

Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 2nd November, 2023

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

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

Agenda Annex

Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question (1) In the past year, how many people who presented as homeless were put in temporary accommodation outside CEC?

Answer (1) 87 households on 95 occasions.

Question (2) On average, how long were people placed in temporary accommodation outside CEC?

Answer (2) Seven days

Question (3) In the past year, what was the longest time people were staying in temporary accommodation outside CEC boundaries?

Answer (3) 22 days

Question (4) On average, how far away were the placements from CEC boundaries?

Answer (4) 38.6 miles

Question (5) What was the furthest placement from CEC boundaries?

Answer (5) 120 miles (Durham)

Question (6) How were people supported to travel to temporary accommodation outside CEC boundaries?

Answer (6) Taxis were provided by the Council for people to travel to temporary accommodation outside the Council's boundaries.

Once accommodation was identified within the city, a taxi was provided to return to accommodation in Edinburgh.

- Question** (7) What were the demographics of the people placed in temporary accommodation outside CEC. Specifically:
- a) How many were women
 - b) How many were children, and how many of those were with a lone parent
 - c) How many identified as disabled and what was the nature of their disability or disabilities (physical, mental, learning, other)
- Answer** (7) Please see table below. On presentation, people are asked about any support needs they have and this is recorded as a physical, mental health or learning disability support need.
- Question** (8) If known, what were the reasons for the placements outside CEC boundaries?
- Answer** (8) People were provided with temporary accommodation outside the Council's boundaries when there was no suitable alternative accommodation in Edinburgh

Household Type		No of Placements	No of Adult Women	No of Children	No with a Physical Support need	No with a Mental Health Support Need	No with a Learning Disability Support Need
Single Person	Female	12	12	0	0	3	1
	Male	38	0	0	4	8	1
Single Parent	Female	12	12	20	0	5	0
	Male	1	0	3	0	0	0
Couple - No Children		4	4	0	1	0	0
Couple with Children		15	15	32	1	4	0
Other - No Children		3	0	0	0	0	0
Other - with Children		10	17	21	0	1	0
Total		95	60	76	6	21	2

Item no 10.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Beal for answer by the Convener of the Transports and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question

What is the plan across the city to remove weeds on pavements and roads in each Ward?

Answer

Transport and Environment Committee received a [report](#) on the treatment of weeds in the city. The report also outlined the approach to the management of weeds from 2024.

It is important to report where weeds are creating a trip hazard or are damaging roads, pavements or kerblines so that these can be followed up for inspection and removal.

Item no 10.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transports and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

To ask the Convener:

Question (1) How many sites across the city, where speed surveys have shown a free-flow average speed above normal tolerance, are currently on the waiting list for a site investigation?

Answer (1) Out of the 132 locations there are 110 locations, with free-flow survey results noted over the speed tolerance, on the list for further site investigation.

The Road Safety team are currently assessing these results and considering the most appropriate schemes and interventions for the 2024/2025 delivery programme. This will be approved by the Transport and Environment Committee following the 2024/25 budget setting.

Question (2) For a list of those sites, broken down by ward.

Answer (2) See table below:

Location	Ward	Update
Whitehouse Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Main Street, Davidsons Mains	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Scotstoun Avenue	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Lennymuir	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Quality Street	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Turnhouse Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Turnhouse Farm Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Stirling Road, Kirkliston	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Cammo Gardens	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craigs Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Corbiehill Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan

Cammo Gardens	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Kirkliston Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
High Street, Kirkliston	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Station Road - High Street	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Main Street, Kirkliston	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
B800 - Flyover	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Silverknowes Road East	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Cammo Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Builyeon Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Glasgow Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Glasgow Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Queensferry Road, Kirkliston B800	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Whitehouse Road	Almond	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Queen Street	City Centre	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Chester Street	City Centre	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Great King Street	City Centre	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Douglas Gardens	City Centre	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Woodhall Road	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Swanston Road	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Mounthooly Loan	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Bridge Road	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Westgarth Avenue	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Colinton Mains Drive	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Oxgangs Road North	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Colinton Mains Drive	Colinton / Fairmilehead	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Murrayfield Road	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Ladywell Road	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Campbell Avenue	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Ravelston Dykes	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Ellersly Road	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan

Saughton Road North	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Kinellan Road	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Queensferry Terrace	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Orchard Road South	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craigleith Drive	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Ravelston Dykes	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Wakefield Avenue	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Restalrig Avenue	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craightinny Road	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Sleigh Drive	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Marionville Avenue	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete for future delivery plan
Fillyside Road	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Craightinny Avenue	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Lochend Road	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Restalrig Road South	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Lochend Road (A8)	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craightinny Avenue	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Marionville Road	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Queen's Drive	Craightinny / Duddingston	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Drum Brae Drive	Drum Brae / Gyle	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Clermiston Road	Drum Brae / Gyle	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Clermiston Road	Drum Brae / Gyle	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Maybury Road Southbound	Drum Brae / Gyle	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Drum Brae North	Drum Brae / Gyle	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Drum Brae North	Drum Brae / Gyle	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Lower Granton Road	Forth	Investigation ongoing for 23/24 delivery plan
Starbank Road	Forth	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Granton Road	Forth	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Slateford Road (3 survey sites)	Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart	Road markings have been refreshed. Future interventions may be considered if Traveling Safely scheme retained
Kingsknowe Road South	Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan

Greenbank Drive	Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craigcrook Road (west)	Inverleith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Fettes Avenue	Inverleith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
East Fettes Avenue	Inverleith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Inverleith Row	Inverleith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Inverleith Place	Inverleith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Strachan Road	Inverleith	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
March Road	Inverleith	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Strachan Road	Inverleith	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
East Hermitage Place	Leith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Claremont Park	Leith	Investigation complete on 23/24 delivery programme
Rodney Street	Leith Walk	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Pilrig Street	Leith Walk	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Gilmerton Station Road	Liberton / Gilmerton	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Polwarth Gardens	Morningside	Footpath resurfacing to be undertaken by the Transport Infrastructure team in early 2024. 20mph roundels will be placed on the road and road markings will be refreshed.
Morningside Drive	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craighouse Road	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Braid Hills Road	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Hermitage Drive	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Braid Avenue	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Midmar Drive	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Balcarres Street	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Falcon Road West	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craighouse Gardens	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Myreside Road	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Myreside Road	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Marchmont Road	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Braid Road	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Hermitage Drive	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan

Midmar Drive	Morningside	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Wilkieston Road	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Westburn Avenue	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Freelands Way	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Harlaw Road	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Curriehill Road	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Dalmahoy Road (New proposed junction)	Pentland Hills	New speed limit installed - speed survey to be undertaken
Ravelrig Road	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Freelands Road	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Somerville Road	Pentland Hills	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Joppa Road	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Mountcastle Drive South	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Brunstane Road South	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Milligan Drive	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Portobello High Street/Abercorn Terrace	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Mountcastle Drive South	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Marionville Avenue	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Duddingston Row	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Greendykes Road	Portobello / Craigmillar	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Stevenson Drive (20s section)	Sighthill / Gorgie	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Robertson Avenue	Sighthill / Gorgie	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Stevenson Drive	Sighthill / Gorgie	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Mayfield Road	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Beaufort Road	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Blackford Avenue	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Kilgraston Road	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Grange Road	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Prestonfield Avenue	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Whitehouse Terrace/ Grange Loan	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
East Mayfield	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan

Holyrood Park Road	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan
Craigmillar Park	Southside / Newington	Investigation to be undertaken for future delivery plan

Item no 10.4

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 2 November 2023**

A decision to delete the Education Welfare Service was made in the Budget of 23 February 2023. A formal consultation began on 4 September 2023 and will conclude on 3 November 2023.

Question (1) How and when was the Budget decision first communicated to Education Welfare Officers (EWOs)?

Answer (1) Following Full Council budget setting on 23rd February, a meeting was held with the Education Welfare Officers and their line manager on 10th March where the impact of the decision was discussed and reassurance given that the Council would then initiate the Managing Change policy and review process, within the broader review of Inclusion. An Early Engagement session was subsequently held with the review project team and the EWOs on the 10th May.

An Administration Addendum to the 'Revenue Monitoring 2023/24 – month three report' at the Finance and Resources Committee (Special Meeting) of 23 October 2023 states "the skills and experience of our EWOs should be retained within our inclusion work, as set out in the original budget proposal details"

Question (2) Can the Convener signpost to anything in the consultation documentation stating that EWOs will be "retained within our inclusion work"?

Answer (2) This is not explicitly stated in the consultation documentation which I questioned when I was made aware of it. Despite the disconnect between the budget decision and the published terms of reference of the consultation, I have been told that a joint decision to not change the consultation documentation was agreed by all parties who attended the service review midpoint meeting, given the potential for positive outcomes following the review, including updated job descriptions which better reflect the crucial work EWOs contribute to schools, families and communities.

Question (3) How and when was the intention to retain EWOs “within our inclusion work” communicated to EWOs?

Answer (3) I don’t think that it was communicated as clearly as it should have been, given that the budget proposal said: “An organisational review will be implemented in accordance with the Council's Managing Change procedure. It is anticipated that opportunities will be available to redeploy relevant staff into similar roles”.

Question (4) Can the Convener provide more details of the “inclusion work” posts that will be offered to EWOs, including information on when these posts will commence?

Answer (4) Consultation will be concluded on the 10 November 2023, therefore no decision has been made on the way forward at this time. A report on options and recommendations for a way forward will be brought to Education, Children and Families Committee as soon as possible.

An ‘Attendance Roles Review – mid-point presentation’, added to the Orb on 10 October 2023, states that voluntary redundancy packages will be offered to EWOs at the end of the consultation period, with an enhanced package available to those who accept the offer within 2 weeks.

Question (5) Will EWOs be given details of the “inclusion work” posts being offered to them before they are offered any redundancy packages?

Answer (5) Please see Q4 response.

Question (6) Will the Convener apologise to EWOs for the way they have been treated throughout this process?

Answer (6) As Convener of Finance and Resources, operational reviews of Education Department Services aren’t within my remit.

That said, I’ve engaged with the EWOs’ representatives, including meeting with them, and by waiving the deputation restrictions at the October special Finance & Resources Committee. The EWO’s representatives know that they have my support regarding the issues they’ve raised on behalf of their members.

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor McKenzie for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Controlled Parking Zone S6(E) came into operation on 23 October 2023. The 'Strategic Parking Review: Update' that came to the Transport and Environment Committee of 24 September 2023 stated that details of the 'live date' would be "circulated via a leaflet delivery direct to addresses within the affected area".

- Question** (1) Can the Convener confirm which leaflet distribution company was procured for this work?
- Answer** (1) This service was commissioned by the Council's parking contractor, but understand the company they appointed was Edinburgh's Out of Hand Scotland.
- Question** (2) Did the Council consider the terms and conditions of the leaflet distributors as part of the procurement exercise?
- Answer** (2) This service was commissioned by the Council's parking contractor and the contractual arrangement therefore the Council has not reviewed the terms and conditions as part of the procurement of this activity.
- Question** (3) Were the leaflet distributors employed on 'zero hours contracts'?
- Answer** (3) See answer to Question 2.
- Question** (4) Were the distributors asked to deliver the leaflet to affected businesses in S6(E)?
- Answer** (4) Yes
- Question** (5) Can the Convener share the leaflet distribution GPS data that he referred to at the Transport and Environment Committee of 12 October 2023, along with an opinion on whether it is possible to deduce that all properties received the leaflet based on this data?

Answer (5) As was explained at the Transport and Environment Committee, no problems were noted with the leaflet delivery. Indeed, I have only received one complaint from a local resident/business on the issue.

The 'Strategic Parking Review: Update' that came to the Transport and Environment Committee of 24 September 2023 stated that "The western extent of S6 is temporarily on hold as further work is carried out to determine the level of migration from S6(E), S5 and S7 into S6(W)"

Question (6) When and how was the decision made to put S6(W) on hold?

Answer (6) This decision was made by the Transport and Environment Committee in September 2023, I received no comments from you on this matter.

Question (7) How was this decision communicated to affected residents and businesses in S6(W)?

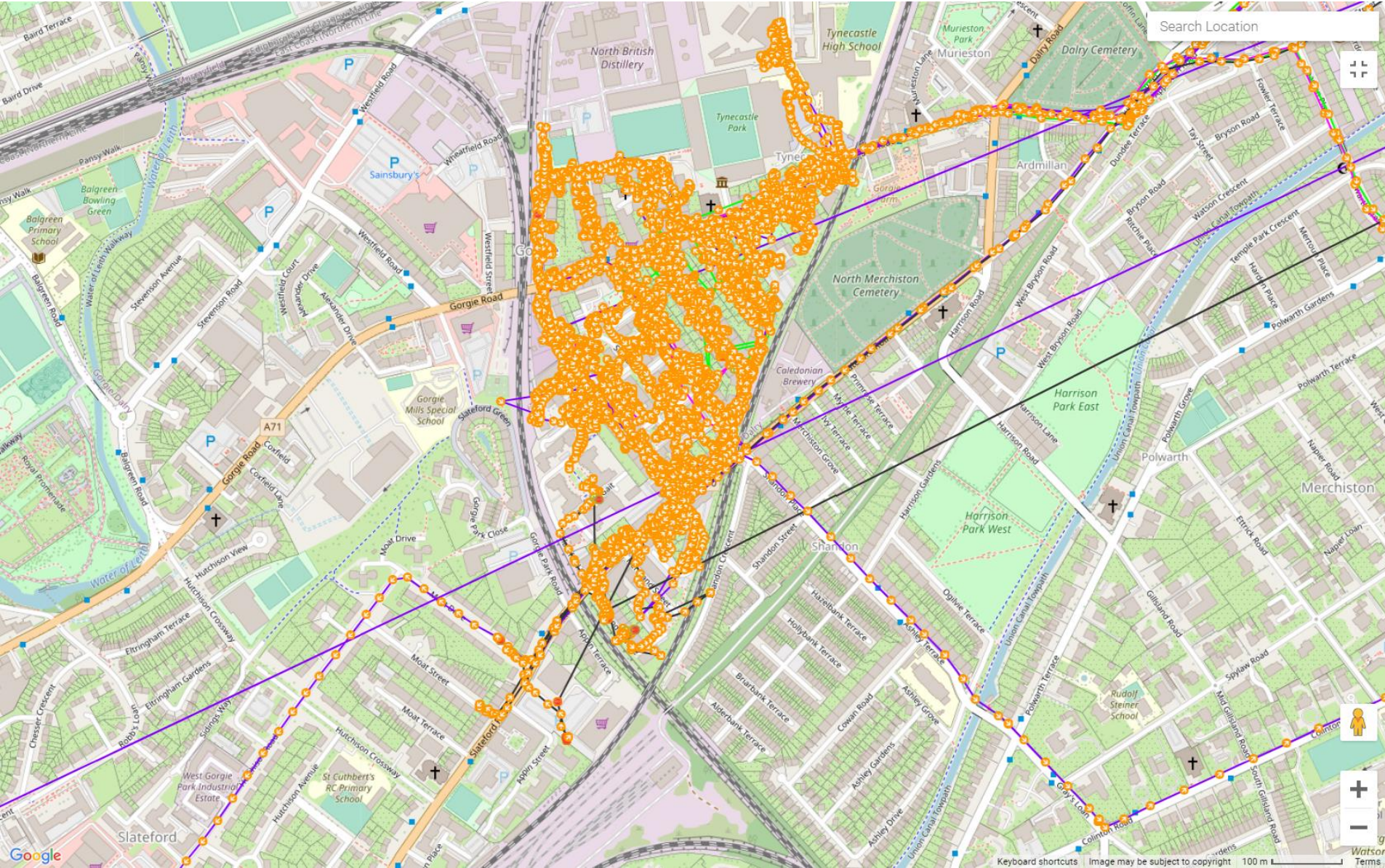
Answer (7) Only those properties in the eastern part of S6 were sent the initial leaflet advising of the implementation works and the subsequent leaflet advising about the CPZ controls and the go-live date. Similar leaflets will be issued to properties in the western part of S6 should a decision be made to implement controls in this area.

Question (8) Will the results of the work to determine the level of migration into S6(W) be shared with Committee before a final decision on if/when/how to proceed?

Answer (8) Committee agreed that the decision should be delegated to Officers following an assessment of the monitoring results, and that those results would be discussed with Ward Councillors prior to a final decision being taken. At that meeting, local Councillors would have an opportunity to discuss leaflet design and distribution.

Question (9) Will the options for final implementation in S6(W) include 'priority parking'?

Answer (9) No. The legal process for the entirety of S6 has been concluded and the approved approach for S6 was the introduction of CPZ.



QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Transports and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question (1) In light of the DfT's recommendations of 6.1s of green man (and 2023 proposals for 7.3s), what is Edinburgh Council's own recommended or ideal time for a green man to display (excluding buffer) on both two lane and four lane carriageway for pelican and junction crossings respectively?

Answer (1) Within the DFT guidance, the walking speeds that are being referenced are for the pedestrian clearance time and not the pedestrian green man time.

In Edinburgh, an absolute minimum of 6 seconds is used at signal-controlled junctions when installing new junctions. The actual value is calculated based of half the width of the road divided 1.2m/s plus an additional 2 seconds to get pedestrians beyond the halfway point. If the value calculated is below 6, then the minimum of 6 is used. If above 6 then that value is used.

At PUFFIN and Toucan crossings there is a slightly different criteria for the green man time, as the these have near sided display units. These use 4/5 seconds green man as once pedestrians have established themselves on the crossing the green man is no longer visible. Consideration is given based on the criteria below if there is a requirement to increase the green man further up to a maximum of 9.

At these crossings again it is the clearance time that allows pedestrians to clear the crossing area. Above ground detection is used to detect pedestrians on the crossing varying the clearance time in accordance with demand. Again, this clearance time is based on the width of the road.

Question (2) How can residents, councillors and stakeholders such as Living Streets feed into City Mobility Plan action W10 (*Longer Crossing Opportunities*) and W11 (*Increased Green Man Call Opportunities*) to ensure their local crossing lights can be assessed?

- Answer** (2) A three-month consultation was undertaken earlier this year on City Mobility Plan draft Action Plans, with the results of this consultation reported to Transport and Environment Committee on 12 October. The final version of the Active Travel Action Plan is currently scheduled to be considered by Committee on 1 February 2024 and will include further information on how it is proposed to take these actions forward.
- Question** (3) Edinburgh Street Design Guidance (G7) recommends that any tactiles on continuous footways run both parallel (aligned with buildings) and perpendicular to the road carriageway (aligned with ramp). What is the reasoning behind this?
- Answer** (3) The reasoning behind this recommendation is that pedestrians entering the continuous footway area, either along the main street or from the side street, are alerted to its presence. Council officers would be happy to provide Councillors with more information on this if requested.
- Question** (4) How does the Council monitor and engage with communities after the installation of continuous footways, such as in Roseburn and Leith, to examine issues and ensure pedestrians and drivers are both aware pedestrians have right of way?
- Answer** (4) Continuous footways are designed to send a clear visual message about priorities and have been used in Edinburgh for many years. Nevertheless, [a video](#) has been added to the City Centre West East Link (CCWEL) website and information has been provided in Newsletters and on social media about how to use the new junctions and continuous footways safely. Officers have also responded to any issues regarding continuous footways at community meetings and other engagement events.

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Transports and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

- Question** (1) What was the reasoning during the initial Trams to Newhaven installation to replace the whinstone heritage kerbing in the Leith Conservation Area (outwith the exception of the World Heritage Site) with concrete?
- Answer** (1) As part of the detailed design, it was a requirement to install kerbside drainage and as such whinstone kerbing could not be used for this. However, to keep the aesthetics from changing along the route, it was agreed to re-use the whinstone kerbing within the heritage area and pre-cast concrete (PCC) along Leith Walk.
- Question** (2) What consultation was done with the community regarding stone types before the final plans approved to change it?
- Answer** (2) The design for Leith Walk was developed in close consultation with the community and stakeholders during 2018 to allow residents, businesses, pedestrians and cyclist to co-exist with buses and trams.
- Question** (3) In line with our sustainability policies, what was done with the now-removed whinstone heritage kerbing?
- Answer** (3) All removed whinstone kerbs were re-used within the world heritage area as part of Edinburgh Trams York Place to Newhaven works.

Item no 10.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question (1) What is the average time from a complaint being submitted about a hedge or similar overgrown vegetation blocking a footpath or carriageway to the issuing of a letter to the responsible household(s) warning of possible enforcement?

Answer (1) The average time taken is 9.21 days.

Question (2) How many such letters have been issued in the last reported year?

Answer (2) In 2022/23, 373 first letters were issued.

Question (3) How many such letters have resulted in:

- a) Escalation due to lack of action on the part of the responsible household, broken down by further action?
- b) Referral to Garden Aid or similar source of assistance?

Answer (3) As an escalation, a further 116 second letters were issued. Unfortunately, the data is not held in a format to provide a breakdown of further action or assistance.

Note: The information provided is based on the data for financial year 2022/23

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Campbell for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 2
November 2023**

Question (1) Can the convener please set out the contract spend within the Children, Education and Justice Services directorate on counselling and other direct mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people including details of how much is spent overall, which organisations are funded and what they are expected to deliver for that funding?

Answer (1) Funding from Scottish Government of circa £1m per annum is spent to provide 23 school counsellors in each of the 23 learning communities. This work is stipulated by Scottish Government to work with children and young people from 10 years of age.

The Community Mental Health contracts deliver eight projects across localities and additional citywide projects. One of the contracts is currently being reviewed as one project is unable to fulfil the requirement. The contracts awarded and the value can be found on the contract register published on City of Edinburgh Council website.

Contracts are also awarded for specific therapeutic input, for example for children affected by bereavement and children affected by parental substance use. The contracts awarded and the value can be found on the contract register published on City of Edinburgh Council website.

Play Therapy for younger children is provided through the Care Experienced Fund. This funding is provided by Scottish Government annually.

Additional mental health provisions and wellbeing interventions are also funded via schools' devolved budget. Schools call off existing framework contracts to address the local need identified by the Head Teachers and the team around the child. The details of providers on each active

frameworks can be found on the contract register published on City of Edinburgh Council website. The spend is linked to the need and not in the public domain.

Commercially sensitive information and details of individual contracts can be shared in public only with the consent of the providers.

Question (2) Can the convener confirm how many children and young people access counselling services directly funded by council contract spend within C,E&JS?

Answer (2) This information is supplied by each provider to their contract manager as part of the contract monitoring process. Information will be collated manually and provided as soon as available.

Contract Management procedures are being reviewed by CEJS and will continue to be a priority to ensure the data informs the service in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Counselling and wellbeing interventions contract opportunity is currently live on Public Contract Scotland, which will support contract monitoring, data reporting and compliance.

City of Edinburgh Council counsellors have supported 841 children and young people during last academic year (funded by Scottish Government) Details below.

Total number of children accessing counsellors	841
Number accessing in-person provision	793
Number accessing provision virtually	148 had some virtual alongside in person counselling. None had virtual only
Number of female pupils accessing provision	530
Number of male pupils accessing provision	311

Stage specific data	P5s – 8
Number of children in P6	69
Number of children in P7	129
Number of children in S1	78
Number of children in S2	124
Number of children in S3	163
Number of children in S4	126
Number of children in S5	97
Number of children in S6	66

Question (3) Can the convener please set out the details as above but specifically in relation to:

- a) Children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- b) Children and young people in families where a parent or carer has issues with addiction or substance misuse?

Answer (3) The Council has a joint contract with EADP to address the specific need of children affected by parental substance use. The volume of referrals and interventions is discussed during contract monitoring activities. Information will be collated manually and provided as soon as available.

The Council does not gather the details of each referral, which remain confidential to the referrer or to the young people if self-referring. Scottish Government does not require this categorisation either when reporting on outcomes.

The Council is actively taking action to enhance its contract management processes across the Children, Education and Justice Services Directorate.

Question (4) How much of this spend, if any, is statutory?

Answer

- (4) We have school counsellors in all our Learning Communities funded by the Scottish Government through statutory funding to Local Authorities. Counsellors work with P6/7 learners from the associated primaries and students in the secondary school. A school counsellor also works across two of our special schools.

Our team of Educational Psychologists and Additional Support for Learning service support schools with meeting the needs of children through GIRFEC (getting it right for every child) planning.

The third party spend addresses a critical requirement that flows from population need and individual strategies directed to local intervention in the learning communities, in addition to the in-house delivery of statutory services.

Question

- (5) When are these contracts up for review?

Answer

- (5) The details can be found on the contract register published on City of Edinburgh Council website.

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question (1) Can the Convener confirm the number of pupils (and the breakdown per school year in Edinburgh who require teaching in BSL?

Answer (1) Can the Convener confirm the number of pupils (and the breakdown per school year in Edinburgh who require teaching in BSL?

Mainstream School (n=10, total pupils = 55, 000)	
Nursery/EYC	5
P2	1
P6	2
S1	1
S4	1

Specialist Provison (n=7, total pupils = 738)	
P4	2
P6	1
P7	1
S2	2
S4	1

Question (2) What is the Convener’s opinion of possibly bringing all children and young people with BSL under one space for teaching, learning, and socialising?

Answer (2) The delivery of educational provision for deaf learners is currently under review as part of the wider inclusion review. We recognise the increasing population and complexity of need of this group of learners and the challenging capacity to support and deliver effective services including the delivery of BSL teaching and support. Relatively, the

number of children and young people in the City of Edinburgh requiring BSL support is small. However, the number of children and young people requiring support from the Deaf Support Service is increasing in number and complexity part the consequences of the NHS paediatric audiology failures. In taking forward a review of the supports for deaf learners in Edinburgh consideration will be given to developing an in-reach model (such as a school or a dedicated base) and we would welcome engagement with wider stakeholders on this development as we progress through the inclusion review. It should be noted that all Deaf learners are individuals in terms of factors such as their need, their access to the curriculum and there need for appropriate peer groups and would not always be appropriate to group them together.

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Vice Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Notes that Edinburgh is facing unprecedented shortages of Social Workers and that recruitment should be prioritised

- Question** (1) How many
- a) adult social workers and
 - b) children social workers
- have been recruited/retained by CEC in the last year?
- Answer** (1) a) Adult social workers – 37 FTE
- b) 41 distinct New Starts recruited (Oct 2022 to Sep 2023)
- 219 (distinct Headcount) retained (as at end of Sep 2023).
- Question** (2) How many social workers are needed to supplement current staffing levels.
- Answer** (2) a) Within adult social work, as of the 30 September 2023 we had 26.6 FTE social worker vacancies. This level of vacancy is mitigated somewhat by the employment of 16 FTE agency colleagues. We currently have 5 Social Workers going through preemployment checks
- b) Within Children’s Social Work, as of the 30 September 2023 we had 10.47 FTE Social Worker vacancies. Whilst this level of vacancy is mitigated somewhat by the employment of 7 agency colleagues.

As part of our Improvement Strategy, we are looking at service remits and structures through our Change Management process, this will inform decision making around what required staffing levels are required going forward. There is some urgency around realigning the child protection resource, which we are currently actively progressing.

- Question** (3) How long does it currently take for a social worker to be recruited? i.e. time period from advert to starting role.
- Answer** (3) a) Within adult social work the current average time to recruit is 4.1 months for external candidates.
- b) Children's Social Work - This varies dependent on individual circumstances, generally takes around four months.
- Question** (4) What conversations, if any, has the Convener had with Capital City Partnerships and other recruiters to accelerate recruitment.
- Answer** (4) a) Adult Social Work - Capital City Partnership supports EHSCP with publicising the social care workforce jobs and is specifically focused on entry level roles in Care Homes, Home Care and Reablement and Disability Services.
- EHSCP don't work with any other recruiters.
- b) Children's Social Work - We work closely with HR to support recruitment and circulate vacancies across several communication platforms including My Job Scotland, the national recruitment portal for local government. Recruitment events have been held in Waverley Court and attended by interested candidates and students undertaking social work qualifications.
- The Council has a contract with Pertemps and framework under Scotland EXcel for the supply of agency workers which include Social Workers. There is currently an active ongoing search to recruit to permanent vacancies.
- We are also progressing a 'grow your own' scheme where we are supporting social work assistants through social work training to qualification.

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Notes that the Council secured funding in the region of £2.1M for Multiply via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund but that an underspend of £545,000 was reallocated to People and Skills project.

Question (1) When was the Convener first made aware of this underspend and what mitigations, if any, was made to ensure delivery of Multiply could continue?

Answer (1) Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee have been kept updated on UK Shared Prosperity Fund, including Multiply, regularly since it was introduced nationally. In the report presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on [9 May 2023](#), it was confirmed that the 2022/23 Multiply allocation had not been utilised due to capacity issues, and that permission to carry forward the full allocation had been requested from the UK Government.

The report to Committee on [8 August 2023](#) confirmed that permission had been granted to carry forward this funding for one year, and that reallocation to People and Skills projects would be permitted, if required.

As the funding carried forward must be utilised in 2023/24, to allocate all of this to the Multiply programme would have meant that the 2023/24 programme could not be sustained in future years. For this reason, it was agreed that the funding carried forward should be allocated to People and Skills delivery due to its close alignment with the Multiply outcomes.

Question (2) What was the role of the Lifelong Learning staff in delivering Multiply?

- Answer** (2) The initial plans were developed by the Lifelong Learning service. The Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service are leading on implementation of the programme, working closely with a national network of Multiply Leads and have developed innovative additions to the original programme plans.
- Question** (3) Does the Convener envisage further underspend in future years spending?
- Answer** (3) There are no underspends anticipated in 2023/24 or 2024/25.
- Question** (4) What discussions, if any, has the Convener had with Lifelong Learning staff and managers about this?
- Answer** (4) Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee have been kept updated on Multiply within the context of the overall UK Shared Prosperity Fund however I have had no direct discussions with the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning service team on the Multiply programme specifically.
- Question** (5) What impact, if any, has the Lifelong Learning Review of staff had on delivery of this service.
- Answer** (5) While the organisational review was in progress, the retiral of a Lifelong Learning Manager in August 2022 meant it was not possible to backfill this position until the review concluded. This impacted on the start of the Multiply programme in 2022/23.

However, feedback received through the recently formed national network of Multiply leads, has highlighted that many local authorities have experienced a delay in the programme starting and officers have confirmed to me that the initial delay will not impact the overall delivery.

Notes:

Multiply Programme

- The Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service was established following the completion of the Lifelong Learning Review.
- The initial Multiply plans were developed by one of the Lifelong Learning Managers in the service in August 2022. This Manager subsequently retired, and no replacement was appointed until May 2023 when the Lifelong Learning Review concluded.
- In May 2023, two Wider Achievement and Learning Managers (adult and family learning) were confirmed in post. Along with a Wider Achievement Development Officer, they have reviewed the original plans, engaged in a national network for Multiply Leads, developed innovative additions and have begun implementing the programme.
- The structure of the new Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning service provides more management and capacity for adult learning. The mitigation for the initial delay lies in the now increased capacity to deliver Multiply in this and the next financial year.

Actions completed to date:

- Full time development officer (adult and family learning in Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning) co-ordinating Multiply since August 2023
- Networking with local authorities, Education Scotland and Numeracy networks
- Engaged with Capital City Partnership colleagues to ensure compliance with funding requirements and progress HELIX training with key staff
- Engaged with partners to develop integrated delivery plan for Multiply
- Schedule training and upskilling (Mathos on Toast and Learning Link Scotland)
- Attendance at National Multiply Leads network meetings, the first of which was 27th September 2023
- Identified staff groups who would benefit from Multiply programme
- Identified target groups and scoped out ways to target and engage

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Following the recent approval of the City Mobility Plan there are concerns about the possible impacts of diverted traffic encroaching into residential communities, many of whom have been trying to engage with the Council to discuss this to ensure that they see benefits from the City Mobility Plan rather than negative impacts. There is no clear route for Street and Residents' Associations and Community Councils to work collaboratively with the Council to address these issues or bring forward ideas on local delivery of the City Mobility Plan.

Question

Can the Convener detail the route by which community organisations can work with the Council to deliver local improvements in line the City Mobility Plan?

Answer

The City Mobility Plan (CMP) sets out strategic objectives and policy measures which will help the Council to meet its agreed targets including car kilometre reduction and net zero. As the Council's approved local transport strategy, projects and proposals should accord with CMP.

Engagement with communities and stakeholders remains a key part of the Council's process at the detailed project/proposal stage to enable collaboration and feedback on local issues and impacts which will, alongside data gathering and technical evidence, shape final project outcomes.

Council officers have been engaging with Community Councils and the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils on a regular basis to support discussion and collaboration and will continue to do so. In addition, for individual projects/proposals, Street and Residents' Associations have made contact directly with Council officers on local concerns and issues and officers welcome this continuing.

The Circulation Plan, once approved, will provide a strategic framework to identify and deliver travel mode priorities across key corridors, town centres and the city centre. This will include reducing intrusive through-traffic within neighbourhoods and the city centre where potential impacts are identified. The Circulation Plan will be presented to Transport and Environment Committee in February 2024.

Major strategic projects such as the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and public realm works including the transformation of George Street build in monitoring and evaluation processes to help review and mitigate impacts both pre and post-delivery. For LEZ, traffic surveys and modelling have and will continue to form part of Council's understanding on how to mitigate potential traffic displacement and network changes to help manage those potential impacts will be completed before LEZ is enforced from 1 June 2024. Annual monitoring thereafter will enable further understanding of impacts and any further mitigations that may be required.

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

The pothole killer arrived in March of this year and was initially rented for 6 months.

Question (1) How many potholes have been fixed using this new machine since its arrival?

Answer (1) The recording of the data for the pothole pro been by square meterage (**m²**) rather than individual pothole. As at 24 October 2023, **7,270m²** has been achieved.

Question (2) Please give a breakdown of potholes fixed per ward since the pothole killer arrived?

Answer (2) The data has been recorded on a locality basis, rather than by ward. The breakdown by locality is as follows:

North East – **1,680m²**

North West – **1,604m²**

South East – **2,870m²**

South West – **1,116m²**

Question (3) What is the highest number of potholes it has fixed in one day?

Answer (3) As noted in answer 1, this information is not recorded. The highest (**m²**) for a day was **140m²**

Question (4) Has it been operational each working day since arrival and if not, how many working days has it not been operational?

Answer (4) The Pothole Pro has been operational for **94 days** and not in use for **48 days** (holidays, sickness, events etc.)

It has also been in operation on **16 Sundays** for work in traffic sensitive roads, which are not suitable for Monday – Friday working.

- Question** (5) What has been the cost so far in renting this Pothole Killer and what will be subsequent costs be going forward should we decide to continue with this machine?
- Answer** (5) The hire costs to date are £41,250, with ongoing hire costs of £5,416.67 per month. If a new Pothole Pro were to be purchased, it would have an approximate cost of £195,000.
- Question** (6) Has the rental of the pothole killer come to an end or will/has the pothole killer been rented for a further 6 months?
- Answer** (6) Officers have requested a six month extension to the Pothole Pro lease, while the fleet replacement programme is developed.
- Question** (7) Will there be a report assessing the Pothole Killers performance along with detailing its pros and cons at the next Transport & Environment Committee?
- Answer** (7) Officers will continue to utilise the Pothole Pro whilst monitoring its output and suitability. A Business Bulletin update will be prepared for Committee at the end of the full lease period. This will include details of outputs, pro's and con's.

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question

What is the Education department doing to promote financial education in secondary schools across the city?

Answer

Summary of Response

The Edinburgh Learns Development Officer for Numeracy and Mathematics works with school staff to improve the provision of numeracy and mathematics, including financial education. Currently he is providing a wide range of professional learning and support. The current offer is set out below, including webinars from [Financial Education Scotland](#) (taking place authority wide in January), resources and workshops that are currently available and promoted across the high school maths curriculum lead network.

The DO is also in negotiation with [MyBnK](#) (a UK wide Financial Education Charity who deliver workshops for 7-25 years olds) on 27/10/23 with the aim to strategically work in partnership with them to advertise their courses to high school maths leads across the authority.

Webinars

Organiser:

Young Enterprise Scotland

Course Title: Scotland's Financial Schools

Session 1 – Introducing financial education across the curriculum.

Session 2 – Embedding financial education through IDL.

Target Audience:

Secondary (sessions are tailored to specific sector)

Dates:

Sector	Session 1	Session 2
Secondary	24.01.24	30.01.24

Time:

All sessions will run from 16:00 – 17.00 (Webinars on TEAMS)

Staff Delivering:

Gillian Darroch (Project Manager) & Ross Gibson (CEC - Numeracy Development Officer)

Subject(s): Financial Education, Skills based learning, Learning for Sustainability, Developing the Young Workforce

Course Overview: Young Enterprise Scotland aims to equip all young people with the skills to thrive in life, learning and work. Our Scotland's Financial Schools programme is designed to support teachers build their confidence in delivering financial education learning experiences to ensure our young people are equipped with appropriate financial skills. The course consists of two CLPL sessions and we would ask practitioners attend both.

Session 1 – Introducing financial education across the curriculum.

- To raise awareness of what financial education is and why it is essential for developing skills for life, learning and work.
- Learning for Sustainability contextualisation with links the Sustainable Development Goals, DYW agenda, Career Education Standards 3-18, Curriculum Entitlements and the Attainment Challenge.
- To encourage a cross curricular approach to financial education going beyond numeracy and maths
- Overview of 'Scotland's Financial Schools' website – includes access to free lesson plans, a whole school reflections tool and a Financial Education Scottish Progression Pathway which is linked to Curriculum for Excellence
- Overview of financial workshops delivered by our SFS team

Session 2 – Embedding financial education through IDL.

- Encouraging a sustainable approach to embedding financial education into teaching and learning
- Examples of delivering financial education through interdisciplinary learning opportunities
- Examples of case studies to inspire and motivate.
- A practical session to encourage collaboration and the sharing of examples and ideas.

Cost

All our training and resources are free.

Universal offer of resources and workshops

Young Enterprise

Your Money Matters Textbook



The Scottish version of Your Money Matter Textbook was developed by Money and Pensions Service and YE Scotland along with a donation from Martin Lewis in order to provide a concrete resource for schools. It is aimed at S4 – S6 pupils and the content is very varied and goes beyond just money calculations. It looks at financial terminology, potential funding for further education, managing debt and problems that can arise with it, fraud, scams and risk and reward. Every Scottish secondary school received 75 hard copies in April 2021 and YE Scotland continue to promote and support the textbook through our pupil workshops.

Pupil Workshops



My Money Talks (S6 and S4&S5 leavers)

This programme consists of two workshops (Making the Most of your Money and Borrowing) which cover themes that develop essential financial skills for pupils moving on from school. They are in line with the **'Your Money Matters' textbook** which has been endorsed by **Money Saving Expert, Martin Lewis**. The workshops last approximately 50 minutes, to accommodate school timetables. If you wish to read more, please visit our website [What We Do | Young Enterprise Scotland \(yes.org.uk\)](https://www.yes.org.uk/what-we-do)

Learn to Earn (S3 pupils)



This year we are piloting our updated Learn to Earn programme for S3 pupils. This programme lasts a double

period (although

h can be adapted to suit timetables) and focuses on the reality of earning money and what you would prioritise when spending, setting goals for the future, keeping to a budget and saving. It also links to the world of work by looking at payslips and tax and NI. If you wish to read more, please visit our website [What We Do | Young Enterprise Scotland \(yes.org.uk\)](http://www.yes.org.uk/what-we-do/young-enterprise-scotland)

Current Activity in Edinburgh City Council

Pupil workshops (to date) booked in:

- Forrester High School
- James Gillespie's High School
- Leith Academy
- Liberton High School
- Portobello High School
- Queensferry High School

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 November 2023

Question

How many cycle trips have been taken in each of the segregated cycle lanes across the city, set out on a weekly basis since installation?

Answer

The Council has a network of 58 walking and cycling counters located around the city. Of these, four are located within segregated cycle lanes that are currently in place on an experimental basis, as part of the Travelling Safely programme. These counters are located at:

- Dundee Street/Fountainbridge;
- Dean Bridge;
- Crewe Road South; and
- Mayfield Road.

Information about the counters, including the data recorded by them, can be viewed on the Council's website via the following link:

[Walking and Cycling Statistics – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

The average annual daily trips at each location before Covid (mean from 2015-19) and in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far are shown in Table 1 below.

Cycling Scotland also has a cycling counter within a segregated cycle lane at Picardy Place. Data from this is available to view via the following link:

<https://usmart.io/org/cyclingscotland/>

Cycling Scotland also conduct biannual counts including at several locations throughout Edinburgh where segregated cycleways have been installed: Comiston Road; Lanark Road; Old Dalkeith Road; York Place and Pennywell Road. The results can be found here [Edinburgh Traffic Survey Results | Flourish](#) and the count data from the most recent count in May 2023 is summarised in Table 2 below (results are from 48hrs continuous count):

As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that has been developed for the Travelling Safely programme, seven-day surveys are being undertaken to establish the numbers of people cycling in the experimental segregated cycle lanes. The results of these surveys will be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in due course.

Table 1 – Average Annual Daily Cycle Traffic

Average Annual Daily Cycle Traffic					
Site	Mean 2015-2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dundee Street/ Fountainbridge	270	381	375	No data	No data
Dean Bridge	335	414	476	514	355
Crewe Road South	191	211	367	394	396
Mayfield Road	2,221	1,119	1,596	1,192	1,257

Table 2 – Edinburgh Traffic Survey Results

Survey Site	Cyclists	All modes	Cycling mode share
Comiston Road	999	37788	2.64%
Lanark Road	420	21448	1.96%
Old Dalkeith Road	1596	31721	5.03%
York Place	853	39680	2.15%
Lothian Road	3097	71256	4.35%
Pennywell Road	191	16634	1.15%
Great Junction Street	1592	54126	2.94%