

Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 14th December, 2023

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Questions and Answers

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Agenda Annex

Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 December 2023**

Question (1) What is the SLA for repair of manhole covers in the carriageway from the moment a fault has been reported to being inspected and the repair carried out?

Answer (1) Service Level Agreement to repair apparatus falls in 3 categories as:

Fail, High Risk	Make Safe in 2 Hours Permanent repair in 7 Days
Fail, Medium Risk	Carry out remedial works within 10 days
Fail, Low Risk	Repair within 1 month Permanent repair within 1 month

Question (2) How many manhole covers are currently scheduled for a repair across the city?

Answer (2) Currently there is one set of remedial work in progress, 17 are proposed and 20 have advance planning notices in place.

The total number of defective apparatus reports that are currently accepted by public utility companies (PUs) are 541. Council officers inspect these and continue to press PUs for prompt resolution.

Item no 10.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Younie for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Cameras were installed on Silverknowes Road East, Silverknowes Road and Silverknowes Place between 20-25th June 2023 in order to undertake pedestrian and cyclist counts on the two 'travelling safely' schemes in Silverknowes.

Question (1) On what date did officers receive the results of this monitoring?

Answer (1) 26 October 2023

Question (2) What was the average daily a) pedestrian and b) cyclist count recorded at each camera locations?

Answer (2) The data requested is provided below:

Count Location	Cyclists	
	Thursday 22 nd June	Saturday 24 th June
Silverknowes Road	192	237
Silverknowes Place	23	23
Silverknowes Road East	203	215

Count Location	Pedestrians	
	Thursday 22 nd June	Saturday 24 th June
Silverknowes Road	289	424
Silverknowes Place	290	238
Silverknowes Road East	493	437

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 14 December 2023.

- Question** (1) Further to his answer to question 10.3 at the August 2023 meeting of the council, is it still the intention that the traffic orders will be advertised before the end of the year?
- Answer** (1) Unfortunately, it will not be possible to advertise these orders before the end of the calendar year. It is anticipated the necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process will commence in Spring 2024.

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 14 December 2023.

As part of the developer legal agreement for planning permission 18/01755/FUL at Cammo, £560,000 was to be paid to the Council so a new bridge could be built over the Bughtlin Burn.

Question (1) How much of this money has been paid to the Council?

Answer (1) The total contribution received was £621,381.38.

The contribution was paid on 3 March 2023 and is therefore available for use before 2 March 2033.

Question (2) What progress is being made to erect the new bridge?

Answer (2) A Stage 0 to 2 design contract has been awarded and Stage 0 *Strategic Definition* and Stage 1 *Preparation and Brief* reports and accompanying studies have been completed. This includes a feasibility study for a new bridge structure and preliminary ecological and historic environment assessments of the area. Work will continue on this package of work in 2024.

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

In his answer to question 10.2 at the August 2023 meeting of the council, the Convener said the traffic orders for the changes to the Davidson's Mains roundabout would be advertised by the end of September?

Question (1) Why were the orders not advertised by the end of September as suggested?

Answer (1) Unfortunately, corrections and revisions were required to the drawing relating to the proposed redetermination and as a result the public advertising for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has also been delayed.

Question (2) When will the orders be advertised?

Answer (2) It is expected that the Traffic Regulation and Redetermination Orders will now be advertised in February 2024.

Item no 10.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Flannery for answer by the Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Permissions are applied for by developers to occupy road space. Excepting that the Council, even though it grants planning permission, does not control when that development takes place, can the Convenor tell me:

Question (1) What consideration/s are given to existing residents' use of an area when granting permission for road occupation by developers?

Answer (1) Developers are requested to inform residents of their works and keep them up to date with the works. Developers are told that they should assist residents with access where the work may obstruct or cause issues. Consideration is given to safe access for all users from disabled, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Question (2) In cases where it is known the development will take over a year, how often are the permissions reviewed?

Answer (2) Permissions are not normally reviewed unless the Developer intimates there may be an extension required. Council officers will, however, check on progress and raise concerns with the Developer if there is an issue with progress.

Question (3) What level of checks are done on developments to make sure that they have not extended beyond what has been agreed?

Answer (3) Local Inspectors will check on Developments as often as possible to try to ensure compliance with what has been agreed.

Question (4) How can residents report issues with poor site engagement?

Answer (4) Issues with poor site management should be raised with the Citywide Roadworks Occupation Team (Roadoccupation@Edinburgh.gov.uk) who will try and gain resolution to issues.

Question (5) What consideration/s are given to existing residents' use affected by surrounding projects, such as long-term sewage works and TROs, alongside a long-term development?

Answer (5) Consideration is given the impact of works and a decision made on whether to allow multiple projects to go ahead at the same time or whether to only allow one project at a time. Diversion routes if required, and safe access for all footpath and road users, are key considerations

Item no 10.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Dobbin for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023

Question (1) How many Council owned homes are unoccupied and void as of 1st December 2023?

Answer (1) 1,351 – this includes new builds not yet ready for let, voids being used as decants, properties earmarked for disposal or demolition or are currently used for the Whole House Retrofit project and are unable to be let.

Question (2) How many Council owned homes have been unoccupied for six months or more?

Answer (2) 895 – as per Q1, this figure also includes voids that are unable to be let for a number of reasons set out above.

Question (3) How many Council owned homes have been unoccupied for a year or more?

Answer (3) 620 – as per Q1, this figure also includes voids that are unable to be let for a variety of reasons set out above.

Question (4) How many Council owned homes have been unoccupied for 18 months or more?

Answer (4) 422 – as per Q1, this figure also includes voids that are unable to be let for a variety of reasons set out of above.

Item no 10.8

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Key for answer by the
Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 14 December 2023**

Question (1) How many homes does the Council own?

Answer (1) 20,258, of which 19,617 are mainstream and 641 are temporary accommodation.

Question (2) How many are occupied in either category:

- (a) Long term council tenants
- (b) Short term temporary accommodation
- (c) Any other form of occupation

Answer (2) a) Long term council tenants – 18,193

(b) Short term temporary accommodation – 566

(c) Any other form of occupation – 68 of the mainstream properties noted at (1) are “special lets” to other services including Health and Social Care and Education, Children and Justice Services. It is not possible to confirm whether these are all occupied at present.

Item no 10.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Justice Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

- Question** **(1)** For each of the years since 2012, what has been the budget for:
- a) Planning, implementing, maintaining, and developing the Microsoft 365 Learning and Teaching system for school children and teachers, covering Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and OneDrive?
 - b) Planning, implementing, maintaining and developing the Empowered Learning roll out of digital devices to support access to the Microsoft 365 system?

Answer **(1)** a) The costs associated with planning and maintaining the M365 environment are not separately defined but are part of the wider contract service charge with CGI. This was the same with BT prior to 2016. License costs, which are not part of the CGI contract, are definable from 2017. These were part of the BT service charge prior to that date. These are noted below with commentary on license type changes by Microsoft.

Year	Amount	Comments
2017/18	£229,301.47	Device licences only – Office 365 A1 at zero cost
2018/19	£236,315.12	Device licences only – Office 365 A1 at zero cost
2019/20	£238,840.00	Device licences only – Office 365 A1 at zero cost
2020/21	£420,888.30	Start of M365 A3 – device licences no longer offered by Microsoft under EES agreement. Includes O365 A1 and device licences.
2021/22	£430,376.68	
2022/23	£430,376.68	
2023/24	£592,344.25	

- b) The implementation costs for the Empowered Learning solution were £14,223,384. A further £437,185 has been spent on changes and additions to the original solution and £62,206 on additional iPads.

This investment was approved by Elected Members in 2021 as part of the budget setting process.

The annual service charge will vary depending on the number of devices deployed and supported. Service charges to date are:

2021/22 - £343,145

2022/23 - £1,098,292

2023/24 - £1,323,565 (to date)

The Empowered Learning solution provides greater access to devices for students, increasing equity of access and responding to the needs for flexible approaches to learning spaces. Empowered Learning has allowed students to access a range of tools and resources, including, but not exclusively the core L&T M365 resource

Progress on this programme has also been reported at GRBV and also EC&F Committees.

- (2) Which external suppliers have historically been involved and are currently involved in implementing:
- a) The Microsoft 365 system?
 - b) Empowered Learning devices?

Answer

- (2) a) BT and CGI have been involved with implementing the M365 environment along with the Council Digital Services and Education teams. Microsoft and our Microsoft reseller, Trustmarque, have also had limited involvement in this.
- b) CGI are the primary supplier of the Empowered Learning solution with XMA as the framework supplier of iPads.

- Question** (3) What is the split of roles and responsibilities between City of Edinburgh Council and CGI for:
- a) The Microsoft 365 system – information governance, data protection and cyber security?
 - b) Empowered Learning devices - information governance, data protection and cyber security?

- Answer** (3) a) For M365 the Council defines the information governance/data protection policies which are applied and work with CGI on their implementation – some configuration sits with the Council and some with CGI. CGI is responsible for the overall security of the toolset. The Council have commissioned independent security reviews of both the corporate and Learning and Teaching M365 estates and are working through recommended changes with CGI.
- b) For Empowered Learning devices, CGI are responsible for all aspects of this including security, with the information governance and data protection elements agreed as part of the Council led Data Protection Impact Assessment.

- Question** (4) What official standards do City of Edinburgh Council and CGI meet with regards to information governance, data protections and cyber security, such as the ISO 27000 family of standards covering information security management?

- Answer** (4) CGI currently hold a ISO27001 accreditation. Annually, the Council undergoes an independent assessment for PSN compliance through an extensive penetration test. The assessing authority directly submits the test results to the Cabinet Office. The management and monitoring of all Critical and High rated findings' remediation occur through a Remediation Action Plan (RAP). PSN compliance certification is granted only when our PSN assessor is satisfied with the substantial progress made in addressing the findings.

- Question** (5) When were City of Edinburgh Council and CGI last independently certified to be meeting each of those standards and what was the certifying body?

Answer

- (5)** The CGI ISO27001 certificate was issued in April 2022 and is set to expire in May 2024. Additionally, the City of Edinburgh Council's PSN Compliance is due to expire in March 2024. Testing for the PSN 2024 submission has been completed, with the remediation of findings already in progress. The application submission is scheduled to be sent in February 2024.

Item no 10.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Question

Please could the Convener set out in table form (1) the number of parking spaces currently available to Zone 5 permit-holders in the following streets, (2) the net gain or loss to Zone 5 permit-holders should a TRO be raised and implemented in these streets to install the proposed Phase 4 bin hub locations, and (3) totals for both.

- Dean Street
- St Bernard's Row

Answer

These locations no longer form part of the Communal Bin Review Phase 4 and therefore it is not currently possible to provide this information.

Item no 10.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Question

Please could the Convener set out in table form (1) the number of parking spaces currently available to Zone 5A permit-holders in the following streets, (2) the net gain or loss to Zone 5A permit-holders should a TRO be raised and implemented in these streets to install the proposed Phase 4 bin hub locations, and (3) totals for both.

- Brandon Street
- Dean Bank Lane
- Dundas Street
- Hamilton Place
- Henderson Place
- Henderson Row
- Perth Street
- Saxe Coburg Place
- Saxe Coburg Street
- Saxe Coburg Terrace

Answer

The table below provides the requested information.

Table 1

ZONE	ROAD	EXISTING PERMIT HOLDERS PARKING PLACES	EXISTING SHARED USE PARKING PLACES	PROPOSED PERMIT HOLDERS PARKING PLACES	PROPOSED SHARED USE PARKING PLACES	NET GAIN OR LOSS OF PERMIT HOLDER PARKING PLACES	NET GAIN OR LOSS OF SHARED USE PARKING PLACES
5A	Brandon Street	3	7	3	7	0	0
	Dean Bank Lane	15	16	15	14	0	-2
	Dundas Street	25	0	25	0	0	0
	Hamilton Place	8	0	7	0	-1	0
	Henderson Place	4	3	5	3	1	0
	Henderson Row	32	4	28	4	-4	0
	Perth Street	20	3	20	3	0	0
	Saxe Coburg Place	57	19	56	19	-1	0
	Saxe Coburg Street	17	3	17	3	0	0
	Saxe Coburg Terrace	16	7	15	7	-1	0
		197	62	191	60	-6	-2

Supplementary information

The team can compare the bin hub length to the standard British parking space. However, they would also need to calculate the areas where there was a historic bin location which will be returned to parking. Further some bin hubs may be placed where there was no parking previously. Also, as these parking places are not individually marked, all numbers are indicative based on the length of parking places in situ or being added/removed.

Item no 10.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Question

(1) Please could the Convener set out in table form (1) the number of parking spaces currently available to Zone 6 permit-holders in the following streets, (2) the net gain or loss to Zone 6 permit-holders should a TRO be raised and implemented in these streets to install the proposed Phase 4 bin hub locations, and (3) totals for both.

- Brandon Street
- Brandon Terrace
- Canonmills
- Canon Street
- East London Street
- Eyre Crescent
- Eyre Place
- Eyre Terrace
- Logan Street
- Rodney Street

Answer

(1) The table below provides the requested information.

Table 1

ZONE	ROAD	EXISTING PERMIT HOLDERS PARKING PLACES	EXISTING SHARED USE PARKING PLACES	PROPOSED PERMIT HOLDERS PARKING PLACES	PROPOSED SHARED USE PARKING PLACES	NET GAIN OR LOSS OF PERMIT HOLDER PARKING PLACES	NET GAIN OR LOSS OF SHARED USE PARKING PLACES
6	Brandon Street	7	3	6	3	-1	0
	Brandon Terrace	0	7	6	0	6	-7
	Canonmills	3	0	2	0	-1	0
	Canon Street	5	0	3	0	-2	0
	East London Street	29	27	31	24	2	-3
	Eyre Crescent	28	20	32	15	4	-5
	Eyre Place	16	35	17	34	1	-1
	Eyre Terrace	12	6	12	6	0	0
	Logan Street	12	0	14	0	2	0
	Rodney Street					0	0
		112	98	123	82	11	-16

Supplementary information

The team can compare the bin hub length to the standard British parking space. However, they would also need to calculate the areas where there was a historic bin location which will be returned to parking. Further some bin hubs may be placed where there was no parking previously. Also, as these parking places are not individually marked, all numbers are indicative based on the length of parking places in situ or being added/removed.

Item no 10.13

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Public Toilet Report to Transport and Environment Committee - 16th November 2023

This report dealt with a number of issues regarding public toilets including reporting back on the loss of the public toilets at Haymarket and the associated burden. This was addressed in a B Agenda appendix which is a confidential item as it contains legal advice and the public have not seen this document. The burden is a matter of public record as it is registered in the Register of Sasines and was found by a member of the community in the West End who sorely misses the public toilets in Morrison Street.

A number of questions were asked by the Community which do not appear to have been considered by the Committee.

Could the Convener answer the following questions:

- Question** (1) Will Haymarket be considered a “high traffic area” and included in the report coming back in twelve months time?
- Answer** (1) The action agreed by Transport and Environment Committee in November 2023 was to progress with developing a proposal for new public toilets, including changing facilities, in town centres. In addition, based on the Strategy approved by Transport and Environment Committee in April 2021, and recognising that the provision of public conveniences has been raised by a number of Elected Members recently, I have asked officers to prepare a report for a Transport and Environment Committee before the summer recess which updates members on the Strategy and next steps.
- Question** (2) Did Committee carefully consider the legal advice provided and assure themselves that all avenues have been explored to ascertain that any decisions taken regarding not enforcing the burden have been reasonable as per the Wednesbury test (A reasoning or decision is Wednesbury unreasonable (or irrational) if it is so unreasonable that no reasonable person acting reasonably could have made it).

Answer (2) Legal advice was provided to all Committee members in advance of the meeting and officers from the Council's Legal team attended Committee to answer any questions in respect of the information provided.

Question (3) Only Committee members, who have had sight of the legal advice, can make this decision which is why I am bringing this question to Council as I cannot ascertain from the webcast whether this part of the paper was considered.

Answer (3) I have asked officers to share the legal advice provided with ward Councillors. Officers would also be happy to answer any questions that Councillors have on this.

Item no 10.14

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

- Question** (1) Can the Convener please confirm to date the amount of location reviews requested from residents (may include site visits) broken down by Phase? (see appendix 1)
- Answer** (1) This information is not held in a way which allows this question to be easily answered for Phases 1, 2 and A.
- The [outcome](#) of the reviews of Phases 3 and 4 was reported to Transport and Environment Committee in November 2023 (Appendix 3 and 4).
- Further reviews continue to be undertaken as enquiries are received from residents.
- Question** (2) Can the Convener please confirm any indicative wider review dates for Phases 1 and 2 which didn't benefit from the adjusted Review Process applicable to later phases?
- Answer** (2) A full review of all the locations installed as part of Phases 1 and 2 will be undertaken in January 2024.
- Question** (3) Can the Convener please provide an update on the status on any outstanding TROs for adjustments in Phase 1, such as South Sloan Street and Easter Road?
- Answer** (3) Changes from all the phases will be brought together under one Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). It is anticipated that this will be advertised in Spring 2024, with a view to implementing changes on streets, should it be agreed to proceed, from late Summer 2024.

Appendix 1

	# Reviews requested	# Moves initiated	# Ongoing review	# Moves not possible	# Total locations in phase
Phase 1					
Phase 2					
Phase A					
Phase 3					
Phase 4					

Item no 10.15

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

In answer to my question in February 2023, the Convener advised that a bus gate was being considered on Turnhouse Road in order to manage traffic access to the Maybury junction.

Therefore, to ask the Convener;

Question (1) Whether this consideration has concluded?

Answer (1) In November 2023, a technical review of the Maybury junction was commissioned. This will include an assessment of the Turnhouse Road bus gate proposal. The commission will assess what changes can be undertaken to address current issues at Maybury but also accommodate future growth planned for West Edinburgh

Question (2) If so, whether a bus gate is judged necessary on Turnhouse Road, and when it is expected to be progressed?

Answer (2) This will form part of the technical appraisal.

Question (3) If not, when he expects it to conclude?

Answer (3) The outcomes from the study are expected to be available Q2 2024.

Item no 10.16

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023

- Question** (1) Can the Convener provide an update on preparations for the winter readiness programme, including:
- Equipment numbers ready for this year (road gritters, pavement gritters, etc)
 - Stock of salt
- Answer** (1) The attached briefing note provides information on the preparations for winter maintenance readiness.
- Question** (2) Will the Convener provide an assurance that the hierarchy will be adhered to so as to ensure that pavements and active travel routes are kept safe?
- Answer** (2) The approach agreed by the Council, and set out in the attached briefing, will be adhered to in 2023/24.

Winter Maintenance Readiness - 2023/24

Roads & Transport Infrastructure
Place Directorate
October 2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is an annual briefing note confirming the annual winter readiness preparations for the forthcoming season as well as to update on any significant changes.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council has a statutory duty, under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to take such steps as it considers “reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads”. The intention of this duty is not that the Council will take immediate and simultaneous steps to clear and/or treat every road whenever ice or snow exists. It is recognised by the Courts that this would be impossible and beyond the limits of available resources.
- 2.2 The Weather Emergency season will run from 20 October 2023 to 12 April 2024, with the period 2 weeks either side of this risk assessed by the Roads Operations Manager and a standby shift deployed as required.
- 2.3 The Weather Emergency service is primarily led by Roads Operations, within Roads and Transport Infrastructure. Roads Operations deliver carriageway gritting and is supported by other council sections namely Neighbourhood and Environmental services (Waste/Cleansing and Parks) to deliver footpath/cycle path gritting.
- 2.4 Edinburgh’s road network has been prioritised into three treatment categories Priority 1, 2 & 3, commonly referred to as P1, P2 and P3.
- 2.5 Roads Operations will provide plant and resources to treat the P1 carriageway network on a precautionary basis 24hrs a day for the entire season and as the weather forecast dictates.
- 2.6 In 2021 it was agreed that P1 footpaths and cycle paths would be gritted and managed by Neighbourhood Environmental Services and augmented by a volunteer roster (Roster B), staffed primarily from this service. These routes would cover the high ground in the southwest of the city and critical footways in the city centre and to sensitive locations.
- 2.7 To allow a transition into managing the P1 footpaths, for the second year, Neighbourhood Environmental Services will grit 12 Hako routes and Road

Operations grit 17 routes through management of the Roster B volunteers. It is anticipated that responsibility for this in 2014/25 will fully sit with Neighbourhood Environmental Services.

- 2.8 Roads Operations will provide plant and resources to treat the Priority 2 and 3 carriageway networks on a reactionary basis within core hours, Monday to Friday, as the weather dictates and as resources will allow. Additional footpath/cycle path gritting will be provided by supporting council sections, including Roster B, as resources allow.
- 2.9 Silver tactical co-ordination teams are in place, rostered and communicated to provide a senior incident management control in the event of severe weather conditions. The team will augment and support the standard weather emergency resources and includes the deployment and management of additional external contractors and resources.

3.0 Main Points

Winter Operations 2023/24 Update:

- 3.1 Over the last 2 winter season provision of Roster B services has been decoupled from Roster A by moving the Roster B depots to Inch and Murrayburn depots to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak of Covid-19 and to reduce the impact of any outbreak. Roster A has also been decoupled into two separate depots, Bankhead and Blackford. This will be implemented every season moving forward as good practice, providing contingency for any outbreak.
- 3.2 In the event of an outbreak causing significant proportions of a depot, or the whole depot, to require to self-isolate then the Priority 1 network can be treated from a single depot by temporarily putting on hold routine roads maintenance and focusing solely on Winter Treatment where the forecast requires this.
- 3.3 Following the 2020/21 season review, it was agreed to implement additional ongoing revenue funding and resources to deliver increase footpath gritting. Since then, an additional 12 routes have been developed, mapped and trialled. Additional street sweepers to support the delivery have been procured and delivered. The supplementary winter kit which converts the sweepers into a gritter has been procured and initial route running has been undertaken toward the end of the 2022/23 season.
- 3.4 These additional routes will be issued alongside existing footpath gritting routes for the 2023/24 season, as the weather dictates.

Decision Making:

- 3.5 Edinburgh is split into three forecast domains: South, North West and Urban. During marginal conditions this allows treatment to be targeted to the area or areas which require treatment and avoids costly and unsustainable treatment of areas not at risk of hazard.

- 3.6 Forecast information is received twice daily from specialist meteorological supplier MetDesk Ltd and is calibrated to numerous weather stations and road sensors situated across Edinburgh to provide an accurate forecast of predicted Road Surface Temperatures (RST) from which to make treatment decisions. Treatment decisions are made twice a day for that evening and the following morning.
- 3.7 There is a day and night shift roster on call to react to the treatment decisions and where necessary these shifts combined can cover a 24hr period.
- 3.8 5nr winter weather sensors were upgraded in the period between 2021/22 and 2022/23 season to ensure reliable forecasting and decision making is supported.

Salt Stocks:

- 3.9 A stock of 12,000 tonnes of rock salt is in place within the Edinburgh boundary and will be replenished at operational depots as required throughout the season.
- 3.10 An operational supply of 5,000 tonnes is held between Bankhead (4,000 tonnes) and Blackford (1,000 tonnes) roads depots. These stores have been topped up to full for the start of the season.
- 3.11 A further strategic supply of 7,000 tonnes is in place at Longstone Depot.
- 3.12 The council's rock salt supplier also has a further stock of 125,000 tonnes located within Edinburgh for wider distribution to the East of Scotland.
- 3.13 Stock levels are constantly monitored by Roads Operations and levels topped up throughout the season as required.
- 3.14 Last year's salt use was 6,488 tonnes.
- 3.15 The 5-year average is 6,903 tonnes.

Winter Fleet:

- 3.16 The Council has a fleet of 17 multibody gritters. These have been calibrated for gritting ahead of the season start date.
- 3.17 In support of this, and in recognition of the age of some of the existing fleet, the Council has 13 modern hired fixed body gritters for the full season.
- 3.18 The council has 16 dedicated footpath tractors fitted with salt spreaders and a combination of snow ploughs and brushes to treat dedicated P1 footpath/cycle paths routes. The tractors are serviced and maintained in-house.
- 3.19 The council has a fleet of 12 sweeper units that can be converted to gritters to undertake footpath and cyclepath gritting.

- 3.20 An additional 3 tractors have been put in place to service dedicated (SfP / Travelling Safely) routes as part of the P1 network.
- 3.21 The council also has 2 dedicated 3.5t vehicles fitted with mobile spreaders to treated P1 cycle routes.
- 3.22 Fleet Services has confirmed their cover arrangements to provide the required Mechanical and Fitter support 24/7 during winter operations. The provision of newer hired vehicles will reduce the pressure on maintenance services.
- 3.23 The roads fleet has undergone a tender exercise in 2021/22 and it is expected that replacement vehicles will begin arriving near end 2023 and reduce the operations reliance on hired in vehicles in the longer term.

Grit Bins and Salt Dumps:

- 3.24 The council provides salt bins in communal locations so that streets and residents can self-help in the areas not covered by the P1 network. At the start of the season there were 3,136 bins on the asset register.
- 3.25 All salt bins have been re-filled ahead of the season starting.
- 3.26 Residents can find their nearest grit bin, report a damaged bin, or request a re-fill at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/gritbinproblem>

Note: In periods of snow fall or prolonged frost/ice it is not possible to fill all the bins immediately and they will be filled as quickly as resources and the weather will allow.
- 3.27 Council schools have been surveyed ahead of the season commencing and one tonne bags of rock salt delivered out, as required, to provide sufficient stocks for schools to self-serve in and around the grounds.
- 3.28 Following review of the 2020/21 season, 30 bulk salt dumps have been located for quick deployment of salt in bulk during severe weather.
- 3.29 A further 150+ one tonne salt bag locations have been identified to support this as part of the silver command in extreme conditions.

Communications:

- 3.30 In response to forecast weather events, the Council web pages will be updated, and communications delivered to Council services and staff. There will also be opportunities for proactive press engagement to highlight the Council's preparations to respond to these events.
- 3.31 The Council's website has information on gritting routes, grit bin locations and guidance on clearing paths: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/gritting-grit-bins>

Contract management:

3.32 The winter forecasting contract continues to be delivered by MetDesk Ltd.

3.33 The Council has in place:

3.33.1 A contract for the hire of additional external gritters on a standby basis to deal with any unexpected vehicle failure or severe weather;

3.33.2 A contract to provide tractor pulled gritters in the rural West of the city in the event of severe weather restricting access to standard gritting vehicles;

3.33.3 Pre-approved selection of contractors to provide plant and labour support in the event of severe or prolonged weather; and

3.33.4 A contract for the provision of rock salt year-round.

Mutual Aid:

3.34 Arrangements are in place with neighbouring authorities and the Trunk Road Operator to ensure coverage of boundary interfaces.

3.35 Lines of communication between neighbouring authorities and the Trunk Road Operator are in place in the event of severe weather or salt shortages to ensure effective mutual support where possible.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 There are robust routes and procedures in place to manage the delivery of the winter service, built up over years of experience from dedicated officers.

4.2 Domain decision making has generated a noticeable efficiency in marginal conditions. It has resulted in a reduction of wasted salt and fuel use and the negative environmental impacts associated with these, as well as reducing the overall cost of the service. This will continue to be implemented.

4.3 Officers will remain vigilant in reviewing the forecasting accuracy of the weather forecast supplier in case there are any inconsistencies that would give rise to any concerns.

4.4 At the middle and end of the season officers will review progress and issues arising with the view to review and update procedures as necessary. This season particular focus will be given to implementation of the additional resources and routes.

5.0 Contact Details

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Winter Weather Contacts:

Winterweather.enquiries@edinburgh.gov.uk

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/gritting-grit-bins>

QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Campbell for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children & Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 14
December 2023**

Question

- (1) On the 2nd of November I asked the convener about the contract spend on mental health services of children and young people.

The convener's answer only talked about the £1m funding per annum that comes directly from the Scottish Government and no detail was provided about the council's own funding provision. Instead I was directed towards the contract register which is published on the council's website. The information on the contract register is minimal, with only a brief description given for each project. It is not possible to determine what contracts in place are for mental health support for children and young people from the contract register. Can the convener please provide the information asked for last month which was:

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) Children and Families' mental health and wellbeing is a priority for City of Edinburgh Council. Please see below the main contracts for mental health supports which also offer activities that promote mental health rather than interventions to address mental health issues.

The Community Mental Health contracts deliver eight projects across localities and additional citywide projects for an approximate total value of £1m per annum. One of the contracts is currently being reviewed (NE Lot 1e) as one project is unable to fulfil the requirement.

Last year 1513 children and young people between 5 and 24 (26 if care experienced) benefited from these supports.

The contracts value and all details as follows (year 22/23):

LOT Number & Value	Organisations	Delivery
SE Lot 1a £115,000	Home Link Family Support Crossreach Goodtrees	Art therapy sessions Young people counselling sessions Systematic family counselling sessions Adult counselling sessions Young people therapeutic group work Adult therapeutic group work
SE Lot 1b £115,000	Canongate Youth Uevolve Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	Wellbeing worker (8-14yrs) Therapeutic counselling (12-18yrs) Group work for young adults Support for parents, carers and frontline staff A community connector offering - (a) drop in's - (b) Support groups - (c) Weekend wellbeing activities A community project officer offering – (a) Woodland activities (b) Gardening workshops - (c) Physical activities – (d) Conservation activities
SW Lot 1cd £230,000	Space Big Hearts SAMH With Kids	1-1 art therapy, Play Therapy, Group work schools, Group work community Schools Out (5-14 yrs) TEAM (8-12yrs) That's me (13-18yrs) Welcome to football (15-24yrs (26)) Time for me (11-18yrs) Mental health Workshops (11-18yrs) Mental health workshops 16+ adults PHEW Groupwork (18-24yrs (26)) PHEW 1-1 (18-24yrs (26))

NE Lot 1e £115,000	Lets Talk Edinburgh Community Yoga Tinderbox Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust	Weekly health drop in's, (a) 5-11yrs and parents- (b) 12-26 yrs (c) Therapeutic 1-1 slots (d) Time for me sessions Yoga programmes Therapeutic music group programmes Gardening project
NE Lot 1f £115,000	The Junction Young People Health and Wellbeing The Citadel Youth Centre Pilemy Development Project YMCA Multicultural Family Base The Ripple Miricyl	Block counselling access Family worker 1-1, Parenting Groupwork, Young People Wellbeing groupwork 1:1 Support and family support, Girls Emotional Wellbeing Group Mosaic Groupwork, 1-1 Support Young People's Wellbeing groupwork (10-15yrs), Wellbeing groupwork parents/carers
NW Lot 1g £100,000	Stepping Stones Intercultural Youth Scotland Granton Youth Muirhouse Youth Development Group	Outreach Support Counselling sessions for CYP identifying themselves as BAME and/or POC Group 1-1 Counselling (10+yrs) 1-1 Support
NW Lot 1h £100,000	Stepping Stones Intercultural Youth Scotland Granton Youth Westerhailes Youth Agency	Outreach Support Counselling sessions for CYP identifying themselves as BAME and/or POC Group 1-1 Counselling (10+yrs) 1-1 and Groupwork support

<p>NW Lot 1i</p> <p>£100,000</p>	<p>Stepping Stones</p> <p>Intercultural Youth Scotland</p> <p>Granton Youth</p> <p>Pilton Youth and Childrens Project</p>	<p>Outreach Support</p> <p>Counselling sessions for CYP identifying themselves as BAME and/or POC</p> <p>Group 1-1 Counselling (10+yrs)</p> <p>1-1 Support</p>
<p>City Wide Lot 2A</p> <p>£140,000</p>	<p>Barnardo's</p> <p>Families Outside</p>	<p>Support to families with intensive support based on planned intervention</p> <p>Support to CYP</p> <p>Provide flexible spaces crisis intervention response</p> <p>Provide light touch signposting or referral to MHWB family support</p> <p>Provide access to Drop in sessions</p> <p>Provide Groupwork sessions</p>
<p>City Wide Lot 2C</p> <p>£100,000</p>	<p>Barnardo's</p> <p>Tailor Ed</p> <p>Autism Initiatives</p>	<p>1-1 support (5-16yrs)</p> <p>Group training opportunities for parents and siblings</p> <p>1-1 support (16-24yrs)</p>

There is a contract in place for Edinburgh Together which is delivered by a consortium comprised of Barnardo's, Canongate Youth and Children 1st. The contract provides for therapeutic support to children, siblings and their families. The annual value is £670,000.

A contract is also awarded to Richmond's Hope to support children affected by bereavement. The contract value is £48,000 per annum for the delivery of bereavement counselling and therapeutic age-appropriate activities to bereaved children and young people. This may be on a one to one or group basis depending on the needs of the young person.

A contract is awarded to Circle and Sunflower Garden (Crossreach) to support children affected by parental substance use. The contract is jointly funded with EADP, for an annual value of £485,000. Circle works alongside families to help them build upon existing strengths to make and sustain positive lifestyle choices. Children are provided with 1:1 support in schools or the local community. Creative approaches are used to help children express their emotions, build their confidence and develop resilience to help them cope with any difficulties. Sunflower Garden offer counselling, art therapy and therapeutic support on a 1:1 and/or groupwork basis.

City of Edinburgh Council also has a Service Level Agreement with NHS for £53,000 per annum to fund 0.8 FTE of a CAMHS worker to provide a responsive and timely service to meet the clinical mental and emotional health needs (including where this impacts on behavioural presentation) of the children and young people accessing a Social Work service from Young People Services.

A contract is awarded to Bright Light to provide up to 1000 hours of counselling to families in poverty for an annual spend of £50,000.

The Council has also awarded a ten-year contract to Scottish Nursing Guild for the provision of emergency mental health. The spend varies depending on the need.

Action for Children EH1 contract value is approx. £155,000 per annum. The Provider is contracted to engage the young person in a range of sustainable activities (affordable to the child or family after the completion of intervention) which will enhance life experiences, social skills, self-confidence and independence skills. The Provider supports the child, young person and their family through crisis periods, particularly at evenings and weekends, by reinforcing parenting work, assisting in the identification of emergency kinship care arrangements and defusing conflict.

Mental health support provisions and wellbeing interventions are also directly purchased calling off existing framework contracts to address the local need identified by the Head Teachers, the Practice teams and the teams around the child. These may include counselling, therapeutic support, play-therapy, art therapy and music therapy.

Other forms of support are also available like coaching and mentoring through the staff employed in 9 of our High schools in conjunction with the MCR approach.

The list of providers is not exhaustive and includes:

Place2 Be
With Kids

The Citadel

Humanutopia
She Scotland
Tree of Knowledge
U-Evolve

Beth Reid creative therapy
Circle
Fischy Music
Granton Youth
Miriam McHardy counselling
Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy
Wester Hailes Youth Agency

Apex Scotland
Barnardo's -
Canongate youth
Cyrenians
Multi-Cultural Family Base
The Junction

Action for Children
Children 1st

If further detail is required, it may be more appropriate to provide a briefing to the Elected Member in order to provide appropriate protection for commercial interests, and the identity of individual service users.

Question

(2) Last month I asked the convener:

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

And I was told that:

‘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’

Can the convener please provide this information now, or give a timeline and process by which it will be provided (i.e. an update to committee, a report or a briefing note)?

Answer

(2) Alongside our Educational Psychology and Additional Support for Learning Services, counselling is provided to all children and young people by 31 counsellors employed by City of Edinburgh Council. This core funding equates approximately £1m per annum. The number of children and young people accessing this service in academic year has been provided in November.

In specific circumstances, when schools and teams in the local communities identify needs that cannot be met via City of Edinburgh Council resources, they are able to access contracts and frameworks as appropriately and as flexibly as required.

Multi-provider frameworks offer the flexibility the City of Edinburgh Council needs to meet the requirement timely, locally and effectively, however due to the nature of these

provisions (community- based, needs-led) the data on uptake is held at schools' level and cannot be collated until the new contract management process is implemented, pending approval of the Award of the framework for Accredited Pathways and Certified Counsellors and Therapists in August 2024.

The city-wide needs addressed by central contracts last year provided for 304 children and young people and their families. As requested, the number only refers to direct counselling services and does not include the majority of provisions for therapeutic and wellbeing support referred to in Q1.

Question

(3) Last month I asked the convener:

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?

And received the response:

'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.'

Can the convener please provide this information now, or give a timeline and process by which it will be provided (i.e. an update to committee, a report or a briefing note)?

Answer

(3) As stated in November, 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 when reporting on outcomes.

By the very nature of the service some of the children and young people are at risk of homelessness or are affected by parental substance use but that is not a precursor for accessing this service and is not information which we gather.

A dedicated contract, however, is awarded to deliver support to children affected by parental substance use. The contract is jointly funded with EADP, for an annual value of £485,000 for 22/23. In 22/23, 155 children accessed the support provided by Circle and 78 accessed the support provided by Sunflower Garden through this contract

Question

(4) Last month I asked:

How much of this spend, if any, is statutory?

This information was not provided, as the amount of council spend on contracts to provide mental health support for children and young people was not provided.

Can the convener please provide this information now, or give a timeline and process by which it will be provided (i.e. an update to committee, a report or a briefing note)?

Answer

(4) Counselling and wellbeing interventions are not considered statutory provisions.

The contracted spend can be considered critical spend, to address a requirement that flows from population need and individual strategies directed to local intervention in the learning communities, in addition to the core services delivered by City of Edinburgh Council.

Question

(5) Last month I asked:

When are these contracts up for review?

And I was given the answer

‘The details can be found on the contract register published on City of Edinburgh Council website.’

As I was unable to determine which contracts on the contract register are for mental health support for children and young people, could the convener please provide a list of the relevant contracts and their review dates?

Answer

- (5)** The Flexible framework for Accredited Pathways and Certified Counsellors and Therapists contract opportunity closed on Monday 4th December. The implementation date is anticipated to be June 2024.

CAPSU contract – Children Affected by Parental Substance Use currently awarded to Circle and Sunflower Garden) end date is June 2024.

Edinburgh Together contract, currently delivered by Children 1st, Barnardo's and Canongate Youth end date is March 2024.

Bereavement counselling, currently delivered by Richmond's Hope end date is August 2027.

YPS mental health service contract currently delivered by NHS Lothian review date is March 2024.

Emergency Mental Health support contract end date is August 2024, with the option to extend for up to 5 years.

EH1 contract currently awarded to Action for Children end date is July 2024.

Community Mental Health contract review date is October 2024.

Item no 10.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Nicolson for answer by the Vice Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023

As Chalmers Sexual Health Services and services relating to Astley Ainslie Hospital will no longer provide reports to the EIJB:

Question (1) How will the EIJB monitor these vital Sexual Health Services in Edinburgh?

Answer (1) The 4 Integration Joint Boards in Lothian are currently reviewing and strengthening the performance management arrangements for hosted services. (Hosted services are run by NHS Lothian on a pan Lothian basis and commissioned by each of the 4 IJBs). Sexual health services will be considered as part of this process.

Question (2) How can Council raise issues and concerns to improve these services for residents in Edinburgh?

Answer (2) Anything relating to the operation of the service should be routed via NHSL. If the issue was one of strategy, then it could be raised via the IJB.

Question (3) What explanation has been given for these services (based in Edinburgh) being moved to a different IJB when the majority of the service users are within the City of Edinburgh?

Answer (3) The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board remains responsible for commissioning these services for the people of Edinburgh. Operational management of these pan Lothian services is the responsibility of NHS Lothian. Further information was included in the briefing note circulated to elected members on 28th September 2023.

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Macinnes for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 December 2023**

At the 21 November Finance and Resources Committee we were provided with a report on Revenue Monitoring 2023/24 Month Five. An underspend of £1.88m is forecast in that report with some indication that change to that figure may occur.

Question (1) Can the Convener confirm on what exact date she was made aware of that figure by officers?

Answer (1) I was made aware of the projected £1.88m underspend when the finalised report was sent to me on 7 November 2023, the same day it was published in APM papers.

Question (2) Can the Convener confirm that she agrees that decisions on underspend allocation are a matter for elected member decision-making and that, in her role as Convener, she will protect this position and ensure that Finance and Resources group spokespersons are fully informed immediately whenever the ongoing position emerges?

Answer (2) I agree that the projected underspend allocation is a matter for elected members to decide.

The projected underspend is a constantly evolving position, and it would place an unfair burden on officers to continually keep F&R group spokespeople, including myself, updated at every change. If there are any drastic changes that need immediate attention, I will ensure F&R spokespeople are briefed, however, Committee reporting is the established governance route for keeping members updated on current Council-wide positions on all policy areas, not just the budget.

Item no 10.20

QUESTION NO 20

**By Councillor Macinnes for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 14 December 2023**

Question (1) Can the Convener indicate what conversations (and when) she has had with senior finance officers on what individual budget proposals are coming from officers and when we can expect them? Has she sought an explanation of why we are now at the end of November (at time of writing) and we still have not had any specific proposals with information on their implications?

Answer (1) On the run up to the 24/25 budget setting in February, the Labour Group has requested briefings from Directors to talk through the budget in their service area. Any group can do the same if they wish.

Finance officers have worked with Directors to identify various means of savings other than significant changes to service delivery which has brought the gap to £11.9m from £58.6m as reported at November F&R. Any savings proposals to bridge this remaining gap will go to the relevant Executive Committee for scrutiny before the February Council Budget meeting.

Question (2) While there has been some information brought forward in the recent 'Revenue Budget Framework and MTFP 2024/29 - progress update', does she agree that this does not substitute for specific budget proposals?

Answer (2) Although I agree these do not substitute for detailed savings proposals, the agreed approach this year has been to take proposals to the relevant Executive Committees for full scrutiny.

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 14 December 2023.

Of the 44 EV charging points due to be operational by autumn 2023 (as per the Council website):

- Question** (1) Which of these charging points are not yet operational?
- Answer** (1) There are 10 charging sites which are not yet operational. These are:
- Barnton Grove, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - St Clair Road, Edinburgh – four 7kW chargers with eight bays
 - Craigleith Crescent, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Northfield Road, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Craighall Road, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Chalmers Street, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Sciennes, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Rose Lane, Queensferry – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Oxgangs View, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays
 - Prestonfield Avenue, Edinburgh – two 7kW chargers with four bays

Of these, nine are nearing completion and are due to go live by February 2024. This will see a total of 20 charging units, serving a total of 40 bays, added to the ChargePlace Scotland network. Unfortunately, due to grid connection issues, the remaining site at Rose Lane, Queensferry will be delayed further into the new year. Officers are working closely with SP Energy Networks and the contractor to ensure these chargers go live as soon as possible, and it is anticipated that the final site will be live by April 2024. Once the works are complete at Rose Lane, a total of 22 charging units, serving a total of 44 bays, will be added to the ChargePlace Scotland network.

- Question** **(2)** For each of these, could you detail:
- a) What is the reason that they are not yet operational?
 - b) When will they become operational?
- Answer** **(2)** a) There have been delays due to grid connection and metering issues, which has ultimately delayed the commissioning process.
- b) As noted above, the proposed go live date for the majority of chargers will be by February 2024, with the remaining site going live by April 2024.

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