

Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.05 am Thursday, 8th February, 2024

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

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Agenda Annex

Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Miller for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question

Please provide detailed drawings for the central site at Picardy Place which show:

- a) Width and slope of all pedestrian and cycle paths
- b) Design of planned tactile paving or other means to segregate these spaces.
- c) Planned surface treatment of all cycle paths and pedestrian areas
- d) Planned signage and surface marking to provide information and warnings to cyclists and pedestrians
- e) Location and design of all junction and crossing points where pedestrians and cyclists will be interacting with each other and with other traffic on the boundaries of this site.
- f) Location of all other fixed features including lamp posts and hostile vehicle bollards in relation to the designated pedestrian areas and cycle paths

Answer

The drawings requested were placed online in November 2023: <http://tinyurl.com/23w5kbsb>

They may also be accessed via the internal intranet:

https://edinburghcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/9054858_edinburgh_gov_uk/EuxxqsoalLRJuznQu82ilvgBoPN8nluMqNa3TjZ6w9dXeQ?e=LprOL9

Item no 10.2

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

Question

To ask for an update on the Council's work to form a network of cleanliness champions as reported in the April 2023 Street Cleansing Performance Report.

Answer

Whilst a definitive list of groups which the Council works with has not yet been created, officers work closely with all Friends of Parks groups, The Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Keep Porty Tidy, other resident groups, and individuals that come forward on an ad hoc basis.

Kits are provided on request. For one off requests, the kits are provided on the basis that they should be returned once the activity is complete. Where repeat requests are received, a kit will be provided to keep. The Council will restock kits when required.

From 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023, 276 requests for clean up kits for litter picks were received. The table below provides a summary of the requests by location.

Details on how to request a kit are here:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/springclean>

Item no 10.3

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

With regard to manholes and utility covers installed as part of the Trams to Newhaven Project:

Question (1) How many defects have been identified?

Answer (1) 15 project defects raised and of these 15, 11 have been corrected.

Question (2) Why have so many covers installed alongside TTN works failed causing significant noise issues for residents and poor pedestrian / cycle experience?

Answer (2) Of the chamber covers installed, only a small percentage have failed with the majority of these being repaired already. Noisy covers do not necessarily mean a defect and work is ongoing to identify any issues and to rectify these in due course.

Question (3) Will these defect repairs be undertaken as part of the TTN snagging list and what is the timescale for repair?

Answer (3) The outstanding 4 defects will be repaired, however any chambers owned by 3rd party utility companies will need to be rectified by them

Item no 10.4

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Macinnes for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

Question (1) Can the Convener indicate clearly who is responsible for the failure to provide specific budget proposals to allow political groups to pursue revenue raising and savings options instead of the proposals brought forward by the council administration to cut school budgets by £8.2m a year by the end of this Council term?

Answer (1) As part of the budget development process, the corporate leadership team, collectively agree based on the revenue framework budget gap, targets for each directorate to put forward budget proposals to executive committee as agreed by members to address the budget gap on a sustainable basis. This process has been followed and where proposals have been rejected, alternatives to a balanced budget have been put forward, resulting in the need for no further proposals for 24/25.

Question (2) Can they indicate why the £14m additional Scottish Government funding for Education appears not to be being applied in full but instead is being used to create this £8.2m funding cut to our schools?

Answer (2) The £14.4m of additional funding relates to the costs arising from the teachers pay agreement covering the period April 2022 to July 2024. This additional funding will be applied in full to the Education budget to match the additional costs arising from the 28-month pay agreement.

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Planning
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 8 February 2024**

To request an update on the situation at 107 - 115
Fountainbridge concerning:

- Question** (1) When the decanted residents who have been out of their properties since the tragic explosion in 2019 might expect to be able to regain access to their properties?
- Answer** (1) When Completion Certificates under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 have been accepted.
- Question** (2) What Building Standards matters are still outstanding or unresolved what is the Council doing to bring said matters to a speedy conclusion?
- Answer** (2) Further details of sound transmission between properties, where new floors have been constructed, are required. A structural report has been requested. Gas Safe and electrical certification has been sought.
- Question** (3) Why no Section 42 notice was provided to residents at the time of the Dangerous Building Notice?
- Answer** (3) The building was evacuated by emergency services at the time (Police / Fire Service). There is no requirement to issue a Section 42 notice in circumstances where the occupants are not in the building.
- Question** (4) Despite the Dangerous Buildings Notice stating that no building warrant was required, why are additional standards now being applied before the residents can re-enter their properties?

Answer

- (4) There is no requirement for a building warrant where works are carried out under a dangerous buildings notice. Where works are not carried out in accordance with the notice, a warrant may be required for these. The notice required that the floor be reinstated. The sound testing indicates that the floor construction is not performing as well as a floor construction that would be expected in a traditional tenement and therefore has not been reinstated in a manner that is acceptable. A warrant may not be required if adequate sound test information can be provided.

Item no 10.6

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

*Referring to Historic Child Abuse Claims as referred to in
Item 7.7 at the Finance and Resources Committee of 3
March 2022*

Question (1) How many survivors of abuse whilst in the care of Edinburgh Council have claimed for redress or compensation?

Answer (1) Since the introduction of the Limitation Bill (Scotland) Act 2017, the Council has received a total of 71 civil litigation claims.

Some of the claims received may be on behalf of former Council structures (e.g. the City of Edinburgh Council is the successor Authority to the former Lothian Regional Council and former Edinburgh District Council) with varying levels of insurance coverage.

The national redress scheme for Scotland provides redress as part of the overall Cosla contribution and not specifically Edinburgh. The most recent report in relation to costs and awards is via this link: [Redress Scotland publishes 2022-23 annual report and accounts – Redress Scotland](#),

Question (2) How many survivors have had their claim settled with Edinburgh Council?

Answer (2) 13 civil litigation claims have been settled, the remaining ones are either closed or going through the claims process.

We cannot comment on Redress cases however the link above may provide some information on the Cosla settlement(s).

Question (3) What is the total cost of such claims settled (including insurance settlements)?

Answer (3) £2,197,618.01 including insurance settlements (i.e. not through Redress Scotland).

- Question** (4) What is the estimated number of children who suffered abuse in Edinburgh's Council's care?
- Answer** (4) We are unable to provide an estimate at this stage.
- Question** (5) What is the estimated compensation and redress costs of settling the outstanding claims?
- Answer** (5) We are unable to provide an estimate of costs at this stage for ongoing cases.
- Question** (6) What have been the legal costs (internal and external) incurred in settling these claims to date?
- Answer** (6) £1,230,735.55 (including insurance settlements).

Item no 10.7

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

*In relation to abuse allegations in Edinburgh's Council's
Secure Units (including St Katherine's and elsewhere).*

Question (1) How many survivors of alleged abuse whilst in the care of Edinburgh Council's Secure Facilities have claimed for redress or compensation?

Answer (1) Since the introduction of the Limitation Bill (Scotland) Act 2017, the Council has received a total of 10 civil litigation claims in relation to Edinburgh Secure Services (ESS).

Some of the claims received may be on behalf of former Council structures (eg the City of Edinburgh Council is the successor Authority to the former Lothian Regional Council and former Edinburgh District Council) with varying levels of insurance coverage.

The national redress scheme for Scotland provides redress as part of the overall Cosla contribution and not specifically Edinburgh. The most recent report in relation to costs and awards is via this link: [Redress Scotland publishes 2022-23 annual report and accounts – Redress Scotland](#),

Question (2) How many survivors have had their claim settled with Edinburgh Council?

Answer (2) The number of claims settled is low and cannot be provided as it may identify individuals.

Question (3) What is the total cost of such claims settled (including insurance settlements)?

Answer (3) We are unable to provide this information as the number of claims which have been settled is low and provision of figures may lead to individuals being identified.

Question (4) What is the estimated number of children who suffered alleged abuse in Edinburgh's Council's Secure Facilities?

Answer (4) We are unable to provide an estimate at this stage.

- Question** (5) What is the estimated compensation and redress costs of settling the outstanding claims?
- Answer** (5) We are unable to provide an estimate of costs at this stage for ongoing cases.
- Question** (6) What have been the legal costs (internal and external) incurred in settling these claims to date?
- Answer** (6) £131,178.24

Item no 10.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor McKenzie for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

In relation to the alleged abuse by Sean Bell and redress and compensation schemes agreed by the Council.

- Question** (1) How many survivors of alleged abuse by Senior Manager Sean Bell have claimed for redress or compensation?
- Answer** (1) Since the introduction of the Council's Redress Scheme until its closure, the Council has received a total of seven claims.
- Question** (2) How many survivors have had their claim settled with Edinburgh Council?
- Answer** (2) Four claims have been settled; the remaining ones are closed.
- Question** (3) What is the total cost of such claims settled (including insurance settlements)?
- Answer** (3) The total cost is £461,250.00. The Council met these costs in full, without settlement contributions from insurance providers.
- Question** (4) What is the estimated number of people who suffered alleged abuse by Sean Bell?
- Answer** (4) Reference is made to the publicly available Report to Full Council which was made on 28 October 2021 and contains at appendix 1 full details of the investigation that was conducted and the evidence that was provided by the witnesses. It is very difficult to estimate numbers but to provide as much information as possible reference is made to section 5.2.2 in that report that refers to allegations made by 'three different women' and 'several other women' who have suffered some form of abuse.
- Question** (5) What is the estimated compensation and redress costs of settling the outstanding claims?

Answer (5) The Redress Scheme ran from 5 September 2022 until 4 March 2023 and is now closed. It is therefore not anticipated that there will be further costs to settle outstanding claims.

Question (6) What have been the legal costs (internal and external) incurred in settling these claims to date?

Answer (6) The total external legal costs were £64,980.60. Internal legal costs concerning the redress scheme are included with other costs associated with the earlier independent inquiry and finance resource will require to be assigned to provide an accurate figure concerning internal costs.

Item no 10.9

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 8 February
2024**

Question

How many allegations of abuse or safeguarding failures relating to children have been reported directly or otherwise to Edinburgh Council since January 2013?

Answer

Legislation requires a multi-agency learning review (previously known as a significant case review) to take place when a child has died or has sustained significant harm or risk of significant harm.

When one or more of the following apply:

- abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the child's death or the sustaining of or risk of significant harm
- the child is on, or has been on, the Child Protection Register or was a care experienced child (i.e. looked after or receiving aftercare or continuing care from the local authority). This is regardless of whether abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the child's death or sustaining of significant harm, unless it is absolutely clear to the Child Protection Committee that the child having been on the CPR or being care experienced has no bearing on the case.
- the child's death is by suicide, alleged murder, culpable homicide, reckless conduct, or act of violence.

Details of numbers that have taken place since 2013:

	ICR (Inter-agency Referral)	SCR (Significant Case Review)	LR (Learning Review)
2013	0	0	N/A
2014	2	0	N/A
2015	2	1	N/A
2016	2	0	N/A
2017	5	1	N/A
2018	1	1	N/A
2019	3	0	N/A
2020	1	0	N/A
2021	1	0	N/A
2022	1	0	N/A
2023	N/A	N/A	2

Item no 10.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) What specific outputs / outcomes / resources resulted from the Thriving Greenspace study?

Answer (1) The primary outcome is the [Thriving Greenspaces 2050 Strategy](#) (which was presented to Culture and Communities Committee in 2023).

Following this, the Edinburgh Nature Network has been created, with over 200 nature network actions illustrated on the online Edinburgh Nature Network (ENN) storymap [Edinburgh Nature Network \(arcgis.com\)](#). This is split across the city, highlighting a range of actions identified to improve biodiversity and increase connectivity through stepping stone habitats across 7 habitats and 7 ecosystem services.

The data informing these opportunities and actions was derived from information held by partner organisations and gathered through workshops with 30 different organisations, including SWT and the University of Edinburgh.

Several of these actions involve HRA land, discussions are on-going to focus on HRA land as part of ENN delivery.

The first ENN pilot project in Leith, funded by greenspace scotland's 'Nature in Parks' grant programme, took place last year. The locations selected for the Leith pilot were based on ENN actions to improve habitat connectivity and considered spaces with low biodiversity and considered existing user groups, accessibility and visitation of these spaces. This resulted in new proposals for parks which were co-designed with the local community and would result in net gains of biodiversity for each location.

The pilot is tied in with the Cables Wynd housing project, where native bulb planting will form part of the project. Native species selection also forms part of the Coatfield Lane project and there are on-going discussions to support housing projects to consider ecological interventions.

Council officers work closely with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) (this work has been half funded by the Council and half by NatureScot). This has furthered community engagement in conservation initiatives, informed by the ENN and includes creating five new meadows this year alongside other initiatives including orchard planting.

- Question** (2) What is the total area of greenspace managed by the Council, and what proportion of that is Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land?
- Answer** (2) Total area of greenspace is 2,146 hectares of which 550 (26%) is associated with HRA.
- Question** (3) In total, how many projects resulting from the Thriving Greenspaces study have been completed or are planned on HRA land?
- Answer** (3) This is difficult to quantify as HRA land can occur in between connections with other types of land which means any land in between (HRA or otherwise) will benefit from biodiversity increases and other ecosystem services.
- There are currently close to 1,000 Living Landscape features across the city, many of which exist on HRA land. The data, however, does not differentiate some of this land between different Council designations. A map is being developed to address this
- Question** (4) Parks and Greenspace staff maintain HRA land. What proportion of the Parks & Greenspace total annual budget comes from the HRA to maintain HRA greenspace?
- Answer** (4) The Parks and Greenspace service has an annual forecast of £6.59m, of which £1.72m is charged to the HRA. This equates to approximately 26% of the total forecast.

Question (5) Does Parks and Greenspace apply the same or similar standards to monitor landscape quality of HRA land as they do for Parks and Greenspace land (e.g. Park Quality Assessment or Green Flag Award)?

Answer (5) The Parks and Greenspace operational maintenance standards apply to HRA land. Additionally, biodiversity and ecological requirements also apply to HRA development

Question (6) In line with a climate justice approach, the Edinburgh Nature Network / Thriving Greenspace project recognizes the need for ecosystem services to be prioritized in disadvantaged areas “where access to nature and quality greenspace will provide benefits to people that need it most”. What is the total number of interventions recommended across the city on the Nature Networks maps, and how many / what percentage of these are on HRA land?

Answer (6) At present, more than 200+ actions have been identified across the city across the Nature Network maps. For the reasons described in Q3, the extent to which HRA land is affected by connectivity actions is difficult to quantify.

Many of the Council’s interventions have occurred in disadvantaged areas and this was one of the reasons Leith was selected as the pilot to deliver a number of ENN actions. Low SIMD is also part of the inclusion criteria for ENN expansion in our current bid application to support the delivery and upscaling of the Linking Leith’s Parks project.

Now that it has been developed, the delivery of the ENN is relatively recent, so the focus was initially on parks. However, the focus is now moving towards other types of land, including HRA.

Council officers are working to ensure that any new interventions and features have longevity and remain in a condition which benefits biodiversity for years to come. For this reason, estate-wide operational change of management and training arrangements are being progressed for parks and greenspace maintenance teams.

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) For the past 5 years, what has been the annual spend of the Neighbourhood Environment Programme under the HRA?

Answer

(1)

Year	Expenditure
2023/24 – Forecast Spend to 31 March	£2.3m
2023/23	£3.499.9m
2021/22	£0.907m
2020/21	£0.274.6m
2019/20	£2.354.2m

Question

(2) For the past 5 years, please can the Convener provide a list of individual projects delivered by the HRA Neighbourhood Environment Programme which includes:

- a) Project address
- b) Description of project goals and resulting outputs
- c) Area covered (m²)
- d) Capital cost
- e) Year installed
- f) Photographs of resulting landscapes (where available)
- g) Amount of land converted from greenspace to hard standing (m²)
- h) Amount of land converted from hard standing to greenspace (m²)

j) Amount of land converted to high biodiversity / natural planting (m²).

k) Details of resident involvement in design process

In cases where larger projects contain substantial sub-projects, please provide breakdown information

Answer

(2) A summary of the projects completed in the last five years is attached in Appendix 1.

Details of the area covered (m²), amount of land converted from greenspace to hard standing (m²), the amount of land converted from hard standing to greenspace (m²), and the amount of land converted to high biodiversity / natural planting (m²). is not held.

Photographs are not held for all projects. However if there are particular projects of interest, please let the Head of Housing Operations know and any photographs available will be provided.

Until financial year 2020/21, Locality Housing officers carried out community consultation for each of the schemes. Since 2021/22, Locality Housing Officers carry out consultation for projects with an estimated value of up to £20,000. Projects valued more than £20,000 are progressed through Lot 6 on of the Professional services framework, with consultation carried out for each project.

Question

(3) What KPIs are attached to the HRA Neighbourhood Environment Programme and do any of these relate to climate mitigation, climate adaptation, or nature / biodiversity?

Answer

(3) Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEPs) schemes are currently built in line with RIBA standard forms and timelines of development. At each stage of a project's RIBA development, the Council's Landscape Architects, Engineers and project managers must make sure that all the relevant design, building standards and environmental standards are built into each aspect of the project. On every project, officers strive to achieve a biodiversity net gain, but this is dependent on the scope and perimeters of a project, and what the residents want.

Question (4) What standards are in place to evaluate the quality of landscapes delivered through the HRA Neighbourhood Environment Programme (e.g. the Park Quality Assessment or Green Flag Award used for Parks & Greenspace land)

Answer (4) NEPs schemes are currently built in line with RIBA standard forms and timelines of development. At each stage of a project's RIBA development, the Council's Landscape Architects, Engineers and project managers must make sure that all the relevant design, building standards and environmental standards are built into each aspect of the project.

The standards for each project are assessed and developed during the RIBA standard form of development. If the project is to be delivered within a parkland and is to be delivered to the green flag standard, this will be captured and built into the designs at concept and final design stages of the RIBA development.

During construction, the Council's Estate Improvement Programme Quantity Surveyor ensures quality assurance on project completion by undertaking site inspections on all completed projects. Sign off takes into account final costs, materials, specification, timescale and quality of finish.

Question (5) What are the current arrangements for community / resident involvement in deciding what HRA Neighbourhood Environment Programme projects are taken forward in each area?

Answer (5) Traditionally Neighbourhood Networks, Community Council's or other community forums have been used to present project proposals and design/estimate costs approved against investment criteria. Where Neighbourhood Networks or other community forums are not in operation within a ward/locality, project proposals, design and estimates would be presented to Ward Councillors by the relevant Housing Team Leader to seek approval.

Question (6) What are the current governance arrangements around the HRA Neighbourhood Environment Programme, and when is the programme due for retendering?

Answer (6) NEPs forms part of the Housing and Property Framework, (Lot 16). There are currently 7 contractors that sit on the Framework. All works are tendered (unless the works are deemed an emergency and are under £10,000 (at which time the works will be awarded directly to the 1st contractor on the framework)), with all 7 contractors invited to tender through the quick quote process on Public Contracts Scotland. The current Housing and Property Framework ends in November 2024 at which time the new framework will be tendered.

Question (7) What is the mechanism to update / introduce new KPIs to the HRA Neighbourhood Environment Programme and when could this happen?

Answer (7) Any new KPI's must be presented to the contractors at the tender stage of the framework. If additional KPI's are to be added to framework after award, there has to be universal agreement from all contractors on the framework and approval from the Council's procurement team.

HOUSING AND PROPERTY EXTERNAL FRAMEWORK (LOT 16) 2020 to 2024 (NEP's)							
HP number	Project Name	Locality	CONTRACTOR		Work type	Start Date	Nett
567a	Dumbiedykes External Access upgrade Project 2021 - Design	South East	AHR Architects	Completed	EIP/NEP	20/08/2021	£ 89,100.00
567b	Dumbiedykes External Access upgrade Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	20/08/2021	£ 1,049,480.22
568	Stenhouse Bin Nest Installation project 2021	South West	Maxi Construction Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	09/08/2021	£ 154,083.29
569a	Gracemount Civic Square Renovation Project 2021 final design	South East	Collective Architects	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 30,000.00
569b	Gracemount Civic Square Renovation Project 2021 - Delivery	South East	Maxi Construction Ltd	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP	06/05/2022	£ 415,343.63
569c	Gracemount Civic Square Renovation Project 2021 - Mural Design and Delivery	South East	Faithful and Gould	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 17,523.00
569d	Gracemount Civic Square - New Lanterns for the new lighting columns - supplied and installed by Steve Francy Lighting Engineer - Internal transfer	South East	Internal Transfer	Completed	EIP/NEP	06/05/2022	£ 6,800.00
571a	Laichfield Landscape Renovation 2021 - Design - DES-001-2020	South West	AHR Architects	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 30,995.00
571b	Laichfield Landscape Renovation 2021 - Delivery	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	05/04/2022	£ 364,807.58
572a	Northfield Drive and Grove Marketing Signage	North East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	13/08/2021	£ 2,190.50
572b	Northfield Drive and Grove Feasibility Study	North East	Collective Architects	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 21,381.75
572c	Northfield Drive and Grove Final Design - SOC090	North East	Thomas and Adamson	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP		£ 156,423.00
572d	Northfield Drive and Grove - Delivery	North East	P1 Solutions Limited	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP	TBC	£ 1,167,298.00
573	35 to 39 Ferry Road Drive - Rear Garden Upgrade Project 2021 - retender under new design	North West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	09/08/2022	£ 55,892.14
575	Carnegie Court - Double gate installation Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	20-Jul-21	£ 3,568.00
581	Calder Park - Foot Path Upgrade Project 2021	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	08-Jun-21	£ 77,836.57
582	St Stephens Court Binstore Project 2021	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 9,828.00
583	Calder Place Sheltered Housing Project 2021	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	09/08/2022	£ 88,793.15
584	Saughton Mains Sheltered Housing Project 2021	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	09/08/2022	£ 49,069.51
585	Kingsknowe Place Sheltered Housing Project 2022 - Design - SOC212	South West	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 105,000.00
585	Kingsknowe Place sheltered Housing Project 2023 delivery	South West	P1 Solutions Ltd	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP		£ 21,808.87
586	Hailesland Park - Resurfacing and Lighting Project 2021 - Design - SOC127	South West	Atkins Limited	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP	16/04/2023	£ 28,000.00
588	Westburn Phase 1 and 2 Community Space regeneration project 2021	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	TBC	£ 77,864.48
589	Calder Gardens Estate Improvements	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	22/06/2022	£ 40,779.38
617	NEPs Design 2021 - SOC083	Various	Hirst Architects	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 38,345.50
622	Temporary Signs advertising Community Consultation - Moredun Green Space	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£ 1,350.00
628	Ramp installation Moncrieff House Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/10/2021	£ 6,799.00
629	Ramp installation Forteviot House Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/10/2021	£ 6,796.00
630	Ramp installation Moredunvale House Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/10/2021	£ 6,799.00

631	Ramp installation Marytree House Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/10/2021	£	6,799.00
632	Ramp installation CastleView House Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/10/2021	£	6,799.00
633	Ramp installation Little France House Project 2021	South East	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/10/2021	£	6,799.00
636a	Ratho Main Street Main Street - Rear garden and drying green upgrade project 2021 - Delivery	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	TBC	£	85,893.47
637a	Ratho North Street - access to garages Upgrade Project 2021 - Works included in the returned price for HP0636	South West		Completed	EIP/NEP			0%
636	Ratho Main Street Main Street - Rear garden and drying green upgrade project 2021 - Design - SOC119	South West	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	9,750.00
637	Ratho North Street - access to garages Upgrade Project 2021 - Design - SOC118	South West	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	7,000.00
638	Laverochbank Terraced Garden and Step Upgrade Project 2021	North West	P1 Solutions Limited	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP	TBC	£	-
639	West Pilton Grove Hard and Soft Landscaping Project 2021	North West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	09/08/2022	£	22,590.38
640	West Pilton Park Car Parking area Upgrade Project 2021	North West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	04/05/2022	£	34,058.21
641	Fortiovoit House - Street lighting Upgrade	South East	CEC Street Lighting	Completed	EIP/NEP			0%
642	Moredun Multi's - Hard and Soft Landscaping - Design - SOC121	South East	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	59,750.00
642.01	Moredun Multi's - Hard and Soft Landscaping - Drainage assessment	South East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	04/05/2022	£	250.00
642.02	Moredun Multi's - Hard and Soft Landscaping - Delivery	South East	P1 Solutions	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP		£	858,702.98
643	Moredun Multi's - Community Growing - Design - SOC122	South East	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	9,000.00
643.01	Moredun Multi's - Community Growing - Delivery - See HP0642.02, project was included in the tender	South East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	-
666	Community Notice Boards - Retender - <i>Tendered under HP0723 Various NEP's Projects across Localities Project 2022</i>	All Localities	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	158,413.13
676	Gateside hub water and Waste connections, <i>Tendered under HP0723 Various NEP's Projects Across Localities Project 2022</i>	North West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	36,424.87
677	60 - 62 Ferry Road Dr front garden renovation	North West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	11,239.08
678	40-42 Captains Road - Fencing Upgrade, <i>tendered under HP0723 Various NEP's Projects Across Locality Project 2022</i>	South East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	18,035.39
691	Newcraighall Mounds - Design - SOC213	North East	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	5,350.00
692	Oxgangs Broadway - Hand Rail Installation	South West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	1,260.00
695	Great Michael Square - Unsafe Wall Demolition	North West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	1,485.00
697	Kirkliston (Glebe) - UnSafe Wall	North West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP		£	6,597.45
699	6 to 8 Loganlea Slab installation	North East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	15/07/2022	£	5,223.15
703	3-5 Telford Drive - Street Lighting up to Telford Path	North West	CEC Street Lighting	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP			0%
704	Saunders Street - Public Realm Improvements - SOC261	North West	Atkins Limited	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP		£	15,000.00

719	25 Moredun Park View - Garden Upgrade	South East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	6,388.20
721	Laichfield Landscape Improvements Phase 2 - Design - SOC270	South West	Atkins Limited	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP	£	33,775.00
722	Stenhouse Bin Nest Installation project Phase 2 - Design - SOC190	South West	Atkins Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	20,000.00
722	Stenhouse Bin Nest Installation project Phase 2	South West	Maxi Construction Ltd	Delivery	EIP/NEP	£	-
723	39 Clovenstone Park - Tree Planting and Kick rail removal, tendered under Various NEP's Projects across Localities project 2022	South West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	29,996.95
736	Inchcolm Court - Hedging, Shrub and Tree Planting	North West		Completed	EIP/NEP	£	2,710.50
737	Willowbrae - Parking, Access and Landscape Redevelopment - SOC300	North East	Atkins Limited	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP	£	28,000.00
738	Southhouse Square - Estate Redevelopment - SOC301	South East	Atkins Limited	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP	£	72,000.00
739	Boswell Dr - Park Land Environmental Improvements - SOC303	North West	Atkins Limited	EIP's Development	EIP/NEP	£	5,887.00
742	Calder's Sheltered Housing Community Benefit	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	-
743	Oxgangs Green	South West	P1 Solutions Limit	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP	£	34,000.00
749	Abbeyhill - Emergency Planter and Wall Works	South East	P1 Solutions Limit	EIP's Delivery	EIP/NEP	£	6,887.00
750	12 Magdalene Avenue - Communal Binstore fence installation	North East	P1 Solutions Limit	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	8,478.60
753	NW Week of Action - Community Benefit	North West	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	-
755	Gilmerton Community Council - Community Garden - Community Benefit	South East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	-
766	Emergency Works Coatfield Lane	North East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	3,211.00
775	39 Ferniehill Grove and Dr - Estate Wall Improvements	South East		EIP Development	EIP/NEP	£	-
782	Oxgangs House Bin Nest Installation	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP		
785	Moredun Environmental Works - SOC223	South East	Faithful and Gould	EIP Development	EIP/NEP		
787	18 Oxgangs Crescent Bin Chute Closures Path Upgrade and car park upgrade	South West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	37,934.11
789	Oxgangs Crescent - Car Park, Footpath and Communal Waste Installation - SOC500	South West	Atkins Limited	EIP Development	EIP/NEP	£	-
791	Muirhouse Community Garden	North West	P1 Solutions Limited	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	28,037.23
792	10-12 and 24-26 Granton Medway	North West	P1 Solutions Limited	EIP Delivery	EIP/NEP	£	90,820.00
796	Restalrig Avenue - Fencing Upgrade	North East		EIP Development	EIP/NEP		
798	Moir Park - Landscape Improvements - Design - SOC428	North East	Atkins Limited	EIP Development	EIP/NEP	£	4,000.00
799	Kirklands - Landscape and estate Improvements - Design - SOC429	North West	Atkins Limited	EIP Development	EIP/NEP	£	-
825	Northfield Drive and Grove - Emergency Render Removal	North East	P1 Solutions Ltd	Completed	EIP/NEP	£	5,570.80
826	Crewe RoD Gardens Play Park - Access Upgrade	North West		EIP Development	EIP/NEP		
827	Great Michael Rise - Access Improvements	North West		EIP Development	EIP/NEP		
829	Hailsland Park Landscape Improvements - Phase 2 - SOC485	South West	Atkins Limited	EIP Development	EIP/NEP	£	-
834	Granton Medway Open Space Development - SOC501	North West	Atkins Limited	EIP Development	EIP/NEP	£	-

Key:
Purple – Completed

Blue - Under Construction
Yellow- In Development
Green - Awaiting authorisation/approval

Item no 10.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Rae for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) What is the total number of voids as of 8th February 2024?

Answer (1) There were 1,286 void Council properties as of 29 January 2024. This is the most up to data available at the time of preparing the answer to this Question.

Question (2) What is the total cost to the Council of providing temporary accommodation for 1500 households?

Answer (2) The cost of 1,500 homeless households, based on the average cost of all temporary accommodation, would be £18,624,408.

Question (3) What proportion of the money spent on private temporary accommodation in 2023 was spent on accommodation that is legally unsuitable under the Unsuitable Accommodation Order?

Answer (3) In 2022/23, the proportion of money spent on Unsuitable Accommodation was 57%. In 2023/24, this is forecast to be 62%.

Question (4) What prioritization criteria exist for selecting which voids to bring back into use? For instance, are properties of certain sizes or in certain areas of the city targeted first?

Answer (4) To reduce the overall number, new voids and voids that require less repair work are prioritised so these can be turned around more quickly for relet. However, officers are also working on longer-term voids.

Question (5) What are the current main barriers for bringing voids back into use quicker?

Answer (5) The main barriers are:

- a) Utility issues: no energy supply to carry out repair work caused by meter debt or faulty meters. There are sometimes lengthy delays when dealing with utility companies and also with reliability when repair / replacement of meters is required.
- b) Condition of properties and scale of repair works required: voids are received in an increasingly poor condition and as properties age, more work is required to return them to a lettable standard. The average cost of a void has increased 45% from 2021/21 to 2023/24.
- c) Resources: tackling the void backlog whilst also dealing with approximately 100 new voids every month requires significant officer, trade operative and contractor resource to repair and re-let these properties

Question (6) Against the projection for “reduction in voids to normal turnover” as detailed in the latest HSIP update, what progress has been made against the October 2023 and December 2023 targets?

Answer (6) This projection has been revised to a target of 3% of total stock by March 2025. This is following a review of assumptions, including the number of new voids each month which is higher than the number initially included in the plan.

The total number of voids has reduced from 1,416 on 18 September 2023, to 1,286 on 29 January 2024.

Question (7) What is the plan for the forecasted remaining 566 voids in October 2024 as detailed in the “reduction in voids to normal turnover” targets in the latest HSIP update?

Answer (7) The target is to achieve and maintain a void rate of around 3% of total stock by March 2025, which would be considered a normal turnover rate.

Question

(8) Of the 4,920 households in temporary accommodation as of 24 November 2023:

- a) How many households contain children?
- b) How many children are in those households?
- c) Of those households, how many are in:
 - i) social sector accommodation;
 - ii) Bed and Breakfast accommodation;
 - iii) hostels;
 - iv) hotels;
 - v) PSL accommodation;
 - vi) other accommodation
- d) What is the average length of stay for those households currently in temporary accommodation?
- e) What is the average length of stay for households with children currently in temporary accommodation?
- f) What is the longest amount of time a household with children currently in temporary accommodation has been in temporary accommodation?
- g) What is the breakdown by ethnicity of those households currently in temporary accommodation?

Answer

- (8)) How many households contain children - 1,540
- b) How many children are in those households - 3,141
- c) Of those households, how many are in:
- i) social sector accommodation - 306
 - ii) Bed and Breakfast accommodation - 29
 - iii) hostels - 0
 - iv) hotels - 21
 - v) PSL accommodation - 836
 - vi) other accommodation - 348
- d) What is the average length of stay for those households currently in temporary accommodation? The average length of stay is 720 days (all cases); and 564 days (excluding PSL pre-April 2020 households accommodated under the previous PSL contract where accommodation was provided as a settled accommodation option).
- e) What is the average length of stay for households with children currently in temporary accommodation? The average length of stay is 691 days (all cases); and 677 days (excluding PSL cases pre-April 2020 as noted above).
- f) What is the longest amount of time a household with children currently in temporary accommodation has been in temporary accommodation? The longest amount of time is 5,726 days for a closed PSL case; 3,103 days (excluding PSL cases pre-April 2020 as noted above) (household rehoused on 27 November 2023); and 2,945 days for the next longest household with children.
- g) What is the breakdown by ethnicity of those households currently in temporary accommodation? See table below.

		No	%
White	Scottish	2,296	46.7%
	English	43	0.9%
	Welsh	3	0.1%
	Other British	333	6.8%
	Irish	30	0.6%
	Polish	322	6.5%
	Roma	5	0.1%
	Other	377	7.7%
Ukrainian		26	0.5%
Mixed		117	2.4%
Black	African	274	5.6%
	African	182	3.7%
	Other	41	0.8%
	Caribbean	32	0.7%
	Black	21	0.4%
	Black Other		
Asian	Pakistani	93	1.9%
	Indian	30	0.6%
	Bangladeshi	43	0.9%
	Chinese	20	0.4%
	Asian Other	91	1.8%
Arab		267	5.4%
Other		232	4.7%
Gypsy / Traveller		23	0.5%
Refused to Answer		14	0.3%
Not Recorded		5	0.1%
Total		4,920	100.0%
BME Total		2,196	44.6%

Item no 10.13

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Rae for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) Which organisations were invited to participate in the initial sectoral engagement workshop on development of the Housing Emergency Action Plan on 21st December 2023?

Answer (1) The City of Edinburgh Council services – Housing, Homelessness, Policy and Insight, Children’s Services, Revenues and Benefits

- Shelter
- Prospect Community Housing Association
- Fresh Start
- Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
- Cyrenians
- Bethany Christian Trust
- Wheatley Group
- Viewpoint Housing
- Rock Trust
- Crisis

Question (2) When were invitations for that workshop issued?

Answer (2) 8 December 2023

Question (3) How many and which groups were able to attend the session, and how many and which groups were unable to attend / sent apologies?

Answer

(3) The City of Edinburgh Council invitees all attended. In addition, representatives attended from:

- Fresh Start
- Prospect Community Housing Association
- Bethany Christian Trust
- Wheatley Group
- Viewpoint Housing

Two organisations advised they were unable to attend:

- Crisis
- Shelter confirmed attendance but were then unable to attend

The following organisations did not respond to the invitation sent:

- Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
- Rock Trust

Question

(4) How were the groups invited to participate in the workshop selected, and how was it ensured that these groups represented a wide range of demographics, including all protected characteristics?

Answer

(4) It was not the intention for the workshop on the 21 December to cover all possible voices, or to focus on tenant rights. Various 3rd sector colleagues were invited to this workshop so that the discussion could focus on homelessness, welfare rights, children's and adult issues. Given the timescales available after the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 5 December, it was important to organise some early meetings to start identifying possible actions. Attendees were advised of this.

This was one of three workshops held before Christmas, with the other two sessions with Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee.

Further workshops have been held, with one for the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board, one for Education, Children and Families Committee.

Question (5) How was the voice of tenants and tenants' organisations profiled in that workshop session?

Answer (5) The focus of the workshop was on other issues therefore there were no tenant representatives in attendance,.

Question (6) What plans are there for further workshop meetings, and who will be invited to those?

Answer (6) Individual workshops have been organised for each political group, with some of these held already.

Other workshops are arranged to cover specific issues including:

Tenant rights

- Edinburgh Tenants Federation
- Living Rent Edinburgh
- Scottish Refugee Council
- Scottish Human Rights Commission
- End Poverty Edinburgh
- Disability Advisory Group

Human rights

- City of Edinburgh Council Corporate Parenting
- Edinburgh Patients Panel
- NHS Public Health
- EVOC
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- LGBTQ representatives
- Gypsy Traveller representatives
- Edinburgh and Lothian Region Equality Council
- Community Justice Scotland

Partnerships

- Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership
- EdIndex Board
- Homes for Scotland

Homelessness

- Shelter Scotland
- Edinburgh Cyrenians
- Simon Community
- Four Square

Item no 10.14

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Dobbin for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) Of the 1,118 Voids assigned for letting as of December 2023 (1,351 less 233 not lettable) what is the current number, ie how many of these Voids have been returned into service.

Answer (1) As at 29 January 2024, there were 1,286 voids, with 219 unable to be let, leaving a total of 1,067.

Question (2) How many properties have been returned as Voids and will be re-let since the last report in December.

Answer (2) Our records show there have been 180 new voids from December 2023 to 29 January 2024, with 162 new lets over the same period.

Question (3) What is the planned schedule for the 1,118 Voids for letting being returned to rental earning.

Answer (3) The target is to achieve and maintain a void rate of around 3% of total stock by March 2025, which would be considered a normal turnover rate.

Question (4) Of the 82 (of the 233) Voids for Disposal, how many properties are expected to be purchased with the proceeds and over what timeline.

Answer (4) It is not possible to give exact figures or timeframes as this is dictated by the constantly changing housing market.

House prices, the availability of properties on the market, and mortgage interest rates etc all influence what can be bought or sold and over what timeframe.

Approximately 4 homes are purchased for every 3 sold. Using the actual figures for Acquisition and Disposal sales and purchases to date, the Council would expect to purchase in the region of 106 new homes.

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 8 February 2024

Question (1) When he expects design work on the agreed pedestrian crossing on Clermiston Road to conclude?

Answer (1) Assessment and prioritisation of the proposed pedestrian crossing programme will be undertaken as part of the broader 2024/25 road safety delivery programme. This will be considered at Transport and Environment Committee in April.

Until the service budget is known (internal and external funding) and the programme review is complete it is not possible to offer information on the design phase.

(The wider design programme will be a function of priority and the requirements for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO). Schemes that require traffic orders will take longer to design and deliver).

Question (2) When he expects installation work to begin?

Answer (2) As noted above, the broader pedestrian crossing installation programme will be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in April and will be subject to available funding.

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question

What on-street assessments have been carried out on paved and slabbed surfaces which have been jet washed, to identify whether there has been any deterioration in condition – e.g. to grouting, dislodging of paving stones, etc – which may cause hazards?

Answer

Target footways are subject to a visual pre-works assessment. Areas that may be problematic (due to surface type or condition) are not cleaned.

Works are carried out using high specification surface cleaning equipment, designed to be most efficient at lower pressure/high temperature (Steam) settings, which are broadly similar to those used for sensitive and historic stone cleaning.

The works are predominantly undertaken using a 'Skater', that allows larger areas to be cleaned per hour. This is supported by spot cleaning via a steam lance, at low pressure/high temperature and followed with a soft wash.

The process does not lift or damage healthy pointing and does not compromise the stability of the paving stones.

Although problematic areas, like loose/uneven slabs, or areas of poor/missing grouting, should be identified pre-works, any issues noted by the operatives are reported to the relevant service and will not be cleaned.

Each area is walked post clean to visually audit the quality of the works. No instances have been noted where the integrity of the footway surface has been compromised by the works.

Item no 10.17

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question

How many bin collections have been missed in the 'red list' streets identified as most affected by pavement parking, since enforcement was first intimated to households in December 2023?

Answer

This information is held, but accessing it would require detailed analysis on a street by street basis, alongside analysis of complaints received.

Like me, I am sure you would urge residents to park responsibly to help ensure our waste team can do its job.

Item no 10.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Mumford for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

- Question** (1) How many hot meals are prepared for Full Council meetings?
- Answer** (1) There are 80 meals served on the day of each Full Council meeting.
- Question** (2) Do we record the amount of food waste from Full Council catering and if so what is the average level of wastage?
- Answer** (2) The waste is not recorded, however officers have confirmed that there is minimal waste.
- Question** (3) What has been the highest, lowest and mean average cost of catering lunches for Full Council meetings since May 2022?
- Answer** (3) From May 2022 to Dec 2023 there were 17 Full Council meetings. The average cost per meeting was £1,511.90. The highest cost was £1,654 and the lowest cost was £1,358.
- Question** (4) What has been the highest, lowest and mean average carbon footprint of lunches at Full Council since May 2022?
- Answer** (4) This information is not recorded.
- Question** (5) What is the annual cost of providing hot beverages and biscuits in the members lounge and when was this last reviewed?
- Answer** (5) The cost of providing hot beverages and biscuits in the members lounge from April 2023 to date is £14,775. The cost increases in line with the Council's annual fees and charges but there has been no other review of the service provided.

Item no 10.19

QUESTION NO 19

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question

Given recent repeated instances of vehicles becoming stuck attempting to drive into Greenside Lane, what steps does the Council take proactively to inform online map and satnav providers of new road layout and access arrangements?

Answer

The Council does not directly inform online map or satnav providers of new road layout and access arrangements.

The Council's gazetteer is updated and then it is exported and uploaded to the One Scotland Gazetteer (OSG) which is the repository for all 32 Scottish Councils' gazetteers (this is hosted by the Improvement Service). Councils can upload to the OSG as often as they like but must make at least a monthly update (as per the OSG conventions). The OSG is consumed by the Office of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner for inclusion in the Scottish Road Works Register. The Improvement Service also supply the Gazetteer to the Ordnance Survey monthly from where they consume the data into their OS Highways product. This product is available for purchase by interested parties (e.g. sat nav firms among others).

QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Further to my question at the Council's meeting of 23rd June 2023;

Question (1) Will the speed limit reductions from 40mph to 30mph on Queensferry Road, Glasgow Road, South Gyle Access and South Gyle Broadway be implemented by the end of March as he indicated was the intention?

Answer (1) Due to competing demands and resource challenges, the speed limit change from 40mph to 30mph will not be delivered by the end of March 2024. However, detailed design and road safety audits are expected to be complete by April 2024.

Question (2) If not, when will they be implemented?

Answer (2) Subject to available funding, the implementation programme is expected to commence in Summer 2024. This speed limit reduction programme includes over 20 principal routes and is expected to take up to 12 months to complete. The staged delivery programme is yet to be prepared.

I accept that residents will be concerned about this latest delay.

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

- Question** (1) What proportion of individuals who have approached the Advice Shop since 23rd October 2023 (i.e. after the 2023 EPC Annual Update) have had concerns around heating and energy?
- Answer** (1) A recent [report](#) to Policy and Sustainability Committee provided a summary of the number of people who have sought advice from the Council's Advice Service. A review of the data held by the Advice Service shows that there have been 65 referrals to other agencies for advice on fuel and energy. In addition, records show that the level of possible fuel debt from those who have engaged with the service is around £20,000 for the period from July to December 2023. However, it is important to note that many people who seek advice will do so for more than one reason and therefore this may not reflect the full impact of fuel and energy concerns.
- Question** (2) Does the Council's Advice Shop hold figures of referrals or uptake to benefits to mitigate fuel and energy insecurity?
- Answer** (2) As noted above, there have been 65 referrals to other organisations for energy advice.
- Question** (3) With the Fuel Insecurity Fund completely cut in the draft Scottish Government 2024/25 Budget and the announcement by the UK Government to stop the one-off Cost of Living Payment after Spring, what plans (and liaison with other agencies and advice services) are being formed to assist and signpost Edinburgh residents through the Cost of Living crisis in 2024?

Answer (3) An organisational review of the Housing and Homelessness service is currently underway. This proposes to integrate family and household support with welfare rights advice to enhance the support provided by the Council. In addition, a review of Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) is focused on strengthening the partnership approach to welfare related support.

Question (4) How often is the list of 'Warm and Welcoming Spaces' on the Council website updated?

Answer (4) The website is updated when we receive information from partners and organisations. In Autumn, officers sent out a call via existing networks to partners, community organisations and all organisations already represented on the website to encourage the submission of new entries and updates. Content is therefore added on a regular basis.

Question (5) What signposting and/or advertising for 'Warm and Welcoming Spaces' has taken place over 2023 and early 2024?

Answer (5) Signposting and advertising takes place locally across the city on an ongoing basis by organisations involved in the Warm Welcome initiative. In addition to that, a launch for the initiative was held at Central Library in December. It is also being promoted through the following:

- iThrive Edinburgh booklet
- Circulation of webpage to community groups and organisations end of 2023
- Libraries actively promoting throughout winter

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

The Education, Children and Families Committee is yet to get an update on Family Swim Sessions at Braidburn Pool benefiting children and young people with additional support needs. This action is now overdue.

Question (1) What engagement has the Convenor had with families impacted by this?

Answer (1) To date no families have approached me directly on this matter. However, I would be pleased to meet any families who would like to discuss this issue with me.

Question (2) What are her plans to mitigate the impact?

Answer (2) Edinburgh Leisure (EL) is currently catering for over 100 families with their sessions at Gracemount Leisure Centre, and on average, around 60 people attend over the course of 3 sessions each Saturday. EL book the families in on request and the sessions are sustainable in terms of staffing and are working well. EL will have to introduce charges for the sessions in order to sustain when the (additional) funding received from CEC runs out.

For the families that can't attend Gracemount Leisure Centre for the reasons mentioned above, a separate solution is required. On a Thursday evening at Braidburn Special School, another company have a weekly 4-6pm let. The proposal is that the family swim sessions take place from 6.15-7.15pm, directly after this session on a Thursday evening. A lifeguard already in attendance for this company can stay for an additional hour to support the family swim sessions. A second person may also need to be present to operate equipment such as the hoist while the lifeguard watches the people in the pool. This person could be a second member of staff from the company running the 4pm-6pm let.

Cost

Braidburn School – costs including 2 staff and a concessionary hourly rate for pool use for the year is approximately £3,000. (less if we don't pay for the pool). This would cover a 1-hour session every Thursday.

In total, around £20,000 would be required annually to pay staff and pool costs for both venues. This would increase with pay rises/increased pool costs.

Next Steps

- Scope out the possibility of families paying to participate in family swimming if no other funding is available.
- Ask the families unable to participate at Gracemount if the Thursday evening slot at Braidburn is a suitable alternative.
- Investigate a mechanism for families to book/pay for the Thursday evening sessions at Braidburn, perhaps using the Spydus booking system.
- Consider the best mechanism for promoting the Braidburn sessions to ensure that the families who need it most have the opportunity to attend.

Item no 10.23

QUESTION NO 23

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Councillors have now been informed the removal of all Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) has been reversed. This is after a sustained campaign by SNP councillors, trade unions and others and Labour voting with Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors consistently over the last 11 months to proceed with the removal of this vital service.

Elected members have been informed that funding to reverse the cut to EWOs will come out of the PEF funding or existing DSM budget which will mean more cuts to education not approved by Councillors.

Question (1) Why was the consultation not carried out or an impact assessment not completed before proposals to cut this vital service and that the reversal of these cuts will not simply be taken from other parts of school or education budgets?

Answer (1) Consultation was carried out in 2021, reported to Committee in March 2022, with field work in 10 schools as part of the Thematic Review of Attendance. This review confirmed that there were different models to promote attendance in place across the city and that an integrated model should be considered. The different models included authority-funded support from the EWO service – available only to a select number of schools, as well as PEF funded support for Pupil Support Officers. The review concluded that the EWO service was only one approach and that leadership, clarity of processes and an effective timetable were all crucial factors.

The decision to make the saving was agreed in Full Council.

Question (2) Can the Convener confirm where this funding is coming from?

Answer

- (2) As stated above, the proposal to reduce funding for Education Welfare Service was reversed and all associated funding will be reinstated corporately in 2024/25. Any reference to this being funded from PEF or Devolved School Funds was in relation to the other means of maximising attendance.

Full provision of £0.6m for the reversal of this saving is included in the draft revenue budget for 2024/25. This is one of a number of measures proposed in the draft revenue budget and a full reconciliation of proposed adjustments and funding measures is included in Appendix 2 to the [Revenue Budget Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan MTFP 2024-29 further update report](#) which will be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 6th February 2024.

An update report from the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services on Maximising Models of Attendance will be considered at the next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee in April 2024.

QUESTION NO 24

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

At the Policy and Sustainability meeting on 9th of January, elected members were informed that 'individual consultations have taken place' for individual budget proposals and similarly that a 'comprehensive budget stakeholder engagement' is taking place.

At the Education, Children and Families Committee on 23rd January, elected members were informed that 'we don't consult widely' but we select a representative group of around maximum of 6 Head Teachers.

Question

(1) Can you confirm which statement is correct?

Answer

(1) Consultation with Headteachers is well established in the City of Edinburgh via the Headteacher Executive and Edinburgh Learns Boards. The former is a group of experienced secondary Headteachers representing each locality, with a Chair and Vice; and in the case of primary schools, a committee of experienced primary Headteachers, with a Chair. Strategic and operational issues are discussed at various meetings, and the Exec and Board Headteachers represent the whole forum of 123 schools, through consultation at their locality meetings and by email. Finance and Staffing Boards each have a Headteacher representative per sector. Issues are often discussed in advance in localities, with the consensus being passed on to the Headteacher representative, to convey at meetings with officers. At Budget Setting, a short life Budget Reference Group is set up with members from the Headteacher Executive plus the Finance Board members (3 Headteachers plus Finance Officers and Education Officers). The nature of budget setting means that discussions must remain confidential, however in 2024, the proposals from 2023 were largely what was still on the table and it was therefore reasonable to assume that the proposals were widely known and seen as 'the least worst options.'

Question (2) Can you confirm the schools represented by the reference group highlighted at Policy and Sustainability by Officers on 9th January?

Answer (2) The Budget Reference Group has included representation from Headteachers of

Leith Academy, Tynecastle High School, Broughton High School, Rosevale School, Buckstone PS, Liberton PS, South Morningside PS, Davidson's Mains PS

QUESTION NO 25

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

The Convener prevented this decision being taken in public, failed to present information following standards of normal Council reporting on grants processes and disallowed additional time to discuss and scrutinise the Connected Communities Fund. The impact of the fund allocations remain unknown, so can I ask:

Question (1) Was the Convener aware of the total amount of fund set aside for Managed Funds?

Answer (1) On 7th December 2023, prior to the briefing they committed to attending on 12th December 2023, the Convener and Elected Members were provided with the full details of the recommended awards. This included the three Funding Strands and the managed Fund. To ensure a timely award of the Connected Communities Edinburgh Grant Programme and avoid further delay with the process, Elected Members agreed to be presented with this data in advance of ECF Committee special meeting. This was a helpful opportunity for discussion and included all details regarding the Managed Fund.

Question (2) Was the Convener aware of the eligibility criteria and application process for these funds?

Answer (2) The Committee report for the recommendation of the awards was published for APM on 7th December 2023, in advance of the briefing which Elected Members attended on 12th December to consider and discuss the awards. The Convener and the Elected Members were provided with these details in the report, which states that a separate application and separate criteria were applied to the Managed Fund. The Managed Fund had previously been approved in City of Edinburgh Council meeting on 28th September 2023.

- Question** (3) How will the Convener ensure greater transparency, accountability, and consistency of process at ECF Committee?
- Answer** (3) The Convener considers that the process followed is compliant with Grant Standing Orders. The Convener has asked Officers to consider how consistency across the Council can be achieved, ensuring the process aligns with corporate Standing Orders whilst protecting confidential information.
- Question** (4) Will the Convener commit to release all information in public, showing previous awards given under the fund, funds applied for and funds allocated through the process?
- Answer** (4) Awards are published in the public domain. This includes the awards approved for Connected Communities Edinburgh grant programme. Consistently with the previous programmes, details of unsuccessful applicants have not been published.

QUESTION NO 26

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

It was reported in the Edinburgh Reporter on 29 June 2023 that the whole ETRO process for Spaces for People/Travelling Safely schemes had to be restarted, costing £19,425, and that the council said the sum would be claimed back from the consultants responsible for the errors.

Question (1) Has this sum now been received from the consultants and if not, why not?

Answer (1) The value of the work undertaken by the consultant between July and November 2022, to prepare the five Travelling Safely area Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) that were advertised in November 2022, was £25,960.

Due to the errors that were subsequently discovered within these ETROs, agreement was reached with the consultant that they would only be paid 50% of this value. The reduction in the payment to the consultant was therefore £12,980. This reduced amount was paid in August 2023.

Question (2) What are the total costs incurred in the ETRO traffic order paperwork and advertising to date?

Answer (2) Work to prepare the November 2022 ETROs was undertaken between August 2021 and November 2022. The five area ETROs covered 36 individual Travelling Safely projects. The total cost for the preparation of the ETRO documentation was £152,685. The total cost of advertising the five ETROs was £16,482.

The overall total cost incurred to date is therefore £169,167.

Question (3) What are the total anticipated costs still to be incurred?

Answer

- (3)** It is important to note that the costs incurred for Travelling Safely up to 31 March 2023 were met from funding from Transport Scotland, via Sustrans.

Transport and Environment Committee has instructed that five Travelling Safely schemes that were previously included within the November 2022 area ETROs are now to be progressed separately, under scheme-specific ETROs. This was supported by your party.

Work is therefore currently underway to prepare ETRO documentation for five revised area ETROs and five scheme-specific ETROs. The first of these is expected to be advertised on 9 February, with the remainder to be advertised in a phased programme between February and May.

The estimated total cost for the preparation of the revised ETRO documentation is £50,000. The estimated total cost of advertising the 10 ETROs is £5,000.

Finally, the estimated cost of engaging and reporting on the representations received in relation to both the five November 2022 ETROs and the ten new ETROs is £50,000.

The estimated overall total cost still to be incurred is therefore £105,000.

Item no 10.27

QUESTION NO 27

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) Why were the miles of double yellow lines on the Lanark Road scheme removed then repainted after road surfacing, without a traffic order being in place at the time they were repainted - other than the TTRO to enable the painting?

Answer (1) An update on the Travelling Safely Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) was provided to the Transport and Environment Committee, within the Business Bulletin, at its meeting on [15 June 2023](#).

During the discussion at Committee, officers confirmed that, although the November 2022 ETROs would have to be advertised again to address errors contained within them, they remain in force.

Question (2) How could the TTRO to enable the painting be lawful, if there was not a traffic order correctly advertised for the double yellow lines to be painted in the first place?

Answer (2) As above, the November 2022 ETROs remain in force.

Question (3) Were any vehicles ticketed or towed away to enable line painting or bollard installation?

Answer (3) No vehicles received a Fixed Penalty Notice nor were any vehicles relocated during the reinstatement of the bollards and double yellow lines.

Item no 10.28

QUESTION NO 28

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

- Question** (1) Does the City of Edinburgh Council need an accurate traffic order that has been properly advertised in the press and on lampposts to be able to:
- a) paint double yellow lines on the road (excluding the TTRO needed for the painting process)?
 - b) enforce double yellow lines on the road?

Answer (1) Yes, it is a legal requirement to have a valid traffic order in place before any yellow lines can be placed on the road and any associated enforcement action can take place.

- Question** (2) Are there any circumstances where the council does not have to have an accurate and properly advertised traffic order to:
- (a) paint double yellow lines on the road?
 - (b) enforce double yellow lines on the road?

Answer (2) No, it is a legal requirement to have a valid traffic order in place before any yellow lines can be placed on the road and any associated enforcement action can take place.

QUESTION NO 29

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

In the week before Christmas 2023, schools were instructed to immediately send out a parent communication with a privacy notice from the office of the Service Director of Education and Chief Education Officer. It was sent to parents without any explanation other than that this was the 'latest version' of the Education Privacy Notice specific to Digital Learning and Teaching. It has been published as a separate notice to the main Education Privacy Notice.

Question (1) Please can you confirm how many previous versions there were that specifically covered Digital Learning and Teaching, the dates of these, and how they had been made available to children and families?

Answer (1) The Privacy Notice circulated before Christmas 2023 was the first privacy notice specifically covering Digital Learning and Teaching alone. Prior to that, this type of processing was covered in the main Education Privacy Notice which describes on more general terms how personal data is processed in educational settings.

Question (2) If there were no previous versions, why did the communication say this was a 'latest version' of Education Privacy Notice on Digital Learning and Teaching?

Answer (2) As explained above, this processing for Digital Learning and teaching purposes was covered in more general terms within the main Education Privacy Notice.

Question (3) In the privacy notice it refers to children now being visible in a Global Address List at a school level. However, it does not mention that for several years, children had been visible in the Global Address List across all Edinburgh schools. FOI reference 45964 shows that not a single child or member of staff at high risk had been hidden in this massive directory. When will every child (and their parents) and members of staff be told the extent to which their data was visible to so many others for years?

Answer

- (3)** Elected Members should be made aware that this issue is complex. Concerns have been raised, and appropriate actions are being taken. This includes revision of the GAL Data Protection Impact Assessment to ensure that any identified privacy risks are assessed and mitigated as appropriate. The Council is also liaising with the UK Information Commissioner's Office over this matter. Those discussions are ongoing, and the Council will be able to provide a full response to continued enquiries once that work has concluded.

QUESTION NO 30

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

According to FOI reference 39848, at the end of October 2022, the council's M365 Learning and Teaching system in schools, held Global Address List directory entries for:

- 55,946 children at council primary and secondary schools
- 6,853 staff
- 626 contractors working within schools/setting
- 317 teachers in training
- An unknown number of council staff from other departments with access to support and contribute to Education services
- An unknown number of staff from external suppliers like CGI

With the exception of some very young children who had been added without their knowledge and not provided with a login, everyone in the system had full visibility of the name, location and some other personal data of everyone else in the Global Address List, the means to contact them from their council address, the ability to contact them from an external email address, and the ability to see if any individual child was online and using the system at any given time.

Question

- (1)** At the end of October 2022, did any of the staff with access to this system not have a full and current Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme membership and if so, how many?

- Answer** (1) Roles and remits requiring PVG membership are identified during recruitment. Where roles and remits necessitate PVG membership HR recruitment teams support the fulfilling of this requirement.
- Extensive interrogation of HR systems would be required to provide the requested figures. However, staff access and use of the Global Address List is appropriate to their role, including staff who require (PVG) Scheme membership.
- Question** (2) How many staff in each category were still in the system on 1 January 2024 with digital access to the majority of children in council schools?
- Answer** (2) It is not possible to provide numbers for retrospective dates. This information can only be provided as a current number.
- Question** (3) Do any of those staff not have a full and current PVG Scheme membership, and if so, how many?
- Answer** (3) Not all roles and remits within the Learning and Teaching network necessitate PVG membership. HR colleagues ensure that all staff that require a PVG membership have a membership, as part of the recruitment process and ongoing checks.
- Question** (4) In recent years, has any staff member ever raised a concern to a Headteacher or council officer that they had unnecessary visibility of every child in Edinburgh?
- Answer** (4) We do not hold information relating to a concern of this nature.
- Question** (5) In October 2022, roughly 50,000 children had access to the full directory from home when doing homework – some had this for years. Can the council confirm that there were no immediate family members with convictions for sexual or violent offences who could have had clear visibility of the easily searchable Edinburgh-wide directory and distribution lists for staff and children when legitimately assisting their children with homework?

Answer

- (5) We do not hold information regarding the living arrangements of each individual nor the background of people within those living arrangements. Login credentials should not be used by those who are not the intended account holder.

Additional Relevant Information

Significant work has been undertaken to increase security provision concerning GAL access and use, including creating individual school based Student Address Books and regular deletion of redundant user accounts. As part of this process, the GAL data protection impact assessment is currently being updated to ensure that any identified risks are assessed and mitigated as appropriate.

The GAL is subject to on-going discussions with the ICO, and a full briefing will be provided once those discussions have concluded

Item no 10.31

QUESTION NO 31

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

For the Spaces for People/Travelling Safely schemes, the pandemic Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) were replaced by Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) on 21 November 2022.

However, it was realised there were issues with the traffic order paperwork on 10 January 2023 and councillors were informed about this on 26 April 2023.

Then all advertisements and mention of the traffic orders were withdrawn from the council website in with a commitment to readvertise them correctly in a few weeks. It is now January 2024 and no traffic orders have been issued.

Question (1) Please can the following table be completed with a row for each Spaces for People/Travelling Safely scheme:

Name of Spaces for People/ Travelling Safely scheme	Approximate number of metres of double yellow lines (in total covering each side of the road) that were not there before Spaces for People/Travelling Safely	Number of parking tickets issued 21 Nov 2022 to 10 Jan 2023 <i>(Period when ETROs were advertised and assumed to be correct)</i>	Number of parking tickets issued 11 Jan 2023 to 26 April 2023 <i>(Period when council officers were aware ETROs were incorrect but did not inform councillors)</i>	Number of parking tickets issued 26 April 2023 to 22 Jan 2024 <i>(After councillors were informed paperwork was incorrect, and adverts withdrawn)</i>

Answer (1) The information requested in the table above is not held in a form which would enable this information to be provided, as requested

Question (2) How do Parking Attendants know which double yellow lines are enforceable and which aren't?

Answer (2) Officers are aware of the limited scope of ETRO errors and remain confident that the majority of restrictions and prohibitions are adequately covered in the current experimental orders.

Question (3) Is it council policy to set aside their legal obligations around ensuring traffic orders are accurate and properly advertised, and instead implementing and enforcing traffic restrictions as they wish, then continuing until legally challenged?

Answer (3) No, it is not Council policy to set aside legal obligations. The Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders were prepared to reflect the scope of restrictions and prohibitions required to support the Travelling Safely trial. The mistakes identified are mainly in the interpretation from project plans into Schedules. Officers undertook due diligence in the preparation of the original ETRO documents, and a comprehensive review was undertaken to check each and every measure. Revised ETROs will be issued between February and May 2024.

QUESTION NO 32

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

At the point the Council declared a “Housing Emergency” in November 2023 the Council publicly declared that it was housing approximately 5,000 households in temporary accommodation. Meanwhile the officially recognised figure from the Scottish Government was approximately 3,500 households.

Question (1) Please provide a breakdown of the reasons/categories of households not recognised by the Scottish Government within the figures.

Answer (1) The table below provides a breakdown of households in temporary accommodation on 24 November 2023. As per latest information reported in the [Housing Emergency Action Plan](#) to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 5 December 2023, there were 4, 920 households in temporary accommodation.

Of those 3,823 households had presented as homeless and would therefore be included in Scottish Government Temporary Accommodation figures.

Work is underway to ensure that commissioned services temporary accommodation data is captured in the Scottish Government figures in future. This involves transferring data to another IT system.

Other categories are monitored regularly to determine whether it is appropriate to remain in temporary accommodation and a homeless assessment arranged if necessary.

Category / Reason	Total No of Households	No in Unsuitable Accommodation
Not Included in Scottish Government Figures		
Housing Advice Case - includes households seeking advice only and households where eligibility is still to be determined.	164	90
Management Case – includes households decanted whilst work is ongoing in their tenancy.	12	5
Refugee Schemes – includes households accommodated under refugee schemes.	19	0
Commissioned Services – includes households in temporary accommodation provided by third sector partners.	469	0
No case recorded – includes households from Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme and ineligible households funded by Social Work colleagues.	43	17
PSL – Pre April 2020 – includes households accommodated under the previous PSL contract where accommodation was provided as a settled accommodation option.	390	0
Total	1,097	112
Included in Scottish Government Figures		
Homeless Assessment – includes households who have presented as homeless.	3,823	1,091
Total Number in Temporary Accommodation		
	4,920	1,203

Question (2) Please also indicate for both the recognised and unrecognised households how many are being accommodated in unsuitable “bed and breakfast” accommodation.

Answer (2) Please see column three in the table above.

Item no 10.33

QUESTION NO 33

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 8 February 2024

Question (1) Please could the Convener confirm how many bin hubs with a 'nose in' arrangement have had a dropped kerb installed.

Answer (1) There are no bin hubs with a 'nose in' arrangement with a dropped kerb installed, I understand this is due to road safety concerns.

Question (2) Please also give a breakdown of the figures by Council ward.

Answer (2) None

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