

Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.05 am Thursday, 26th September, 2024

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Questions and Answers

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Agenda Annex

Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Biagi for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

How much is raised each year, net of discounts, from the additional council tax rate applied to (a) second homes and (b) long-term empty homes?

Answer

- a) The Council's additional Council Tax charge for second homes came into effect on 1 April 2024 and therefore at this time there is no full year charge to report. The projected annual *billed* amount is currently £3M. Collection is ongoing through the normal instalments process, and less frequently, lump sum payments. The chargeable amount is subject to change if properties change use
- b) The Council's additional charge for long term empty homes has been in effect for a number of years. The annual income collected in 2023/24 was £1.7M. A similar amount is expected to be collected in in 2024/25, however, the chargeable amount is again subject to change if properties are brought back into use

Item no 10.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

How are new sites for travel tracker displays determined?

Answer

All bus stops within Edinburgh are assessed using the agreed assessment methodology below. This takes into account several factors i.e. housing density, proximity to social and leisure facilities etc. The top 100 scoring signs were put forward to receive bustracker screens.

Item no 10.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Vice-Convener of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

I understand that residents are in some instances advised by the Council that pharmacies across Edinburgh can take and dispose of sharps, but a very large number of (mostly independent) pharmacies have recently ceased this due to contractual changes between NHS Lothian and third parties.

Question (1) Does the Vice Chair agree that pharmacies remain integral parts of many communities across Edinburgh, and that the Council must continue work constructively with them to serve residents' public health?

Answer (1) Yes.

Question (2) What representations can the Vice Chair make both to partners on the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, such as NHS Lothian, and more widely, Public Health Scotland, to resolve the situation?

Answer (2) NHS Lothian is reviewing the patient need and service specification for safe disposal of sharps waste as part of the annual review before commissioning the service from community pharmacies for 25/26. Lead pharmacists from Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership are integral to this work as is Community Pharmacy Lothian, the body that represents community pharmacy contractors.

Question (3) Does the Council keep a list of the pharmacies that are still currently collecting disposed sharps and if so, how often is that information updated?

Answer (3) The Council does not maintain such a list. However, NHS Lothian does and has shared this with partners. A full detailed list of the pharmacies can be found via the link below: -

<https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-lothian/pages/additional-services/medicines-waste-and-sharps-services/>

Item no 10.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Bennett for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Can the Convener

Question (1) Clarify how many adoptive parents currently receive Adoption Allowance from the City of Edinburgh Council.

Answer (1) **142** adoptive parents currently receive an adoption allowance in respect of **172** adopted young people

Question (2) Provide information on the total annual cost of Adoption Allowance to the City of Edinburgh Council and how this compares to the cost of other child benefits.

Answer (2) 2023/24 spend on adoption allowances for adopted young people was **£941,300.38**. An additional **£94,405.74** was spent on allowances for prospective adoptive parents (children placed but not yet adopted).

Table 1 below shows the City of Edinburgh Council's weekly adoption rates:

Table 1

Age	Weekly Allowance
0-4	£58.07
5-10	£73.24
11-13	£94
14-15	£96.95
16-18	£118.66

Table 2 below shows Child Benefit Weekly rates as a comparison

Table 2

Child	Weekly Child Benefit
Eldest or only child	£25.60
Other children	£16.95

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Bennett for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Thirteen Local Authorities across the UK, including Stirling and East Lothian, are installing EV charging channels to support homes without off-street parking, offering potential savings of £1,000 per year compared to public charging.

Can the Convenor provide:

Question

An update on the City of Edinburgh Council's monitoring of this initiative and clarify what information is being gathered to assess its potential adoption.

Clarity on whether the City of Edinburgh Council would consider allowing individuals to install their own

Answer

The Council does not currently allow cables to trail over pavements and or roadways, even when a cover is used. This is because it is difficult to ensure that they are carried out safely. However, I have asked officers to engage with Stirling and East Lothian Councils to learn more about their approach to this.

Item no 10.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question (1) Can the Convener confirm what budget was allocated for 2023/24 for the maintenance of communal areas on housing account land?

Answer (1) The total budget allocated in 2023/24 was £2.558m. This included an allocation of £0.091m for Garden Aid for individual tenants' gardens rather than communal for communal areas.

Question (2) What is the current approach towards the clearing of weeds on housing account land?

Answer (2) Weeds are cleared as part of normal cleansing operations or in response to a complaint (or complaints). In some cases, there may be a need for limited chemical application.

Item no 10.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

Can the Convener confirm when inspections are carried out in response to reports of faded road line markings, what criteria is used to determine prioritisation categorisation for repainting?

Answer

Line Markings are categorised in accordance with The Council's [Risk Based Approach to Safety Inspections](#).

Line markings are assessed as part of all routine safety inspections. The frequency of inspection is determined by the street hierarchy within the guidance.

Where a report of faded road markings is received from a member of the public, an inspection also takes place.

Item no 10.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Ward members were informed in March 2023 that work to reconfigure the junction of Maybury Road and Craigs Road would begin in "late May/early June". Those works have still not begun.

Therefore, to ask the Convener;

Question (1) When is it expected that these works will begin?

Answer (1) Revised tenders for the works were received at the end of July and are currently being reviewed in respect of any liabilities for the Council. The appropriate Traffic Orders are also being prepared and discussions are on-going between the Council and the developer in respect of the Section 75 agreement.

It is not possible to give a precise date for commencement of the works until the revised tender costs are agreed. Officers are prioritising this work in order to ensure that the infrastructure is delivered as soon as possible.

Question (2) Why they have been subject to such extreme delay?

Answer (2) The reason for the delay is that the specification for the junction changed from that originally granted planning permission at the behest of the Council. This was to ensure that public transport could access the development.

Item no 10.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Over two and a half years ago, in January 2022, Transport and Environment committee agreed speed limit reductions from 40mph to 30mph on Glasgow Road, Queensferry Road, South Gyle Broadway and South Gyle Access.

The previous convener indicated in answering my question on 8th February 2024, that design work and road safety audits were to be completed by April this year, and implementation to begin in Summer 2024. A staged delivery programme was to be prepared.

Therefore, to ask the Convener;

Question (1) To confirm whether design work and road safety audits have now been completed?

Answer (1) Road Safety Audits have been completed. However, it has since been established that revisions to the existing street lighting infrastructure on Cramond Brig are needed to accommodate sign placement. Unfortunately, this has resulted in some unforeseen additional design work.

Question (2) Whether the staged delivery programme has been prepared?

Answer (2) The delivery programme cannot be established until a contractor is appointed as this will form part of their responsibilities. Officers will liaise with the contractor, when appointed, to agree the staged programme which will be shared with ward Councillors.

Question (3) If so, when implementation on the above streets is to be expected?

Answer (3) See above.

Question (4) If not, what is the reason for the continued delay, and when does he expect implementation work will begin as a result?

Answer

- (4)** Unfortunately, the revisions required to the existing street lighting infrastructure on the Cramond Bridge has resulted in a delay to timescales previously communicated.

It is expected that the complete citywide project package will be completed during winter 2024/25 and, subject to the appointment of a contractor, and that the new speed limit will be in place on Glasgow Road, Queensferry Road, South Gyle Broadway and South Gyle Access by the end of the financial year.

Item no 10.10

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 26 September 2024**

- Question** (1) When is the expected completion date of the citywide survey for leasing housing garages / lock-ups?
- Answer** (1) Officers expect the surveys to be completed by March 2025.
- Question** (2) Consequently, when it can be expected that the Council will begin accepting new applications?
- Answer** (2) It is not possible to confirm a timescale until the stock condition report has been reviewed and the recommendations considered.
- Question** (3) Whether it will be proposed to implement a cap on the number of garages that can be rented per household?
- Answer** (3) At this time, there are no plans to review existing rental criteria or to cap on numbers of units rented to one person.
- Question** (4) Whether there will be any consideration in adjusting the priority order to include geographical proximity to the residents' home address?
- Answer** (4) At this time, there are no plans to review existing rental criteria.

QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 September 2024**

The new parking rules became law on Monday 11 December 2023 and the enforcement started in Edinburgh in January 2024. Unfortunately, many vehicles are still parking on pavements, jeopardizing pedestrians' safety, especially disabled, wheelchair users, elderly, buggies and young children.

Can the Convener please clarify:

Question (1) What is the average of reports the council receives per month with regards to pavement parking

Answer (1) The average is 440 reports per month, received via the online reporting form for the months February to August 2024.

Question (2) How long it takes on average, since report is received until action is taken

Answer (2) This information is not held. Response times are dependent on the time of day and the availability of resources; however, the Council responds to requests for enforcement as soon as possible.

Question (3) If possible, a breakdown of infringements by vehicle type – i.e. private car, commercial van, taxi/PHC, etc'

Answer (3) The vehicle type is not recorded on the web form itself, however analysis of the available enforcement data provides the following breakdown:

Vehicle Type	
Bus	0.1%
Car	83.3%
HGV	0.6%
LGV	13.6%
Motorcycle	1.8%
Motorhome/Campervan	0.6%

Question **(4)** How many council vehicles (or vehicles belonging to council contractors) have been issued with penalty notices for pavement parking

Answer **(4)** Only one parking ticket was identified as being issued to the City of Edinburgh Council for pavement parking. Please note, however, if parking tickets are paid at the discounted amount, then the Council does not hold address details to trace the owner, unless a challenge has been received.

Item no 10.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

How is the Council planning on responding to the findings in the Phase 2 Grenfell inquiry report which was released earlier this month?

Answer

I know that officers have been reviewing the findings of the Phase 2 Grenfell inquiry report and I intend to present a motion to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 1 October 2024 requesting a detailed report on this subject be presented to Committee in December 2024.

Item no 10.13

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

To ask the TEC Convener, what is the latest timescale for reducing the speed limit on Queensferry Road to 30mph?

Answer

It is expected that the complete citywide project package for speed limit reductions to 30mph will be completed during winter 2024/25 and, subject to the appointment of a contractor, that the new speed limit will be in place on Glasgow Road, Queensferry Road, South Gyle Broadway and South Gyle Access by the end of the financial year.

Item no 10.14

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Regrets the concerning reports that over 700 homes built by Robertson Partnership Homes have been found with defects, including critical fire safety issues, including water ingress.

Question (1) How will the Convener ensure that residents' safety is maintained during the repair process?

Answer (1) Risk assessments have been undertaken to assess the risk mitigations required and a variety of measures have been put in place, including increased estate visits, communal alarm systems and a waking watch service.

Question (2) What is the expected timeline for repairs to be completed?

Answer (2) The repair process has been underway since November 2023 with multiple teams provided by the contractor deployed across all sites. Correcting firestopping and ensuring tenant safety has been the priority. This work is drawing to a close on some sites and is expected to be complete by the end of this calendar year.

Robertson Construction are providing a response to Council surveys on all roof and ventilation issues across the homes. Repairs on these elements will continue into next year.

Question (3) What measures are in place to guarantee that these repairs will be completed both quickly and effectively to prevent further displacement of residents?

Answer (3) A project team was set up last year to oversee the programme of work. There are weekly site meetings to review progress and additional monthly meetings with senior managers from Robertson Construction. A clerk of works is in place on all sites and work is being reviewed by specialist surveyors following completion. The vast majority of the work has taken place without the need for tenants to leave their homes. Robertson Construction will carry out decorative works on completion of repairs.

Item no 10.15

QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Staniforth for answer
by the Leader of the Council at a
meeting of the Council on 26
September 2024**

Question (1) What is the timetable for the coming review of the council's International Strategy?

Answer (1) The current Edinburgh International Framework was approved by the Policy and Sustainability Committee in June 2021 to cover the period 2021 to 2026.

In line with that agreement, work on development of a refreshed framework is programmed to begin during 2025.

Key steps in this process will include:

- A report for the Policy and Sustainability Committee in late summer 2025 at latest setting out details of the scope and purpose of a framework, as well as engagement plans and timelines for the framework refresh process,
- A programme of consultation and engagement sessions and workshops with elected members, Edinburgh International Group members, and other stakeholder groups,
- A report for the Policy and Sustainability Committee by March 2026 at latest, setting out a draft framework for public consultation, as well as detailed plans for how that consultation process will be undertaken in line with agreed Council policies and guidance
- A final report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee by Autumn 2026 at latest setting out a refreshed Edinburgh International Framework for approval.

These dates represent the broad timetable required for officers to meet current commitments for renewal of this framework. The timetable will be updated with firm commitments agreed for committee schedules during Q1 2025.

- Question** (2) Is that timetable an estimate or definitive?
- Answer** (2) See answer to Q1
- Question** (3) If an estimate when will a definitive timetable be available?
- Answer** (3) See answer to Q1
- Question** (4) What are the plans for engagement with members and party groups ahead of the strategy being written?
- Answer** (4) See answer to Q1

Item no 10.16

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Please could the Convener confirm, for this year so far and the two full previous years,

- Question** (1) What seagull nesting prevention methods have been installed on the Council's estate and infrastructure, and where?
- Answer** (1) Gull nesting is seasonal, April to July every year. The Council has a number of properties across the estate that have yearly gull programmes carried out on and there is an opportunity to add sites each year if necessary. However, there has been no gull programme or preventive measures carried out over the last 2 years due to avian bird flu.
- Question** (2) How many licence applications, and for what purpose, have been submitted to NatureScot in relation to seagulls?
- Answer** (2) The Governing Body "Nature Scot" made the decision not to grant any licenses unless for public nuisance or health and safety reasons due to avian flu. No license applications have been made.

Item no 10.17

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

The Convener's predecessor indicated publicly in the media on numerous occasions that "integrated ticketing" would be introduced across Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams through the extension of "Tap, tap, cap" across both modes. He gave an initial indicative timescale for this of March 2023, subsequently announced that this was delayed until June 2023, then finally indicated to the Edinburgh report in June 2023 at the opening of Trams to Newhaven that it would be delayed until after the August Festival period in 2023 to allow for more testing of equipment.

As "tap, tap, cap" has still not been implemented across bus and tram can the Convener say:

Question (1) Why this has not happened a year after the last date given for implementation?

Answer (1) ABT is being introduced as a joint solution for Edinburgh Trams and Lothian Buses. In order to facilitate the introduction of Edinburgh Trams ABT taps into the Lothian ABT production environment, the Lothian back-office environment has needed to undergo several significant upgrades. These upgrades are complicated by the volume of tap data currently processed by the live environment and the very short window of downtime which is available to carry out those upgrades, and so it must be done in phases.

The upgrade process and necessary development work has now been agreed and is being run through the system's test environment, using Lothian's actual data volumes. Once the testing process is complete, the live upgrade can be scheduled.

In parallel to this work, Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams are working on business rules and defining test cases for testing the functionality of the system.

The reasons for the further delays, beyond what was envisaged, have been the number of technical challenges encountered during the course of the system upgrades and software releases to support this ticketing solution.

Both Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams are continuing to work together with their technology partner to implement this significant improvement.

Question (2) What steps he is taking to ensure it is implemented as soon as possible?

Answer (2) I intend to highlight this issue at my next scheduled meetings with Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams.

Question (3) What date he now expects the implementation to go live?

Answer (3) The date to go live is not yet known. However, Site Acceptance Testing is expected to begin in autumn 2024.

Item no 10.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Regulatory Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

Please could the Convener confirm with what frequency the [‘licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk’](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) inbox is checked, how many officers oversee it, and how emails received are managed?

Answer

In the last 12 months, over 63,000 customer contacts have been received through phone calls, emails and with the counter service with, on average, 170 emails received daily.

All case officers in licensing access the incoming emails and process the correspondence relating to their remit. manually handle all incoming emails throughout each day.

However, during the last month, the volume of emails has increased, and officers have identified that in prioritising the incoming correspondence, some email enquiries have not been dealt with appropriately. In response, the service has engaged additional support for case officers in processing email correspondence and in quality assurance to improve the response times and quality of responses. It is hoped that these changes will lead to improvements in the next few weeks.

Item no 10.19

QUESTION NO 19

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Last Autumn Community Councils across the city helped under resourced Street Cleaning teams clear leaves from pavements to reduce slipping hazards and flood risks from blocked gullies.

Question

In light of the limited resources prevalent this year from continued underfunding by Scottish Government, please can the Convener say what proactive actions are being taken to encourage Community Councils help clear fallen leaves from roads and pavements

Answer

Community Councils and groups can contact the Council using this online form - <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/litter-flytipping/help-us-tackle-litter>

The Duty Cleansing Supervisor will then make contact with them and assist where possible, by supplying tools and services as required, as well as providing advice and guidance.

QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

The response to my Question 35 for the Convener on 27th October 2022 was that a recent survey of all bridges in parks and greenspaces will be used to develop plans for future.

On 27th July 2024 Officers emailed that “unfortunately we have had to close the footbridge over the Water of Leith beside Redhall Walled Garden due to damage to the timber parapet. “

Waiting for bridges to deteriorate into a dangerous condition before closing for repair doesn't seem a sensible approach.

Question

What work has been carried out on a proper management plan for footpaths and bridges in Craiglockhart and Colinton Dells so repairs can be made proactively to limit closure times and danger to public?

Answer

Council officers undertake regular inspections of bridges along the Water of Leith. Through this, they have identified several areas for repair. Where possible, repairs have been arranged however, in some cases, bridge closures are required until more detailed inspections can be completed and repairs arranged.

As part of the Council budget for 2024/25, £450,000 spread equally over three years to carry out a programme of works along the Water of Leith, including bridge repairs.

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Mattos Coelho for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question (1) As a recipient of a councillor's Senior Responsibility Allowance for convening meetings can you confirm how many committees you convene per year?

Answer (1) I am an Elected Member who receives a Senior Responsibility Allowance in my capacity as Planning Convener. I convene the Planning Committee as well as over various role such as standing in for the Convener of Development Management Sub-Committee when needed (when selected by DM-Sub Committee Members). Additionally, I chair various groups linked to my Portfolio such as the Short-Term Let Working Group.

Post election in 2022 there were 4 meetings of Planning Committee convened.

In 2023 there were 7 meetings of Planning Committee convened.

In 2024 to date there have been 5 meetings of Planning Committee convened (these figures include Special Planning Committees held).

Question (2) Are you aware that Planning Local Review Bodies have recently been unable to complete their agenda in the allotted time? At the end of the allotted time the LRB is thus required to either continue items at some time in the future or continue to meet and make binding quasi-judicial decisions after other council business (for example on 11/09/2024 after 6pm immediately following a different committee. As Planning Convener do you consider this satisfactory?

Answer (2) The LRB was adjourned and continued as a result of the meeting taking longer to hold than usual. I have met with the Chief Planner Officer to discuss actions that need to be taken to avoid scheduling issues in future.

The Chief Planning Officer and the Head of Democracy, Governance and Resilience are additionally looking at options for the functioning of the LRB to reduce the potential for this to happen in future.

Question (3) As the Local Review Body convenor is elected immediately at the start of each meeting they have limited ability to control the agenda which is already set. Given this situation and subject to you answer to point 1, do you consider you have available time to convene the Planning Local Review Body and ensure agendas are well managed going forward?

Answer (3) The agenda for the meeting is set by the Chief Planning Officer and meetings are held in accordance with Sections 43A and 43B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Town and Country Planning (Schemes of Delegation and Local Review Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. It is not appropriate for the convenor of the meeting to control the agenda.

I would like to thank Councillor Mattos Coelho for her endorsement for my ability to manage agendas well but would advise that under the 'Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions – June 2024' the Terms of Reference for the LRB state it is unfortunately not possible for me to chair meetings in my role as Convenor of Planning Committee.

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Mattos Coelho for answer by the Convener of the Development Management Sub-Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Planning Local Review Bodies have recently been unable to complete their agenda in the allotted time. At the end of the allotted time the LRB is thus required to either continue items at some time in the future or continue to meet and make binding quasi-judicial decisions after other council business (for example on 11/09/2024 after 6pm immediately following a different committee.

Question (1) As Development Management Sub-Committee Convener do you consider this satisfactory?

Answer (1) The Local Review Body is a separate group from the Development Management Sub-Committee. The operation of the LRB is outwith my responsibility as Convener.

The LRB was adjourned and continued as a result of the meeting taking longer to hold than usual. The Chief Planning Officer and the Head of Democracy, Governance and Resilience are looking at options for the functioning of the LRB to reduce the potential for this to happen in future.

Question (2) As the Local Review Body convener is elected immediately at the start of each meeting they have limited ability to control the agenda which is already set. Do you consider you have available time to convene the Planning Local Review Body and ensure agendas are well managed going forward?

Answer (2) The arrangements for convening the LRB is a matter for the whole Council. Under the most recent Committee terms of reference, Council has agreed the LRB Convenor should be chosen at the beginning of each meeting. It is a matter for Council to decide whether it wishes to retain or amend those arrangements.

The agenda for the meeting is set by the Chief Planning Officer and meetings are held in accordance with Sections 43A and 43B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Town and Country Planning (Schemes of Delegation and Local Review Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. It is not appropriate for the convener of the meeting to control the agenda

QUESTION NO 23

By Councillor Griffiths for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Notes with concern the ongoing savings proposals that could reduce access to Holiday Hubs, which support children and young people with additional support needs (ASN).

Question (1) Could the Convener provide detailed information on the current locations of Holiday Hubs across the city?

Answer (1) There are 5 Holiday Hub Locations across the City, these are listed below.

Barnardo's Hub (or Oxfangs PS)
Oaklands Special School
Prospect Bank Special School (or St Crispins as alternative)
Kaimes Special School (or St Crispins as alternative)
Rowanfield Primary School (or Woodlands as alternative)
Braidburn Special School (or Redhall Special School as alternative)

Question (2) Is there an equitable distribution of Holiday Hubs ensuring fair access for those in SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) 1-4 areas?

Answer (2) We do not currently collate data on the SIMD profile of those who access the holiday hubs. As part of the engagement and review of holiday hub provision we will consider how this data can be captured in the future. There is at least one holiday Hub in each locality across Edinburgh. Venues are chosen due to their accessibility and resources for children with Special Needs. Access to the holiday hub is not restricted due to families not having finances to support a contribution. From the data that we do hold we know that in 2022/23 there were 27 families gifted a place at the holiday hub and in 2023/24, 4 families were gifted.

Assessments regarding financial contributions are made via a multiple choice on the application questionnaire, this is a self declaration made by families regarding the number of

working parents in a household. The current thresholds for contributions are noted below, these will also be reviewed as part of the engagement process.

2 Parents working = £120

1 parent working = £80

No parents working (on benefits) = £40

Question (3) How does the Convener plan to address potential inequalities or the loss of respite for parents and carers due to these cuts?

Answer (3) Holiday Hub support is for children from primary 1 to S6 who have a disability. It is for children who are unable to access mainstream holiday clubs due to their significant and complex needs, and whose families require support during the school holidays. Similar to education, the holiday hub will provide families with some respite during the day however, respite is not a common term used for holiday hub support. The term respite tends to be used for short break residential respite which is very different to the support provided by the holiday hub.

Approximately 140 families have met the criteria for social work assessment who receive Holiday Hub places. Families who have been assessed as requiring a 'break from caring' or 'respite' have had this under Section 23 of The Children's Scotland Act 1995. Holiday Hub provision is not seen as respite and is not taken into account when families have had an assessment. During the engagement and review this will be reconsidered. Some service areas and other local authorities refer to day respite and short break residential respite, this might be language which Edinburgh adopts and that all forms of respite provided are considered as part of a Section 23 assessment.

Data regarding respite is held on our swift client data base as the children and young people are recorded as social work clients. Holiday Hub provision is not statutory and is recorded separately to swift. Further analysis of the data is required regarding the number of families receiving respite who also receive holiday hub provision. This will be a manual task which will require additional resource to cross reference the two systems. The engagement and review process will provide an opportunity to analyse the data

available and consider the impact of any proposed changes to service provision. Consideration needs to be given to the assessed level of need and the risk when allocating holiday hub resource rather than the current model of first come, first served.

Item no 10.24

QUESTION NO 24

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

Please can the Convener identify,

- 1) as of the start of September 2024 and
- 2) as of 12 September 2024:
 - a) How many travel trackers had live Lothian buses info;
 - b) How many travel trackers had timetabled Lothian buses info;
 - c) How many travel trackers did not fall into either category above.

Please provide both the total number and the proportion of all CEC trackers in each case.

Answer

- 1a) None
- 1b) 316 (98%)
- 1c) None
- 2a) 316
- 2b) None
- 2c) 6 (there are 6 signs in Kirkliston that only show McGills services as Lothian Buses do not operate in Kirkliston)

Item no 10.25

QUESTION NO 25

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 26 September 2024**

Question

How many parking tickets have been issued on Gorgie Road and Dalry Road over the past 5 years? Please provide separate numbers for Gorgie Road and Dalry Road, along with a breakdown of the contravention codes.

Answer

1,626 parking tickets were issued in Dalry Road over the last five years.

2,718 parking tickets were issued in Gorgie Road over the last five years.

A breakdown by contravention for each street provided below.

Gorgie Road

Contravention Code	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
	(from 15th September)					(to 15th September)	
01 - Parked in a restricted street during the prescribed hours		2	2	1	3	1	9
02 - Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in force		3		1	2	2	8
02q - Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in force			2				2
100 - Section 50 Parked on a pavement						4	4
101 - Section 56 Parked adjacent to a dropped kerb at a known crossing point						1	1
16 - Parked in a permit parking place without holding a valid electronic permit or clearly displaying a valid physical permit where required		1			3	1	5
16m - Parked in a permit parking place without holding a valid electronic permit or clearly displaying a valid physical permit where required	1						1
23f - Parked in a parking place not designated for that class of vehicle		1					1
24 - Not parked correctly within the markings of the parking bay or place				2		2	4
25 - Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading	9	12	38	60	23	24	166
25CO - Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading	1	4		3	1	3	12
30 - Parked for longer than permitted		15	1	4	3	25	48
45 - Parked on a taxi rank				2			2
46 - Stopped where prohibited (on a red route or clearway)	237	410	402	443	507	382	2381
46o - Stopped where prohibited (on a red route or clearway)	21	19	23	1		3	67
46q - Stopped where prohibited (on a red route or clearway)					1		1
47 - Stopped on a restricted bus stop or stand					3	2	5
W02 - W02 - Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in force		1					1
Grand Total	269	468	468	517	546	450	2718

Contravention Code	2019 (from 15th September)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (to 15th September)	Grand Total
01 - Parked in a restricted street during the prescribed hours		1		1	1	2	5
02 - Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in force			1	2		1	4
02o - Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in force			1				1
07 - Parked with payment made to extend the stay beyond initial time						1	1
100 - Section 50 Parked on a pavement						3	3
11p - Parked without payment of the parking charge			1				1
16 - Parked in a permit parking place without holding a valid electronic permit or clearly displaying a valid physical permit where required					1		1
24 - Not parked correctly within the markings of the parking bay or place		1	1	2	4		8
25 - Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading	8	29	50	23	30	44	184
25CO - Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading		6	8	4	2	4	24
30 - Parked for longer than permitted						5	5
46 - Stopped where prohibited (on a red route or clearway)	78	149	294	302	268	262	1353
46o - Stopped where prohibited (on a red route or clearway)		15	20	1			36
Grand Total	86	201	376	335	306	322	1626

Item no 10.26

QUESTION NO 26

By Councillor Flannery for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question

Given the recent announcement to withdraw pensioners' Winter Fuel' Allowance, are we going to put in extra resources to assist pensioners in accessing Pensions Credit?

Answer

The Council's advice service teams and wider Advice Network are working closely to ensure Pension Credit entitlement checks are carried out.

In addition, the Council is promoting the Department of Work and Pensions campaign to promote the uptake of Pension Credit. This message is also being promoted through the Health and Social Care Partnership, by Housing Officers and also through Edinburgh's Tenant's Federation. The Council's business profile on Google has also been updated to include information on Pension Credit.

QUESTION NO 27

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Many residents across the city have raised concern that policy on weeding has led to an eruption of unwanted weeds on pavements, road gullies and cycle lanes that are unsightly, potentially hazardous, and could give rise to longer term maintenance problems.

One of the Community Council's in my Ward is considering organising a local community weeding event.

Question

Can the Convener confirm what guidance and public indemnity insurance cover exists for Community Council's to organise local pavement weeding events?

Answer

The Council's insurance does not extend to Community Councils and the Council cannot provide advice in relation to the insurance required. Should Community Councils have any questions, they should discuss with their insurers directly, or alternatively Citizens Advice Scotland can provide advice.

Community Councils and groups can contact the Council using this online form - <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/litter-flytipping/help-us-tackle-litter>

The Duty Cleansing Supervisor will then make contact with them and assist where possible, by supplying tools and services as required, as well as providing advice and guidance.

Item no 10.28

QUESTION NO 28

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

Question (1) Given the lack of secondary legislation introduced under part 3 (Road User Charging) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001, whether the council considers that it could currently introduce a road user charging scheme, and if not, what dialogue with the Scottish Government has taken place to enable this?

Answer (1) Transport Scotland have facilitated a number of discussions with Local Authorities/Roads and Transport Authorities on Road User Charging in recent months.

Question (2) Whether the council considers that it must undertake an authority-wide referendum prior to introducing a road user charging scheme under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001?

Answer (2) The City Mobility Plan Action Plan confirms the Council's intention to review next steps to exploring a 'pay as you drive' scheme once the national 'Route Map to Achieve 20% reduction in car kilometres' is published.

Item no 10.29

QUESTION NO 29

By Councillor O'Neill for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 26 September 2024

- Question** (1) What is the most up to date number of collisions and contributing factors in City of Edinburgh, looking at the past 5 or 10 years?
- a) How many people (age 16+) have been killed?
 - b) How many people (age 16+) have been seriously injured?
 - c) How many children (aged <16) have been killed?
 - d) How many children (aged <16) have been seriously injured?

Answer (1) This information is not currently available as the IT system that uploads and interrogates Police Scotland data on reported injury collisions is currently being transitioned to a new supplier.

When fully available, officers will undertake an updated Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIP) study of all casualty groups identified in the Road Safety Action Plan and will report to Transport and Environment Committee in April 2025 on progress towards the 2030 reduction targets.

Question (2) Have there been a reduction in collision types?

Answer (2) See Question 1

Question (3) How many cyclist casualties and how many cyclist fatalities have happened in Edinburgh?

Answer (3) See Question 1

Question (4) What are the most recorded contributor factors to accidents in Edinburgh?

Answer (4) See Question 1

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