMP review cycle.

Item no 10.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Nicolson for answer by the Council Leader at a meeting of the Council on 31 August 2023

Question

Following the SNP motion at Full Council which agreed unanimously that a Stolperstein will be installed at St Stephen's Church, Stockbridge, to recognise the heroic work of Jane Haining, please can you update us on progress towards the Stolperstein installation and a ceremony in January 2024 to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day?

Answer

To date, approximately 95,000 Stolperstein have been installed across Europe.

Council officers have investigated the criteria on Stolperstein, which is a project initiated by German artist Gunter Demnig. The artist himself must install all of the Stolperstein, with production costs of 132 euros for each stone (which measure 10cm x 10cm). The cost of travel and accommodation for the artist will also need to be met.

The Stolperstein should be placed outside 'their last address of choice' therefore evidence would need to be provided that this was Jane Haining's address of choice. In addition, there is a requirement to contact any living relatives to ensure the correct placement and to organise permissions and media ahead of any unveiling.

Officers understand that there is a long waiting list for Stolperstein, with production of around 440 per month. They will continue to progress this and to identify any potential funding partners but unfortunately it is unlikely that an installation ceremony will be possible in January 2024.

Supplementary Question

Have council officers spoken with Mr Demnig or his colleagues?

Supplementary Answer

Council officers have not been in touch with Mr Demnig or his colleagues.

Item no 10.13

QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 31 August
2023**

Under section 1(1C) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, education authorities are empowered to provide discretionary early learning and childcare, over and above the statutory entitlement. This can be used to widen local eligibility criteria.

Question (1) When was the Convener informed of changes to eligibility criteria for discretionary early learning and childcare?

Answer (1) There has been no change to the criteria for discretionary early learning and childcare. Discretionary for 2 year olds are allocated using the following criteria.

- Children in temporary accommodation or homeless.
- Children who have been supported through the Family Nurse Partnership.

Referrals for children under 2 years old are still made using the Getting it Right for Every Child SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and consideration is given to children who require additional support to enable them to reach their full potential (Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004), or who meet the eligibility criteria as identified in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Examples are

- Safe - Children on the child protection register

Healthy - Multi-agency child planning (GIRFEC pathways 3 & 4 planning)

Question (2) Can the Convener share details of the changes that have been made to the eligibility criteria?

- Answer** (2) As stated, no changes have been made to the eligibility criteria. Members of the Children’s Partnership (NHS, Education and Social Work) agreed to review the process for allocation to ensure children who have the greatest level of need are able to access a place as soon as possible.
- Question** (3) Can the Convener explain how the decision to change the eligibility criteria was reached, including details of any discussions with stakeholders and elected members?
- Answer** (3) The criteria has not changed.
- Question** (4) Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed in relation to changes to the eligibility criteria?
- Answer** (4) N/A
- Question** (5) How many referrals for discretionary early learning and childcare have been accepted as of 22nd August 2023 in comparison with 22nd August 2022 from each of the following sources:
- a) Self-referrals
 - b) Health Visitor referrals
 - c) Social Work referrals
 - d) Third Sector referrals
- Answer** (5) Local authority early years settings have 124 registered places for children under the age of 2 years old.
- August 2022 – 51 children under the age of 2 had a discretionary place. We do not hold accurate data for the process prior to August 2023 because the process in place at the time was inconsistent with early years settings taking different approaches to recording whether children had been referred or were actually eligible for funded ELC.

August 2023 - 77 children under the age of 2 have a discretionary place. 41 places have been allocated through the referral process.

- a) Self-referrals = 0
- b) Health Visitor referrals = 30
- c) Social Work referrals = 3
- d) Third Sector referrals = 0
- e) Family Nurse Partnership = 7
- f) Community Nursery Nurse = 1

Question (6) Can the Convener share the advice that is being given in response to unsuccessful referrals?

Answer (6) The advice will vary depending on the information provided in the referral.

Supplementary Question The answer to Question 1 states “ There has been no change to the criteria”, but the answer to Question 2 states “Members of the Children’s Partnership agreed to review the process for allocation”. Can the Convener share or signpost to any available information on the outcome of the review and its impacts?

Supplementary Answer The Children’s Partnership has an action to improve the information sharing protocol. Under the previous process, referrals were often made directly to a small number of early years settings through telephone calls with no written record of the reason for the referral or decisions to allocate discretionary places or not. It was also noted that many parents/carers of children allocated a discretionary place had to travel out with their community due to the referrals be made directly to a small number of early years settings. 34 early years settings provide places for children under 3 years of age, only 11 settings received referrals for discretionary places.

Our new centrally managed process agreed by CEC and NHS senior officers ensures referrals for discretionary

places are made through the GIRFEC process and information is appropriately shared and stored between services. It also takes account of all our early years settings with places for children under 3 years of age.

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Flannery for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 31 August 2023

The Council website states: *Edinburgh's city centre LEZ is here. Are you ready?* It points to boundary, standards, penalty charges, support funding and exemptions of impending LEZ, but there is no support or approved list of outlets for residents wanting to convert their vehicles to be LEZ-ready. Does the Convenor agree that -

Question (1) To encourage this transition information should be readily available on Council Websites?

Answer (1) The Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS) is only applicable to buses, coaches, heavy goods vehicles, mini-buses, taxis and certain vans (subject to conditions and feasibility being met).

More information on the [Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme \(CVRAS\)](#) and [approved suppliers for eligible businesses and vehicle types](#) are available on the Energy Savings Trust website. The Council's [LEZ business support webpage](#) has been updated to reflect this information.

If you are a low-income household living within 20 kilometres (12 miles) of the LEZ, you may be eligible to apply for a grant of up to £3,000. Support includes:

- £2,000 for disposing of vehicles which do not comply with the low emissions standards; and
- £500 Travel Better vouchers per adult, up to £1,000 per household to buy bikes, e-bikes, cargo bikes and public transport tickets.

Other support is also available including for:

- e-bikes
- family cargo bikes
- adapted cycles; and
- electric vehicles and chargers

Further information on funding support for individuals and households is detailed on the [LEZ Individuals and Households support webpage](#).

Question (2) That officers who have had to check with Transport Scotland to find out approved CVRAS outlets, should be provided with this information, also?

Answer (2) See response to Question 1.

Question (3) Given this, is he aware that -

Some garages seem equally unclear as to what conversion entails, which garages will carry this out, and by when.

Answer (3) See response to Question 1.

Question (4) Given that the 1 June 2024 is the introduction date for the City Centre LEZ, would he agree that as a council we need to have this information available as a matter of priority for residents.

Answer (4) See response to Question 1.

Supplementary Question Questions 1 – 4 refer to support or approved list of outlets for residents wanting to convert their vehicles to be LEZ-ready by June next year, not public or business vehicles.

**Supplementary
Answer**

The response to Question 1 includes a link to the Council's webpage detailing support funding available to eligible business/commercial vehicles.

The Scottish Government's Bus Emissions Abatement Retrofit (BEAR) programme (which has been running since 2018) aims to fit buses/coaches with Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS) accredited retrofit technology measures. Information will be published on both the Transport Scotland and Council websites once the status of this funding for 2023/24 has been confirmed

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