

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 28 October 2021

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Frank Ross

COUNCILLORS

Robert C Aldridge
Scott Arthur
Gavin Barrie
Eleanor Bird
Chas Booth
Claire Bridgman
Mark A Brown
Steve Burgess
Lezley Marion Cameron
Jim Campbell
Kate Campbell
Mary Campbell
Maureen M Child
Gavin Corbett
Cammy Day
Alison Dickie
Denis C Dixon
Phil Doggart
Karen Doran
Scott Douglas
Catherine Fullerton
Neil Gardiner
Gillian Gloyer
George Gordon
Ashley Graczyk
Joan Griffiths
Derek Howie
Graham J Hutchison
Andrew Johnston

David Key
Callum Laidlaw
Kevin Lang
Lesley Macinnes
Melanie Main
John McLellan
Amy McNeese-Mechan
Adam McVey
Claire Miller
Max Mitchell
Joanna Mowat
Rob Munn
Gordon J Munro
Hal Osler
Ian Perry
Susan Rae
Alasdair Rankin
Cameron Rose
Neil Ross
Jason Rust
Stephanie Smith
Alex Staniforth
Mandy Watt
Susan Webber
Iain Whyte
Donald Wilson
Norman J Work
Ethan Young
Louise Young

1 Condolences on the Death of Sir David Amess MP – Motion by Councillor Whyte

The Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Sir David Amess MP who had died on 9 April 2021.

Councillors Whyte, McVey, Day, Burgess, Aldridge and Barrie paid tribute to the service and contributions made by Sir David Amess MP.

The following motion by Councillor Whyte was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council sends its deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues across the House of Commons of the Conservative MP Sir David Amess, stabbed to death whilst holding a surgery and carrying out his duties as a constituency MP.

The death of a fellow elected member whilst carrying out their duties is an event that reminds us that whatever our political differences, once elected, we share in the common aim of serving our constituents.

Representing the public and your community is a privilege that can only be undertaken by engaging with the public and being part of those communities and Council agrees that in this moment of vulnerability it is more necessary than ever to continue to deliver democracy.

Council stands united to honour the work of Sir David, to grieve with his family, constituents and friends.

Council agrees to reaffirm its belief in democracy and pledge to continue to play its part in ensuring that open, representative democracy continues to honour the memory of Sir David Amess and the service he gave to his community.”

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by the Lord Provost

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Whyte.

2 Independent Inquiry Report Arising Out of Allegations Concerning the Conduct of the late Sean Bell

Details were provided on the outcome of an independent Inquiry commissioned by the Council into complaints about the conduct of the late Sean Bell, a former senior manager in the Communities and Families directorate, who passed away in August 2020 whilst due to stand trial for sexual offences charges. Police Scotland's criminal investigation was brought to a close following his death.

The Inquiry had been carried out by a specialist team from Pinsent Masons' Manchester office, and overseen by Inquiry Chair, Susanne Tanner QC, the purpose of the which was to establish, amongst other things, whether or not any, or appropriate, steps had been taken by the Council to respond to any past allegations or suspicions of abuse or inappropriate behaviour by Mr Bell.

The independent Inquiry had identified certain failings and missed opportunities on the part of the Council to address the unacceptable conduct of the late Sean Bell and had made recommendations in this regard.

Decision

- 1) To note that the independent Inquiry into complaints about the late Sean Bell, conducted by Pinsent Masons LLP and overseen by Inquiry Chair Susanne Tanner QC, had completed its investigation. The Open Report with Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations (the "Open Report") had been prepared by the independent Inquiry and was attached at Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To thank the survivors for their courage, sincerity and perseverance, in sharing their horrific experiences to allow the Council to take forward recommendations to improve policies and practice to ensure the Council can identify and deal with matters of abuse swiftly and effectively and also progress a scheme to provide redress for survivors, where appropriate and in accordance with the recommendations from the independent inquiry.
- 3) To additionally thank the witnesses who contributed to the Inquiry, including current and former Council staff, for their candour in doing so.
- 4) To further thank the independent Chair Susanne Tanner QC and the investigation team at Pinsent Masons LLP. Their work had ensured the investigation, conclusions and recommendations were survivor-led and set out a clear way forward as a starting point to strengthen the Council's processes, policies and practice.
- 5) To accept with regret the conclusion at 4.2 of the report by the Monitoring Officer that maladministration and injustice had taken place due to the failure to act on disclosures regarding Sean Bell's conduct.
- 6) To therefore apologise to the survivors in light of their appalling experiences as highlighted by the independent inquiry and more generally the Council apologises for its corporate failings and their impacts as identified in the independent inquiry.
- 7) To agree that the Chief Executive report back to Council within one cycle detailing how the recommendations of the Inquiry would be implemented in full.

In doing so the Chief Executive should meet with Group Leaders before the November Council to provide a sounding board for the detailed development of this work.

- 8) In addition, to agree:
- a) Without prejudice to any further specific recommendations from the Independent Inquiry on Council's wider culture that a full review of all Council policies relating to staff conduct be undertaken to determine how these could be consolidated and clarified to aid compliance and investigation in future. To note discussions had already begun to improve effectiveness of staff conduct policies as a holistic suite to improve compliance and understanding of the policies as well as access for staff to use policies to be able to more effectively raise issues and get access to support.
 - b) That in delivering the Inquiry Recommendations, the Chief Executive give consideration to expanding the scope of the special investigations unit detailed in paragraph 9.1.1 of the investigation report to include any other serious issues of misconduct including, but not limited to, serious fraud or misappropriation of public funds.
 - c) To request the Chief Executive request details from inquiry team of those that some witnesses described as being part of an "old boy's network". In addition to the recommendations that Human Resources and Internal Audit conduct an assessment of disciplinary issues or complaints handled by any of those actors in order that any issues identified were acted upon and reported appropriately.
 - d) To request a briefing by the Chief Executive to Councillors within one cycle on the circumstances of the departure of Alastair Gaw and Andy Jeffries from Council employment as well as information on the ability (or otherwise) of the Council to progress and conclude disciplinary processes after an employee has resigned.
 - e) To request a briefing by the Chief Executive within one cycle on the processes followed by the internal and external investigations to establish whether there was any misuse of public funds by Sean Bell and the conclusions reached. In the meantime, to note both the contents of Footnote 1 of the Inquiry Report and Paragraph 4.6 of the Chief Executive's report.

(References - reports by the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer, submitted)

3 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 23 September 2021 as a correct record.

4 Leader's Report

The Leader presented his report to the Council. He commented on:

- Edinburgh Programme during COP26 – travel in the city
- Condolences to family, friends and colleagues of East Lothian Council Leader, Councillor Willie Innes

The following questions/comments were made:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Whyte | - | COP26 – street cleanliness |
| Councillor Burgess | - | COP26 – Climate emergency - UK Government Budget announcement |
| Councillor Aldridge | - | Low emission zones – revised proposals |
| Councillor Day | - | East Lothian Council Leader, Councillor Willie Innes |
| | - | Additional funding for homelessness from the Scottish Government |
| Councillor Fullerton | - | Condolences to the family and colleagues of Martin Rich, Licensing Team |
| Councillor Laidlaw | - | Councillor Dickie – cross party working |
| Councillor Miller | - | COP26 – reducing climate changing pollution |
| Councillor Louise Young | - | COP26 – Impact on Policing in Edinburgh |
| Councillor Watt | - | Appointment of Angela Voulgari to the post of Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee Lead Officer |
| | - | Support for 16 days of action to end gender based violence against women |
| Councillor Bird | - | Compulsory searches at night clubs – women's safety |

Councillor Doggart	- Concern at NHS Lothian’s announcement that A and E Departments should only be used for life-threatening conditions – share of funding
Councillor Barrie	- Royal High School Preservation Trust – Edinburgh Music School future opportunities
Councillor Lang	- Climate emergency – SNP MSP’s voting in favour of a 3 rd runway at Heathrow Airport
Councillor Munro	- Approaches to the Scottish Government for a share of unspent funding
Councillor McNeese-Mechan	- Public awareness of the impact of fireworks – support for campaign
Councillor Booth	- Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group – Council’s wider work to challenge racism
Councillor Gardiner	UK budget impact on poverty – tapering universal credit and triple lock pensions

5 Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces – Motion by Councillor Neil Ross

a) Deputation – GRASS – Grassmarket Residents Association

A written deputation was presented on behalf of GRASS – Grassmarket Residents Association.

The deputation expressed its support for the motion by Councillor Neil Ross on the amplification of sound in public places and outlined the negative impact that amplified sound from the street, from buskers and street entertainers, had had on the life of residents in the Grassmarket in recent years. They felt that it was noise pollution of the worst kind, making concentration impossible for those who worked from home, as well as ruining enjoyment of quieter domestic activities

The deputation stressed that lack of regulation, and confusion over who to complain to, certainly made matters considerably worse and felt that police rarely saw such complaints as a priority. They indicated that controls were urgently needed.

b) Deputation – New Town and Broughton Community Council

A written deputation was presented on behalf of New Town and Broughton Community Council.

The deputation welcomed and supported Councillor Neil Ross's motion for the regulation of amplification of sound in public spaces and in particular the creation of straightforward ways for residents and businesses to report disturbances arising from the amplification of sound in public spaces, from whatever sources.

The deputation believed there was no easily defined and enforceable level of acceptable amplified sound, especially in places with high ambient street noise and asked the Council to consider a simple ban on amplification, following the successful Copenhagen policy, with musicians and other performers required to use natural acoustic sound.

c) Motion by Councillor Neil Ross

The following motion by Councillor Neil Ross was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council:

- a) Welcomes buskers and street entertainers who liven up our city and who follow the Council's advice to do so at a considerate volume so passers-by can hear but nearby businesses and residents are not disturbed.
- b) Recognises the concerns of residents, businesses and visitors, in particular in the city centre, about the negative auditory impact of over-amplification of sound by some buskers and street entertainers in public spaces when the advice at a) above is ignored.
- c) Notes that a level of noise at or above 85 decibels can damage hearing or inflict pain on the hearer.
- d) Notes that there is a limitation on the amplification of sound for open air events in the standard conditions of the Council's Public Entertainment Licence.
- e) Notes the failure of the Council to bring forward any proposals to control the amplification of sound in public spaces in response to the motion approved by the Council on 22 August 2019.
- f) Notes the answers given on 23 September 2021 to questions on the control of noise from street entertainers and the lack of powers available to the Council to achieve balanced, fair, sensible and positive street performing behaviours.

- g) Therefore, requests the Convener of the Regulatory Committee to write to Ben Macpherson MSP, the Minister for Local Government in Scotland:
- i) to highlight the negative auditory impact of amplified sound from buskers and street entertainers in public spaces in Edinburgh;
 - ii) to request additional powers to allow the Council to effectively control the amplification of sound in public spaces under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, whether through an extension of the arrangements governing the licensing of public entertainment or by other means; and
 - iii) to report to the Regulatory Committee within two cycles to provide details of the correspondence with the Minister, including the response received from the Minister and details of any progress made.
- h) Also requests the Council's Street Enforcement team to actively engage with buskers and street entertainers to encourage adherence to the Council's advice on busking, as noted on the Council's website.
- i) Also requests that officers explore the feasibility of creating straight forward ways for residents and businesses to report disturbances to the Council arising from the amplification of sound in public spaces."

- moved by Councillor Neil Ross, seconded by Councillor Osler

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Neil Ross.

6 Raising HMO Standards – Motion by Councillor Neil Ross

a) Deputation – Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council

A written deputation was presented on behalf of Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council.

The deputation raised concerns about the high percentage of student flats in the Marchmont and Sciennes area which were HMO's and in particular with complaints from residents over bad behaviour, noise and waste dumping.

The deputation were in agreement with the proposal to raise the standards for HMO Licensing and hoped that there would be some positive and beneficial changes to the current situation.

b) Deputation – Southside Community Council

The deputation indicated that their main concerns were about the number of HMOs in any one stair at one time, the way in which properties were converted and maintained, the availability of contact details for property agents/owners and the proper factoring of properties. They suggested that a register for logging complaints be set up by the Council with the costs for this being covered within the licence fee for HMOs.

c) Motion by Councillor Neil Ross

The following motion by Councillor Neil Ross was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17, and verbally altered in terms of Standing Order 22.5:

“Council:

Notes there are a number of elements of HMO licensing where standards applying to landlords could be raised and best practice amongst letting agents could be encouraged, for example,

1) The issue of application notices to residents -

The regularity of complaints by neighbouring residents that the site notice relating to an HMO application is often not easily seen during the required period of 21 days suggests that residents would be better informed of HMO licence applications if they were given a copy of the site notice, either paper or electronic.

2) The issue of emergency contact details to residents –

Changes in the residents neighbouring HMO licenced properties over the three year period of a licence mean that the current requirement for landlords and agents to provide contact details, including 24/7 emergency contact details, to every occupier in the same building as the licence applicant’s premises and any adjoining premises could be improved by making this an annual requirement.

3) The problem of fly tipping and/or abuse of residential waste facilities by contractors employed by landlords or agents –

The increasing use by the Council of enforcement action and the issue of fixed penalties to businesses and landlords found to have illegally dumped waste in the street or abused residential waste facilities suggests that a new HMO condition requiring adherence to acceptable waste disposal practices by landlords, and agents and sub-contractors acting on their behalf, might discourage this behaviour by contractors employed by landlords or agents. Therefore, requests a report to the

Regulatory Committee in two cycles on ways to raise standards amongst landlords to improve the conditions of tenants, to provide clarity for neighbours and to encourage best practice amongst letting agents, in particular, to address the matters highlighted above but also other areas where improvements can be made either via changes to HMO conditions or the HMO application process or by other means, both compulsory and voluntary. The report should also outline how HMO conditions, standards and guidance might be updated to reflect legislative changes and should reference the current HMO Licensing context, where relevant.

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Neil Ross

- moved by Councillor Neil Ross, seconded by Councillor Osler

Amendment

To retain the opening sentence of the motion by Councillor Neil Ross up to “encouraged” and replace remainder as follows:

“And:

- 1) To note that the HMO licensing conditions displayed on the council website date from 2012, reflecting the last issue of statutory guidance from the Scottish Government, and that there had been significant change in legislation since then.
- 2) To recognise the breach of HMO conditions may give rise to criminal offence so conditions were framed in that light.
- 3) To recognise that raising standards among landlords and letting agents should have, as its primary purpose, the improvement of conditions for tenants; as well as better information for neighbours on matters such as notification of licence applications; regular communication of landlord and agent details; and mis-use of domestic waste by landlords, agents and contractors.
- 4) To therefore agree a report be submitted to Regulatory Committee in two cycles outlining how HMO conditions, standards and guidance might be updated to reflect legislative and good practice change; improvements for tenants; and greater clarity for neighbours.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Booth

In accordance with Standing Order 21(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Neil Ross:

To note there were a number of elements of HMO licensing where standards applying to landlords could be raised and best practice amongst letting agents could be encouraged, for example,

- 1) The issue of application notices to residents -

The regularity of complaints by neighbouring residents that the site notice relating to an HMO application was often not easily seen during the required period of 21 days suggested that residents would be better informed of HMO licence applications if they were given a copy of the site notice, either paper or electronic.

- 2) The issue of emergency contact details to residents -

Changes in the residents neighbouring HMO licenced properties over the three year period of a licence meant that the current requirement for landlords and agents to provide contact details, including 24/7 emergency contact details, to every occupier in the same building as the licence applicant's premises and any adjoining premises could be improved by making this an annual requirement.

- 3) To recognise that raising standards among landlords and letting agents should have, as its primary purpose, the improvement of conditions for tenants; as well as better information for neighbours on matters such as notification of licence applications; regular communication of landlord and agent details; and mis-use of domestic waste by landlords, agents and contractors

- 4) The problem of fly tipping and/or abuse of residential waste facilities by contractors employed by landlords or agents –

The increasing use by the Council of enforcement action and the issue of fixed penalties to businesses and landlords found to have illegally dumped waste in the street or abused residential waste facilities suggested that a new HMO condition requiring adherence to acceptable waste disposal practices by landlords, and agents and sub-contractors acting on their behalf, might discourage this behaviour by contractors employed by landlords or agents. Therefore, to request a report to the Regulatory Committee in two cycles on ways to raise standards amongst landlords to improve the conditions of tenants, to provide clarity for neighbours and to encourage best practice amongst letting agents, in particular, to address the matters highlighted above but also other areas where improvements could be made either via changes to HMO conditions or the HMO application process or by other means, both compulsory and voluntary. The report should also outline how HMO

conditions, standards and guidance might be updated to reflect legislative changes and should reference the current HMO Licensing context, where relevant.

7 Early Days Prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences – Motion by Councillor Webber

a) Deputation – Wave Trust

The deputation expressed its full support for the proposals for the early days prevention of adverse childhood experiences and urged the Council to agree to the motion by Councillor Webber.

b) Motion by Councillor Webber

The following motion by Councillor Webber was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17, and verbally altered in terms of Standing Order 22.5:

“Council

Notes the work of WAVE Trust and its 70/30 campaign to reduce levels of child abuse, neglect and domestic abuse by 70 per cent by 2030;

Notes that over 700 MPs, MSPs, MLAs, AMs, mayors and local Councillors have endorsed the campaign across all political parties;

Recognises the role that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) play in the entrenchment of intergenerational health and income inequalities and the loss of over £20 billion per year to the UK economy;

Recognises the preventative work already being carried out by the City of Edinburgh Council and acknowledges that there is a wide understanding of ACEs across services, including Education, the impact this can have on children as well as adults, and in turn their care of their own children, and the decisions they make as adults.

Agrees that the Council should further develop their existing wide-ranging early years’ strategy to prevent harm to children before it happens, ensuring that all parents are supported to give children the best possible start in life.

Agrees that the Council should explore with WAVE Trust (our/their) ideas on how to achieve 70/30, and to report back to Council in six cycles to indicate what would be required for the key recommendations of this strategy to be implemented and embedded within the culture and processes of the City of Edinburgh Council.”

- moved by Councillor Webber, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Webber.

8 Recognition of Dr Elsie Inglis - Motion by the Lord Provost

a) Deputation – Girlguiding Edinburgh

The deputation indicated that it was delighted to be involved in the project working with dedicated and enthusiastic individuals who all believed that the proposed statue of Elsie Inglis was a focus for telling her story. The deputation were keen to promote her characteristics and achievements as a role model for young people in the future.

The deputation urged the council to support their fund-raising project in any way possible.

b) Motion by the Lord Provost

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council:

Recognises that Dr Elsie Inglis (1864 – 1917) was a pioneering Scottish doctor and surgeon becoming the founder of Women’s medical practices and hospitals located within the City of Edinburgh.

Further recognises her work and achievements during the First World War I, becoming a Suffragist and founder of the Scottish Women’s Hospitals for Foreign Service, sending qualified teams of female nurses to Belgium, France, Serbia and Russia.

Notes that the Lord Provost, Mercat Tours and the Edinburgh Evening News upon the Centennial anniversary of Elsie’s death on 26 November 2017 began a fundraising campaign to honour her life and recognise her work in the city and abroad by commemorating her with a statue.

Further notes that:

- our Capital city has more statues of animals than women;
- Elsie Inglis was a woman of character, who inspired others with her determination and pioneering work during inauspicious times;
- Elsie’s values mirror those of the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision of **‘Thriving, Welcoming, Fair and Pioneering’** which resulted from the **Councils largest consultation with the Citizens of Edinburgh in 2019;**
- to date £2,400 has been raised, and,

- in the past few months the campaign has been rejuvenated with the support of a group of dedicated and passionate volunteers, along with Girl Guiding Edinburgh.

Welcomes the support from all parties involved and commend them for their fundraising efforts planned for March 2022, which includes the Girl Guiding sponsored 'Sit Still' in the Meadows and various afternoon teas being held at the City Chambers and the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.

Council agrees to give full and unequivocal support to all of these activities to raise funds, enabling the life and work of Dr Elsie Inglis to be commemorated in the form of a statue; to be bequeathed to the Citizens of Edinburgh.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Decision

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

9 Appointment to Committees

Appointments to the Council's committees were made at the Council meeting on 27 May 2021. At its meeting on 24 June 2021, the Council appointed Councillor Rankin to the Pensions Committee and as Convener of that Committee.

Councillor Alasdair Rankin had tendered his resignation as a member and Convener of the Pensions Committee and the Council was asked to appoint Councillor Munn in his place.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Munn in place of Councillor Rankin on the Pensions Committee.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Munn in place of Councillor Rankin as Convener of the Pensions Committee.
- 3) To note that the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee was also appointed as a Director of Lothian Pension Fund Employment Ltd.

(References – Act of Council No 7 of 27 May 2021 and Act of Council No 5 of 24 June 2021; report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10 BioQuarter Outline Business Case – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

The Policy and Sustainability Committee had referred a report on the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the procurement of a Private Sector Partner (PSP) for

BioQuarter project which built upon the Strategic Business Case (SBC), to the Council for agreement to enter into EBQ3 Ltd on the terms outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

Decision

To agree to the Council entering into EBQ3 Ltd on the terms outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 5 October 2021 (item 15); referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee, submitted.)

11 Edinburgh International Conference Centre Hotel and Hotel School – Final Business Case

Details were provided on a final business case for the Council entering into a 25-year head lease on a 349-bedroom hotel that is being developed at Haymarket Edinburgh by Quartermile Developments Limited for The Prudential Assurance Company Limited. The Council would in turn sub lease the hotel to Edinburgh International Conference Centre Limited (“EICC Ltd”), who would operate the hotel under a Franchise Agreement with the hotel brand Hyatt. The EICC would also operate a hotel school based in the hotel in partnership with Edinburgh College providing a unique training facility for students.

Motion

- 1) To agree the final business case for the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) hotel and hotel school project (provided in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To agree that the Council proceed with the EICC hotel and hotel school project on the terms set out in the report and the final business case.
- 3) To note that delegated authority would be granted to the Chief Executive (or any such other officer as they shall sub-delegate to) to proceed with the Agreement for Head Lease, the Agreement for Sub Lease, and any other agreements and actions required to commence the project.
- 4) To note that the Strategic Delivery Agreement (SDA) which would be entered into between the Council and EICC (as referenced in the final business case) was now provided at detailed Heads of Terms stage and that this would be reported to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee for consideration once developed into a full SDA covering both hotel and conference activities in January 2022.

- 5) To note that EICC would submit, as part of the SDA, changes to its governance and board composition in order to deliver this project and its wider portfolio of business.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

- 1) To agree not to proceed with the hotel project as outlined.
- 2) To recognise that the final business case rests on a scenario with even greater risks and uncertainty than that presented at the time of the outline business case, particularly with a 25 year financial commitment, without break clauses, based on norms about the scale and nature of tourism, and specifically business tourism, which have been highly disrupted since March 2020.
- 3) To recognise the poor strategic alignment between the council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon commitments and a business model which sees the council taking a lease in the city's largest hotel to underpin business which is based on thousands of people flying tens of thousands of miles to attend events.
- 4) To note that hotels account for one tonne in every fifty of global greenhouse gas emissions and therefore expresses disappointment that a hotel which will be ready to operate in late 2024 will achieve an energy rating of only EPC C at a time when new buildings need to be achieving zero carbon standards; and when new hotels are being built in other countries at or near zero energy specification.
- 5) To welcome the commitment to enhance the training offer in partnership with Edinburgh College via the hotel school but note that Council is being asked to approve the lease and associated agreements before the hotel school arrangement had been completed; and therefore encourage the EICC to continue to develop the training and learning opportunity outside of the need for CEC to take a lease of a hotel.
- 6) In light of the points above, to mandate officers to work with EICC to develop alternative ways of funding capital investment in the conference centre and a learning environment with Edinburgh College, based on a business model which is consistent with the city's net zero carbon commitment.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	47 votes
For the amendment	-	9 votes

(For the motion: The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Brown, Cameron, Jim Campbell, Kate Campbell, Child, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Duggart, Doran, Douglas, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Griffiths, Hutchison, Johnston, Key, Laidlaw, Lang, Macinnes, McLellan, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Mitchell, Mowat, Munn, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rose, Neil Ross, Rust, Smith, Watt, Webber, Whyte, Wilson, Work, Ethan Young and Louise Young.

For the amendment: Councillors Booth, Burgess, Mary Campbell, Corbett, Graczyk, Main, Miller, Rae and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

(References – Act of Council No 15 of 12 March 2020; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Smith declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a former member of EICC.

Councillors Cameron and Whyte declared a non-financial interest in the above item as members of EICC.

Councillor Gordon declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Chair of EICC.

12 Reprioritisation of Capital Budget to Support a Mobile Workforce Solution (Totalmobile) for Homecare and reablement – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Council, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, agreed that the following item of business should be private for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the Reprioritisation of Capital Budget to support a Mobile Workforce Solution

(Totalmobile) for homecare and reablement to the City of Edinburgh Council for approval.

Decision

To approve the reprioritisation of Capital Budget to support a Mobile Workforce Solution (Totalmobile) for homecare and reablement.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 7 October 2021 (item 27); referral from the Finances and Resources Committee, submitted.)

13 Unsuitable Accommodation Order: Purchasing Homes – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Council, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, agreed that the following item of business should be private for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Finance and Resources Committee had a referred a report on a proposal to purchase up to 270 homes to address an Unsuitable Accommodation Order to the City of Edinburgh Council for approval of Prudential Borrowing of £59.5 million.

Decision

To approve the Prudential Borrowing of £59.5 million.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 10 October 2021 (item 28); referral from the Finances and Resources Committee, submitted.)

14 Supporting Teach the Future - Motion by Councillor Mary Campbell

The following motion by Councillor Mary Campbell was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council notes the positive work being undertaken by ‘Teach the Future’, a campaign group led by young people in schools and higher education, trying to ensure that all students are substantively taught about the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

Council resolves to support Teach the Future by requesting the Council Leader writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to express Council’s support for the following asks –

ASK 1: A government commissioned review into how the whole of the Scottish formal education system is preparing students for the climate

emergency and ecological crisis which offers recommendations for action at a local authority and individual school level.

ASK 2: Inclusion of the climate emergency and ecological crisis in teacher education and a new professional teaching qualification.

ASK 3: Increased priority for sustainability in school inspections and publicly influencing educational ranking.

ASK 4: A Scottish Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Education Act. Council also requests a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee meeting in March outlining the response to the letter and detailing the work Edinburgh Council is doing to embed learning about the climate emergency and the ecological crisis. This should include planned curriculum work, the Climate Literacy training programme, the work of the Sustainability Board, and how children and young people are being empowered to participate in these changes.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Mary Campbell.

- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell seconded by Councillor Burgess

Amendment 1

1) Council notes the positive work being undertaken by ‘Teach the Future’, a campaign group led by young people in schools and higher education, trying to ensure that all students are substantively taught about the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

2) Council amends motion by Councillor Mary Campbell as follows:

Council resolves to support Teach the Future but notes

- Education Scotland has a range of resources around climate change available for teachers to access and <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/exploring-climate-change/> and w climate change and renewable energy are embedded within the learning experiences of children and young people within the broad general education of Curriculum for Excellence.
- Climate change is addressed through combining experiences and outcomes across curriculum areas in a variety of contexts as part of the theme of Learning for Sustainability (LfS) Scotland’s “Vision 2030+ Report” provides a strategic plan and 14 recommendations on how to support Learning for Sustainability up to 2030 including:

- all learners should have an entitlement to Learning for Sustainability;
 - every practitioner, school and education leader should demonstrate Learning for Sustainability in their practice;
 - every school should have a “whole school approach” to Learning for Sustainability that is robust, demonstrable, evaluated and supported by leadership at all levels;
 - school buildings, grounds and policies should support Learning for Sustainability;
 - a strategic national approach to supporting Learning for Sustainability should be established
- Learning for Sustainability is embedded throughout the General Teaching Council for Scotland’s professional standards for teachers. It is also cited in the policy context for community learning and development.
 - With regard to sustainability in the built environment, it has been agreed that improvements to the school estate should meet the highest standards of sustainable and environmental design as set out in Building Better Schools and Principle Six of the School Estate Strategy

3) Council therefore agrees (per the motion):

A report to the Education, Children and Families Committee meeting in March detailing the work Edinburgh Council is doing to embed learning about the climate emergency and the ecological crisis. This should include planned curriculum work, the Climate Literacy training programme, the application of Building Better Schools and Principle Six of the School Estate Strategy, and how children and young people are being empowered to participate in these changes.

- moved by Councillor Laidlaw, seconded by Councillor Rust

Amendment 2

To ensure the positive work already being done by pupils and schools is recognised and used to motivate further action, to change the start of the final sentence in the motion by Councillor Mary Campbell, replacing “This should include” with the following so that it reads:

“The report should include details of what positive action is already being done in schools and supported by the Council, as well as planned curriculum work...”

- moved by Councillor Louise Young, seconded by Councillor Neil Ross

In accordance with Standing Order 21(12), Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	39 votes
For Amendment 1	-	15 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Booth, Burgess, Cameron, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Key, Lang, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Main, Miller, Munn, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rae, Neil Ross, Staniforth, Watt, Work, Ethan Young and Louise Young.

For Amendment 1: Councillors Brown, Jim Campbell, Doggart, Douglas, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Rose, Rust, Smith, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Mary Campbell:

Council notes the positive work being undertaken by 'Teach the Future', a campaign group led by young people in schools and higher education, trying to ensure that all students are substantively taught about the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

To resolve to support Teach the Future by requesting the Council Leader write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to express Council's support for the following asks –

- ASK 1: A government commissioned review into how the whole of the Scottish formal education system is preparing students for the climate emergency and ecological crisis which offers recommendations for action at a local authority and individual school level.
- ASK 2: Inclusion of the climate emergency and ecological crisis in teacher education and a new professional teaching qualification.
- ASK 3: Increased priority for sustainability in school inspections and publicly influencing educational ranking.
- ASK 4: A Scottish Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Education Act. Council also requests a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee meeting in March outlining the response to the letter and

detailing the work Edinburgh Council is doing to embed learning about the climate emergency and the ecological crisis. The report should include details of what positive action is already being done in schools and supported by the Council, as well as planned curriculum work.

15 Engine Idling - Motion by Councillor Neil Ross

The following motion by Councillor Neil Ross was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council:

- 1) Notes that while emissions from stationary vehicles are only a small contributor to overall levels of air pollution, they can cause discomfort to people in the immediate vicinity, particularly where they occur in sensitive areas (e.g. outside schools). High levels of localised pollution can also trigger the symptoms of asthma and other respiratory diseases in vulnerable people.
- 2) Notes that the Council has powers under the Environment Act 1995 to tackle engine idling and, in the vast majority of cases, the only action required will be to remind a driver to switch off the engine while the vehicle is parked. If a driver refuses to co-operate, the Council can issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of £20. The Council’s Street Enforcement team currently carries out vehicle emission enforcement, but it is possible to also employ a third party to carry this out.
- 3) Notes that the Council employs NSL to regulate and enforce parking in the city.
- 4) Requests that the Council should engage with NSL to discuss the potential for vehicle emission enforcement by parking attendants including, in particular:
 - i) the issue of appropriately worded leaflets to remind drivers whose engines are idling of their legal obligation to switch off the engine when parked;
 - ii) where a driver refuses to co-operate, the issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of £20; and
 - iii) to report on the result of the discussions within two cycles to the Transport and Environment Committee.”

- moved by Councillor Neil Ross, seconded by Councillor Lang

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Neil Ross.

16 Local Electricity Bill - Motion by Councillor McVey

The following motion by Councillor McVey was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

““Council:

- 1) Notes the reduction of more than 60% in Edinburgh Council carbon emissions achieved, far exceeding the 42% 2020 target and acknowledges the ongoing efforts to get to net-zero as a City by 2030.
- 2) Recognises the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so.
- 3) Further recognises that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, if they wished, providing revenues received by such local companies, community groups or councils that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4) Notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this.
- 5) Supports the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 264 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and requests the Council leader writes to the UK Government and Edinburgh’s MP’s to highlight Council’s support for the Bill.”

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

17 Universal Credit Cut and Child Poverty - Motion by Councillor McVey

The following motion by Councillor McVey was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Council:

- 1) Notes that the Conservative UK Government has by failing to make permanent its Covid related increase in Universal Credit cut around £1,000 from the incomes of 35,000 Edinburgh families, and an estimated further 6 million households in the rest of the UK, at a time when the cost of living is rising sharply.
- 2) Notes the widespread opposition to this cut – with Holyrood voting to condemn this plan in the Scottish Parliament on September 28th 2021 - with only Conservatives MSPs supporting the Conservative UK Government’s withdrawal of this support from those most in need in our society.
- 3) Notes analysis from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation showing this will take £35m from residents in Edinburgh who need it most, pushing thousands more families, including thousands of children, into poverty.
- 4) Notes the compounded impact of this cut on existing policies such as the abhorrent two child cap for children born after April 2017 (and its grossly insensitive “rape clause”), the recent decision of the UK Conservative Government to increase National Insurance, energy price rises and other factors which means the impact on a single working parent with 2 children could be up to £1,750 a year according to analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- 5) Council joins the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh Poverty Action Group and more than 100 organisations including JRF, Child Poverty Action Group, Citizens Advice Scotland, Crisis, One Parent Families Scotland, The Poverty Alliance, the Robertson Trust, and others in condemning this action as an attack on those most in need in our city and demands the Conservative UK Government reverse this cut.
- 6) Welcomes the use of devolved powers to create the Scottish Child Payment, at £520 per child per year with no cap on families’ entitlements. Notes this will go some way to mitigate the effects on child poverty of the UK Government’s Universal Credit cut.
- 7) Supports the Council Leader and Deputy Leader in writing to the Conservative UK Government setting out the impact of our City of the Universal Credit cut set within the context of the Poverty Commission Report. Further ask that the

Council Leader and Deputy Leader writes to Scottish Government Ministers to explore other actions that can mitigate the impacts to poverty by the UK Government's actions, including increasing the rate of the Scottish Child Payment."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

To delete all of Councillor McVey's motion and replace with:

Council:

- 1) Notes that the Conservative UK Government is increasing the national living wage to £9.50 an hour, boosting low-paid full-time workers by an estimated £1,000 a year.
- 2) Recognises the decision to extend the temporary £20 per week uplift for six months during the height of the pandemic and that UK Government spending during the pandemic delivered an additional £14.5 billion for the Scottish Government.
- 3) Council also notes the key observation from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission (EPC) that, "There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city's housing crisis".
- 4) Further notes the EPC's call for the Scottish Government "as an urgent priority, to ensure the city has the right funding and support to meet its social housing expansion needs."
- 5) Is therefore concerned that the City Plan 2030 recognises a need for 42,900 affordable homes in the period 2021-2032, but sets the affordable housing supply target at 17,350 in the same period.
- 6) Notes with further concern that the City Plan 2030 housing technical note states, "It is not realistic to set a target which provides in full for the need for affordable housing identified."
- 7) Therefore, regrets that over the next ten years the authority and the Scottish Government will be unable to meet even half the identified need for affordable housing and that this represents a failure to address a core cause of poverty in Edinburgh.

- 8) Council therefore instructs the council leader and the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Convener to work with the Scottish Government and to produce a plan which addresses this shortfall, to be brought forward in a report to be presented to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work in three cycles.

- moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	41 votes
For the amendment	-	15 votes

(For the motion: The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Booth, Burgess, Cameron, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Corbett., Day, Dickie, Dixon, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Key, Lang, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Main, Miller, Munn, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rae, Neil Ross, Staniforth, Watt, Wilson, Work, Ethan Young and Louise Young.

For the amendment: Councillors Brown, Jim Campbell, Doggart, Douglas, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Rose, Rust, Smith, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

18 Community Wealth - Motion by Councillor Day

The following motion by Councillor Day was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Acknowledges the benefits of Community Wealth building approach, and understands the Council leads in many areas of this, in particular our in-built Community Benefits schemes and employment opportunities.

Community Wealth Building can be described as people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. Championed in Scotland with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).

Notes the 5 key principles of Progressive Procurement, Fair Employment, Shared Ownership, socially just use of assets, and making financial power work for local places.

Calls for a report in two cycles to Policy and Sustainability committee setting out Edinburgh’s approach to People centred approaches/Community Wealth building and identify any further opportunities going forward.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment

To add to the motion by Councillor Day:

“for Edinburgh and non-Edinburgh Communities alike, including any detrimental impacts on either or both.”

- moved by Councillor Jim Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	41 votes
For the amendment	-	15 votes

(For the motion: The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Booth, Burgess, Cameron, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Corbett., Day, Dickie, Dixon, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Key, Lang, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Main, Miller, Munn, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rae, Neil Ross, Staniforth, Watt, Wilson, Work, Ethan Young and Louise Young.

For the amendment: Councillors Brown, Jim Campbell, Doggart, Douglas, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Rose, Rust, Smith, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

19 Responsible and Sustainable Pension Fund Investments - Motion by Councillor Munn

The following motion by Councillor Munn was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Notes that the holding of COP26 in Glasgow 31 Oct-12 Nov brings with it a focus on Local Government Pension Scheme investments in fossil fuels.

Notes that Lothian Pension Fund has a fiduciary duty to deliver the best returns for its pension holders and that fiduciary duty must be paramount in all decision making around the pension fund.

Notes that Lothian Pension Fund is a member of Climate Action 100+ and in September signed the Global Investor Statement on Climate calling on governments to urgently ramp up their efforts to address the climate crisis.

Notes the ongoing work of Lothian Pension Fund in actively engaging with companies it holds shares in to meet environmental, social and corporate governance standards as set out in the funds Statement of Responsible Investment Principles.

Notes Lothian Pension Fund holds shares in green technologies of around £120m in 2021 but has residual shares in companies operating in fossil fuels of around £118m in 2021. Further notes the Fund is using data from the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI), to encourage companies to adopt business models and strategies that are in line with the aims of the Paris agreements. Our ambition is that all holdings covered by TPI [will have achieved a level 4 assessment and] have a business plan whose carbon performance is in-line with the Paris agreement or better by 2025.

Notes that the Council and wider city are working to objectives of achieving a net-zero carbon position by 2030 and driving down poverty and making Edinburgh a living wage City.

Council requests the Council Leader writes to the pension fund to seek assurance on the robustness of the Funds response to climate change and the need for action, an assurance that divestment will proceed for investments that are not TPI level 4 compliant by 2025, particularly as COP26 takes place in Scotland. Council further requests that the pension fund make a net zero commitment, incorporating detail on how to achieve this into the next iteration of the fund's Statement of Responsible Investment Principle, due June 2022.

Further requests the Leader set out Council and citywide policies to be taken into consideration when making investment decisions, including requesting the pension fund formally sign up to the City's climate compact."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Munn.

- moved by Councillor Munn, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Amendment 1

To add to the end of the motion by Councillor Munn:

- 1) Believes that the current policy of Lothian Pension Fund (LPF) to continue investments in fossil fuel companies is not compatible with the decision of this Council to declare a Climate Emergency and to seek to reduce the City's contribution to climate-changing pollution to net zero by 2030;

- 2) Recognises the 'fiduciary duty' of the LPF to make returns for its members, however, notes that there are financial and reputational risks to the pension fund by continuing with investments in fossil fuels, including the possibility of stranded assets and reduced returns on investments;
- 3) Further recognises that this Council and the LPF should also have a wider duty of care towards its members and that the impacts of climate change are likely to affect the well-being of these members, including financially as a result of disruption to the economy;
- 4) Believes that a great number of members of the LPF would not wish to see their investments continuing to contribute to the global Climate Emergency;
- 5) Notes that across the world hundreds of institutions have already committed to divest from fossil fuels, including this week Dutch pensions provider ABP reported as divesting of €15bn in oil, coal and gas shares, their CEO stating: *'We part with our investments in fossil fuel producers because we see insufficient opportunity for us as a shareholder to push for the necessary, significant acceleration of the energy transition at these companies'* ;
- 6) Notes the growing market in renewable energy and energy efficiency services and the opportunity for pension funds such as LPF to make secure and profitable investments in these clean energy companies instead from fossil fuels;
- 7) Welcomes the recognition in the motion that divestment has a role to play in de-carbonising investments however believes paragraph 7 could be strengthened to read:

*Council requests the council leader writes to the pension fund to seek an **assurance that divestment will proceed for investments that are not aligned with a 1.5 degree Paris aligned scenario according to the TPI's 'carbon performance' metric by 2025;***

- 8) However, notwithstanding this, Council believes that the Lothian Pension Fund should divest from all companies whose business is the extraction and trading in fossil fuels as a matter of urgency and therefore requests that LPF should produce a report by the first quarter of 2023 as to how this will be achieved

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth

Amendment 2

To agree to make the following amendment to replace the penultimate paragraph of the motion by Councillor Munn with the following:

'Council requests the Council Leader writes to the pension fund to seek assurance on the robustness of the Fund's response to climate change and the need for action and assurance that divestment of the shares of companies that are not TPI level 4 compliant by 2025 is the pension fund's clear intention. Council further requests that the pension fund make a net zero commitment, incorporating detail on how to achieve this into the next iteration of the fund's Statement of Responsible Investment Principles, due June 2022.'

- moved by Councillor Neil Ross, seconded by Councillor Louise Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	47 votes
For Amendment 1	-	9 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): The Lord Provost, Councillors Aldridge, Arthur, Barrie, Bird, Brown, Cameron, Jim Campbell, Kate Campbell, Child, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Doggart, Doran, Douglas, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon, Griffiths, Hutchison, Johnston, Key, Laidlaw, Lang, Macinnes, McLellan, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Mitchell, Mowat, Munn, Munro, Osler, Perry, Rose, Neil Ross, Rust, Smith, Watt, Webber, Whyte, Wilson, Work, Ethan Young and Louise Young.

For the amendment: Councillors Booth, Burgess, Mary Campbell, Corbett, Graczyk, Main, Miller, Rae and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Munn:

- 1) To note that the holding of COP26 in Glasgow 31 Oct-12 Nov brings with it a focus on Local Government Pension Scheme investments in fossil fuels.
- 2) To note that Lothian Pension Fund had a fiduciary duty to deliver the best returns for its pension holders and that fiduciary duty must be paramount in all decision making around the pension fund.
- 3) To note that Lothian Pension Fund was a member of Climate Action 100+ and in September signed the Global Investor Statement on Climate calling on governments to urgently ramp up their efforts to address the climate crisis.
- 4) To note the ongoing work of Lothian Pension Fund in actively engaging with companies it holds shares in to meet environmental, social and corporate

governance standards as set out in the funds Statement of Responsible Investment Principles.

- 5) To note Lothian Pension Fund held shares in green technologies of around £120m in 2021 but had residual shares in companies operating in fossil fuels of around £118m in 2021. To further note the Fund was using data from the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI), to encourage companies to adopt business models and strategies that were in line with the aims of the Paris agreements. Our ambition was that all holdings covered by TPI [will have achieved a level 4 assessment and] have a business plan whose carbon performance was in-line with the Paris agreement or better by 2025.
- 6) To note that the Council and wider city were working to objectives of achieving a net-zero carbon position by 2030 and driving down poverty and making Edinburgh a living wage City.
- 7) To request the Council Leader write to the pension fund to seek assurance on the robustness of the Fund's response to climate change and the need for action and assurance that divestment of the shares of companies that were not TPI level 4 compliant by 2025 was the pension fund's clear intention. To further request that the pension fund make a net zero commitment, incorporating detail on how to achieve this into the next iteration of the fund's Statement of Responsible Investment Principles, due June 2022.
- 8) To further request the Leader set out Council and citywide policies to be taken into consideration when making investment decisions, including requesting the pension fund formally sign up to the City's climate compact.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Rose declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of Lothian Pension Fund.

Councillors Burgess, Munn and Neil Ross declared a non-financial interest in the above item as members of the Pensions Committee.

Councillor Aldridge declared a financial interest in the above item as a person in receipt of a pension from Lothian Pension Fund.

20 Small Business Saturday - Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

The following motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Council notes the continuing challenges facing small business across the city in their attempts to reopen and recovery from the impact of Covid 19 and Brexit; and doing so in keeping with Scottish Government guidance.

Council welcomes the innovative and imaginative ways in which small businesses have adapted their operations, supply chains, and their offering to customers during this difficult period.

Council congratulates businesses which have taken steps to successfully reduce their carbon footprint; improve the overall sustainability of their operations, reducing waste and encouraging customers to adopt behaviours which contribute to this.

Council also recognises the efforts made by businesses to invest in the accessibility and appeal of their premises and “shop fronts” and the meaningful contribution this makes to the inclusiveness, attractiveness and vibrancy of Edinburgh’s local high streets and city centre.

Council continues to proactively support Small Business Saturday, taking place this year on Saturday 4th December and to encourage Edinburgh residents and visitors to explore and support the wonderful and diverse range of local and small businesses in Edinburgh.

Council is also committed to continue to increase its procurement spend with small and local business and to continue to provide procurement advice and support to Council suppliers, meet the buyer events etc.

Council calls for a campaign in the run-up to and including Small Business Saturday which encourages businesses to make their business premises meaningfully more accessible and their operations more sustainable.

Council calls for a report to the Policy and Sustainability Cttee within 2 cycles setting out what advice and practical support Council can give to the small business sector to assist them improve the accessibility of their premises and to improve the overall sustainability of their business operations.”

- moved by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, seconded by Councillor Kate Campbell

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

21 Hibernian and Hearts Ladies Football Teams Encouraging Women and Girls into Sport - Motion by Councillor Barrie

The following motion by Councillor Barrie was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Council applauds Hibernian Football Club’s decision to throw open the doors of Easter Road Stadium to host the Women’s Premier League fixture, Hibernian Women versus Hearts on September 29th, with no admission charge to fans.

This ground-breaking initiative to support and promote women’s football in our city, by playing the game in a major stadium, free of charge to fans, is extremely welcome. This initiative saw a recordbreaking crowd of 5,512 fans attend a thrilling game where Hibernian Women prevailed with a 3-0 win.

Council congratulates both teams, those on the field and behind the scenes, for their part in making this such a success, whilst demonstrating what a credit to the city both teams are, and also for doing a magnificent job in supporting and encouraging girls and women in to sport at all levels.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Barrie.

22 Jack Kane Community Centre - Motion by Councillor Kate Campbell

The following motion by Councillor Kate Campbell was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Council notes the exceptional work of the Jack Kane Community Centre, in partnership with the Council, in supporting young people in the wider Craigmillar and Niddrie community.

Council recognises the award of three-year funding through BBC Children in Need, gained by listening and acting on volunteering stories, and recognises the additional value such a proactive approach from the Jack Kane Community Centre brings, using the funding and support from the council to leverage in further funding and projects to support the community.

Council congratulates the Jack Kane Community Centre staff and volunteers for the superb achievement of becoming the first community centre in Edinburgh and Scotland to gain the CLD standards mark for the quality of the educational experience they provide, and the acknowledgement that the core principles and

values of CLD competencies are embedded in the work they carry out with young volunteers alongside the other valuable work that takes place across the centre.

Council agrees that the Lord Provost will write to the management committee to share council's congratulations and appreciation of their work, and reaffirm our commitment to continue to work with them to develop opportunities for the wonderful community and young people they support."

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.

23 George Heriot's – Independent School of the Year 2021 - Motion by Councillor Bruce

The following motion by Councillor Bruce was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

"Council recognises George Heriot's School has, for many years, given educational opportunities to children who have lost a parent or indeed to refugees fleeing war-torn countries.

That the school has a strong work ethic for both pupils and staff within a safe and friendly environment where pupils are openly encouraged to help each other in times of need.

That this has been endorsed by the judges of the 2021 Independent School of the Year awards, who said the school "exemplifies the pioneering and generous spirit of independent education".

Council therefore congratulates George Heriots for being named Independent School of the year 2021 ahead of over 700 nominated schools in the United Kingdom, and also Coeducational School of the year, and asks the Lord Provost to send a letter of congratulation to the school to recognise this achievement."

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Bruce.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Doggart declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the parent of a young person who attended the school mentioned in the motion.

24 80 Years of Life Care - Motion by Councillor Mitchell

The following motion by Councillor Mitchell was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17,

“Council:

- congratulates LifeCare on 80 successful years of serving the community and wider city since 1941;
- recognises the work of LifeCare supporting people with dementia, the elderly, those with reduced mobility, older people living in deprivation, and the socially isolated in Edinburgh over eight decades;
- particularly acknowledges that over the last year LifeCare has worked with and supported over 770 vulnerable older people in especially trying circumstances;
- thanks LifeCare for continuing to support and empower older people to live independently and happily in their community, and asks the Lord Provost to appropriately mark LifeCare’s 80th birthday.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mitchell.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Mitchell and Osler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as observers on Life Care (Edinburgh) Ltd.

25 Questions

The questions put by members to this meeting, written answers and supplementary questions and answers are contained in Appendix 1 to this minute.

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 25 of 28 October 2021)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

At its April 2021 meeting, the Transport and Environment Committee considered the report "Delivery of the Road Safety Improvements Programme".

Paragraph 4.11 of the report said that a programme to roll out appropriate speed reduction measures on the roads listed in appendix 3 would be developed "shortly".

Question (1) What speed reduction measures have been agreed for each of the roads listed in appendix 3 of the report?

Answer (1) Appendix 3 of the [April 2021](#) report identified 91 20mph streets and three 30mph streets which had been highlighted in traffic surveys for further investigation for further speed reduction measures.

The measures for each street will vary, but could include signage and road markings, vehicle activated speed signs and speed indication devices, safety cameras or physical traffic calming measures.

There are 57 streets where measures are expected to be implemented in 2021/22. The Road Safety team can provide details of the proposed measures on these streets to Elected Members if requested.

Question (2) Which of these agreed speed reduction measures have already been implemented?

Answer (2) Additional speed reduction measures have been implemented at two of the streets (Fettes Avenue and Orchard Road) identified in the April 2021 report and in one other street (Queen's Drive).

Question (3) Which of the remaining speed reduction measures are expected to be implemented by the end of the calendar year?

Answer (3) Additional speed reduction measures are expected to be delivered on a further 54 streets before the end of this financial year (31 March 2022), as shown in Table 1 below.

The actual implementation dates will depend on the appointment of contractors and the necessary statutory road works registrations being in place.

Table 1 – Implementation of additional road safety measures

	20mph Speed Limits	Implemented already	Implemented by end 2021/22
1	Abbey Mount		X
2	Abercromby Place		
3	Balcarres Street		X
4	Beaufort Road		X
5	Bellevue (B901)		X
6	Blackford Avenue		X
7	Braid Avenue		X
8	Braid Hills Road		X
9	Braid Road		X
	Braid Road		
10	Bridge Road		X
11	Brighton Place		X
12	Broughton Road		X
13	Brunstane Road South		X
14	Cammo Gardens		
15	Campbell Avenue		
16	Chester Street		
	Chester Street		
17	Christiemiller Avenue		X
18	Claremont Park		X
19	Clermiston Road		
20	Corbiehill Road		
21	Craigcrook Road (west)		X
22	Craigentiny Avenue		X
23	Craigentiny Road		X
	Craigentiny Road		
24	Craighouse Gardens		
25	Craighouse Road		X
26	Craigs Road		
27	Douglas Gardens		
28	Drum Brae Drive		
	Drum Brae Drive		
29	East Fettes Avenue		X
30	East Hermitage Place		X
31	Ellersly Road		

32	Falcon Road West		X
33	Fettes Avenue	X	
34	Fillyside Road		X
35	Freelands Way		X
36	Gordon Road		
37	Grange Road		X
38	Great King Street		
39	Hermitage Drive		X
40	High Street, Kirkliston		
41	Inverleith Place		X
42	Inverleith Row		X
43	Joppa Road		X
44	Kilgraston Road		X
45	Kingsknowe Road South		
46	Kirkliston Road		
47	Ladywell Road		
48	Lennel Avenue		
49	Lennymuir		
50	Lochend Road		X
51	Lochend Road (A8)		
52	Lower Granton Road		
	Lower Granton Road		
	Lower Granton Road		
53	Main Street, Davidsons Mains		
54	March Road		X
55	Marchmont Road		X
56	Marionville Avenue		X
	Marionville Avenue		
57	Mayfield Road		X
58	Midmar Drive		X
59	Milligan Drive		X
60	Morningside Drive		X
61	Mountcastle Drive South		X
	Mountcastle Drive South		
62	Mounthooly Loan		X
63	Murrayfield Road		
64	Myreside Road		
65	Northfield Broadway		X
	Northfield Broadway		
	Northfield Broadway		
66	Orchard Road	X	
	Orchard Road		
67	Polwarth Gardens		X
68	Portobello High Street/Abercorn Terrace		X
69	Prestonfield Avenue		
70	Quality Street		

71	Queen Street		
	Queen Street		
72	Ravelston Dykes		
73	Restalrig Avenue		X
74	Restalrig Road South		X
75	Robertson Avenue		X
76	Saughtonhall Drive		
77	Scotstoun Avenue		
78	Slateford Road		
79	Starbank Road		
80	Stirling Road, Kirkliston		
81	Sleigh Drive		X
82	Stevenson Drive (20s section)		X
83	Strachan Road		X
84	Swanston Road		x
85	Turnhouse Farm Road		
86	Turnhouse Road		
87	Wakefield Avenue		X
88	Westburn Avenue		X
89	Whitehouse Road		X
90	Wilkieston Road		X
91	Woodhall Road		X

	30mph Speed Limits	Implemented already	Implemented by end 2021/22
1	Builyeon Road		
	Builyeon Road		
2	Cammo Road		
3	Freelands Road		

	Not on April 2021 List (20mph)	Implemented already	Implemented by end 2021/22
1	Queen's Drive	X	

Supplementary Question

Can the Convener list the specific measures which will be introduced in each of the 57 streets where measures are expected in 2021/22?

**Supplementary
Answer**

As set out in answer 1 above, the measures that will be installed in each street will vary, but could include improved signage and road markings, vehicle activated speed signs (VASS) and speed indication devices, safety cameras or physical traffic calming measures.

The main factor used to determine which types of measure are most appropriate are the average speeds recorded in traffic surveys undertaken on each street. This is supplemented by an assessment of the nature and road layout of the street, which will also determine the most appropriate locations for additional measures to be introduced.

Some examples of the measures being introduced are provided below:

Street	Measures Proposed
Orchard Road	Physical traffic calming measures (road humps)
Fettes Avenue	Speed limit roundel refresh
Marionville Avenue and Restalrig Avenue	Physical traffic calming measures
Abbey Mount	Roundel relocation, additional painted roundel and SLOW markings refresh
East Fettes Avenue	Signs and line refresh, install advisory cycle lanes to narrow carriageway
Bridge Road	Physical calming measures (raised crossing and speed cushions), temporary VASS locations and refresh 20mph signs and roundels
Wilkieston Road	Physical calming measures (raised crossing), temporary VASS locations and refresh 20mph signs and roundels
Abercorn Terrace	Physical calming measures (build outs with uncontrolled crossing points)

Swanston Road	Signage and roundel refresh/relocation and temporary VASS locations
Freelands Way	Signage review, new roundels and temporary VASS locations

For details of proposed measures on other specific streets, please contact the Road Safety team.

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

Question

What progress has been made in the review of school travel plans since work commenced in November 2020?

Answer

Updates on the review of school travel plans have been provided to Transport and Environment Committee on [28 January 2021](#), [17 June 2021](#) and [14 October 2021](#).

Due to difficulties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic which prevented the direct engagement required with schools and pupils, the review was put on hold following the survey of the James Gillespie's cluster (November 2020).

The review restarted at the end of August 2021, following the school summer break, prioritising those schools where Spaces for People measures have been implemented.

Travel surveys have since been undertaken with parents at 11 schools and the data gathered from these surveys is currently being analysed to inform the development of draft travel plans, prior to further consultation with the schools and parent councils.

Supplementary Question

In her answer, the Convener said the COVID pandemic prevented direct engagement with schools and pupils and therefore meant the review of school travel plans was put on hold. However, the review itself was announced in November 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Can the Convener clarify why a review was promised when it was not feasible to carry out the review at the time?

Supplementary Answer

Officers began planning and preparing for the School Travel Plan Review in late 2019/early 2020, with the Review originally planned to commence in August 2020. However, this was delayed, due to schools closing in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Review subsequently commenced in November 2020, following the return of children to schools from mid-August. However, work had to be suspended when schools closed for a second time in January 2021

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 28 October 2021**

Question (1) On what date did the Convener first become aware of the decision of officers to review those residents who are registered for assisted waste collections?

Answer (1) On 12 November 2020, Committee approved a report regarding kerbside waste collection policies. It was indicated in this report that reviews will happen under the assisted collections policy -

- We will contact you regularly to check whether you still need the service.
- This will not usually take place more often than annually, except where a temporary assisted collection has been agreed for a shorter period.

In terms of the current review, I was made aware by an email circulated to all elected members on 15 October 2021.

Question (2) Was the Convener consulted on either the need for a review or the process which was proposed to be undertaken?

Answer (2) As it had been agreed by Committee that reviews would take place, no consultation was needed.

Question (3) If the Convener was consulted, did she approve of the review and processes proposed?

Answer (3) N/A

Question (4) Specifically, did the Convener consent to the intention to remove someone from assisted collections if they did not reply to either of the two letters?

Answer (4) N/A

Question (5) What is the Convener's current view on (a) the need for the review and (b) the processes being proposed for the review?

Answer (5) There are currently 7500 assisted collections across the city. Crews were frequently reporting that bins were being presented at the kerbside in the usual manner at some of the addresses concerned. This would clearly indicate that the circumstances for an assisted collection may have changed.

In the interest of service efficiency and correct application of resources where they are most needed a review, clearly signalled in the Transport & Environment Committee report of November 2020, should be welcomed.

Back in December 2017/January 2018, those flagged by crews as requiring a review were contacted if details were available. Following the volume of feedback received from crews that bins listed for assisted collections were being presented at the kerbside it was decided that a city-wide review of all assisted collection customers would be carried out to ensure we are holding accurate details.

As part of developing this review it was also acknowledged that we do not hold details of the customer requiring an assisted collection, only the address. This means we did not hold contact details and were unable to address any issues a customer may be experiencing with their collections (for example, if we are unable to gain access because the gate was locked).

This review was developed in a way that allows us to not only check if the service is still required but also able to capture contact details for future management of the assisted collection and any issues experienced with collections. This ensures that we remove properties that no longer require assistance (this could be due to change of circumstances or residents at the property) whilst improving the service to those who do require assistance.

It is clear from the service team's response to councillor enquiries that everyone is very aware of the need for sensitivity and care in reviewing these requests for assisted collections. I have confidence in the processes as outlined in the councillor briefing and subsequent service team emails to councillors.

**Supplementary
Question**

With respect to answer (4) and whilst respecting that consent was neither sought nor given, can the Convener clarify if she approves of the intention to remove someone from assisted collections if they do not respond to one of the two letters?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The assessment being undertaken to ascertain whether the Assisted Collections service is being targeted correctly is the right thing to do. Any change in circumstances when dealing with sometimes vulnerable residents requires to be carefully handled and I am confident, as already outlined in answer 3, of the team's desire to handle this as carefully and as sensitively as possible. While there may be instances where this exercise may give cause for concern to residents, I do not believe that there is particular number of letter notifications that would necessarily prevent that concern. Two letters of notification is a reasonable number of contacts, particularly when there is an undertaking from the service to take this forward in an appropriate manner.

It is also important to recall that this approach is one which will not only increase council efficiency in how we undertake our Waste collections, thereby ensuring no wasted resources, but that it also ensures that those people who truly require the service are being correctly supported.

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Vice-Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

Question (1) On what date did the Vice-Convener first become aware of the decision of officers to review those residents who are registered for assisted waste collections?

Answer (1) On 12 November 2020, Committee approved a report regarding kerbside waste collection policies. It was indicated in this report that reviews will happen under the assisted collections policy -

- We will contact you regularly to check whether you still need the service.
- This will not usually take place more often than annually, except where a temporary assisted collection has been agreed for a shorter period.

In terms of the current review, I was made aware by an email circulated to all elected members on 15 October 2021.

Question (2) Was the Vice-Convener consulted on either the need for a review or the process which was proposed to be undertaken?

Answer (2) As it had been agreed by Committee that reviews would take place, no consultation was needed.

Question (3) If the Vice-Convener was consulted, did she approve of the review and processes proposed?

Answer (3) N/A

Question (4) Specifically, did the Vice-Convener consent to the intention to remove someone from assisted collections if they did not reply to either of the two letters?

Answer (4) N/A

Question (5) What is the Vice-Convenor's current view on (a) the need for the review and (b) the processes being proposed for the review?

Answer (5) There are currently 7500 assisted collections across the city. Crews were frequently reporting that bins were being presented at the kerbside in the usual manner at some of the addresses concerned. This would clearly indicate that the circumstances for an assisted collection may have changed.

In the interest of service efficiency and correct application of resources where they are most needed a review, clearly signalled in the Transport & Environment Committee report of November 2020, should be welcomed.

Back in December 2017/January 2018, those flagged by crews as requiring a review were contacted if details were available. Following the volume of feedback received from crews that bins listed for assisted collections were being presented at the kerbside it was decided that a city-wide review of all assisted collection customers would be carried out to ensure we are holding accurate details.

As part of developing this review it was also acknowledged that we do not hold details of the customer requiring an assisted collection, only the address. This means we did not hold contact details and were unable to address any issues a customer may be experiencing with their collections (for example, if we are unable to gain access because the gate was locked).

This review was developed in a way that allows us to not only check if the service is still required but also able to capture contact details for future management of the assisted collection and any issues experienced with collections. This ensures that we remove properties that no longer require assistance (this could be due to change of circumstances or residents at the property) whilst improving the service to those who do require assistance.

It is clear from the service team's response to councillor enquiries that everyone is very aware of the need for sensitivity and care in reviewing these requests for assisted collections. I have confidence in the processes as outlined in the councillor briefing and subsequent service team emails to councillors.

**Supplementary
Question**

With respect to answer (4) and whilst respecting that consent was neither sought nor given, can the Vice Convener clarify if she approves of the intention to remove someone from assisted collections if they do not respond to one of the two letters?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The assessment being undertaken to ascertain whether the Assisted Collections service is being targeted correctly is the right thing to do. Any change in circumstances when dealing with sometimes vulnerable residents requires to be carefully handled and like the Convenor, I am confident, as already outlined in answer 3, of the team's desire to handle this as carefully and as sensitively as possible. While there may be instances where this exercise may give cause for concern to residents, I also do not believe that there is particular number of letter notifications that would necessarily prevent that concern. Two letters of notification is a reasonable number of contacts, particularly when there is an undertaking from the service to take this forward in an appropriate manner.

I agree that It is also important to recall that this approach is one which will not only increase council efficiency in how we undertake our Waste collections, thereby ensuring no wasted resources, but that it also ensures that those people who truly require the service are being correctly supported.

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

On the 26th August, Council unanimously agreed that the Convener of Transport and Environment would write to both of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy and the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport in order to seek sufficient increased funding to make critical improvements which will be necessary to protect communities from future flooding.

Question (1) When did the Convener send the agreed communication to each Cabinet Secretary?

Answer (1) Due to partnership working with Scottish Water, the detailed letter has only been sent recently. The main content is below.

As Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee, for the City of Edinburgh Council, I am writing to you following the significant surface water flooding events experienced by Edinburgh in August 2020, December 2020, July 2021 and most recently in August 2021. All these events have had distressing consequences for residents and businesses of the city.

Whilst the city's drainage system has served it well, for hundreds of years in some cases, the very intense, short duration storms now being experienced on a regular basis often exceed the capacity of the road drainage, and underlying sewer network. Quite simply, the system was never designed to cope with the volumes of water it is now subject to, due to our changing climate. This results in surface water flooding to homes and businesses, and expensive disruption for residents, businesses and insurance companies. Living in fear of repeat flood events can lead to long term mental health issues for our residents and subsequent pressure on our health services.

The City of Edinburgh Council recognises Climate Change as a key challenge and acknowledges that the Council cannot solve this issue itself. The increasing risk of surface water flooding has been identified as one of the biggest impacts we face from Climate Change. In 2018, the Council formed a partnership with Scottish Water, SEPA and neighbouring local authorities. The formation of the Edinburgh & Lothians Strategic Drainage Partnership has resulted in the Council working collaboratively with Scottish Water at both strategic and operational levels, in new, effective ways. In the last two years, our respective organisations have had a step change in how the responsibility for flooding is viewed. Rather than each other's problem, it is now acknowledged as a problem for the City of Edinburgh, which we are trying to solve together.

The Council and Scottish Water have collaborated on a number of strategic projects recently, including the Council's Water Vision; looking at how the city can adapt to the changing climate concerning the management of storm

water, and the Green Blue Network Masterplan; identifying opportunity areas where multiple natural capital benefits could be achieved through green-blue measures. Both projects are now actively informing third-party development throughout the city; ensuring that new housing and infrastructure being built is sustainable, and that it meets Edinburgh's policies in relation to water management and biodiversity, while creating a vibrant and healthy city through place-making principles.

Surface water management and the importance of blue-green infrastructure has also been acknowledged in the Scottish Government's Water-resilient places policy framework, which sets out 21 recommendations on what we as a country can do to improve surface water management in Scotland. One of the topics, which covers three of these recommendations, is finance, and is specifically identified in Recommendation 19:

Recommendation 19: Scottish Government should consider how our transition to blue-green places will be funded and where new sources of sustainable finance from a wider range of beneficiaries can be accessed to support the vision.

The focus of Edinburgh's collaborative work to date has been in relation to strategy and planning, which does result in some practical benefits as housing developers are required to introduce effective surface water management measures, however this is not reflected across all projects in the city. To date, much of the emphasis of national funding has been on fluvial (river) flooding, as evidenced in the arrangement by which 80% of the £42m annual grant is allocated to large-scale projects. Edinburgh has benefited directly from Scottish Government funding for the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme and realises the importance of such schemes. However, the remaining 20% of the annual grant whilst beneficial does not allow local authorities to comprehensively tackle surface water flooding, particularly once other Local Flood Risk Management Plan actions are addressed.

In partnership with Scottish Water, the Council has identified retrofitting opportunities throughout the city to more effectively manage surface water and reduce flood risk. A reasonable estimate of the level of investment required to deliver all of these improvements is in the region of £500m. There is a need to not only deal with known flooding issues, but also to adapt our city for Climate Change impacts and build resilience for the future. With current pressures on the Council's Capital Budget, we are unable to commit the funding necessary to undertake this retrofitting but the devastating damage to the properties of residents and businesses continues to be a significant risk. Our current policies and guidance go some way to ensuring that new projects consider surface water management, but this infrastructure is more expensive than that which has traditionally been built, and the need to focus funding on other critical issues such as road safety and asset management means that these surface water interventions are not affordable and the opportunities will be missed.

It is for this reason that I am writing to you to seek your assistance to ensure that central government funding will be made available to Councils in order to undertake these improvements in surface water management. We would request that any such funding made available is flexible to meet the requirement of Councils as opposed to being allocated to a particular project or phase of work.

You will both be only too aware of the challenges that we face as a Council in adapting to the challenges of Climate Change alongside the balance of increasing financial pressures. While recognising similar pressures felt within the Scottish government I would ask that you please consider this matter as a priority for investment. It would allow us to intervene now and, by better equipping our capital city to face climate challenges, prevent as much future heartache, economic and financial loss for our residents and business owners as we possibly can.

Question (2) For each communication, has the Convener received a response?

Answer (2) N/A

Question (3) **If Yes:**

- Which Cabinet Secretary has responded?
- What was the response?

If No:

- Has the Convener followed up with the Cabinet Secretary to seek a response?

Answer (3) N/A

Supplementary Question Appreciate that the letters to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy and the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport have only just been sent. Can I ask then that when a response is received that the Convener circulate it.

Supplementary Answer Yes, happy to circulate any response when it is received.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Osler for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 28 October 2021**

Question (1) What is the average length of time for processing applications requesting a Disabled Person's Parking Place (DPPP)?

Answer (1) It takes approximately six weeks for an application to be processed, including the necessary site investigations and requirement assessments, before a decision is communicated to the applicant.

Should an application be approved, the installation of the DPPP can take up to a further eight weeks and the DPPP must also be added to the relevant Traffic Regulation Order, following the prescribed statutory process.

Question (2) How many DPPP applications and/or requests has the Council received in each of the following years:

2018
2019
2020
2021?

Answer (2) The table below shows the number of requests received:

Year	Number of DPPP requests received
2018	113
2019	115
2020	82
2021	155

Question (3) Of these applications and/or requests how many have been processed and actioned in each of the following years:

2019
2020
2021?

Answer (3) The table below shows the number of applications approved:

Year	Number of DPPP requests approved
2018	54
2019	83
2020	67
2021	66

Question (4) In each of the following years, how many have been refused:

2018
2019
2020
2021?

Answer (4) The table below shows the number of applications refused:

Year	Number of DPPP requests refused
2018	16
2019	6
2020	7
2021	31

Question (5) In total, how many applications and/or requests currently are outstanding?

Answer (5) There are 66 applications currently being processed.

Supplementary Question Question 5 asked how many applications and or requests currently are outstanding. The answer given was that 66 applications were currently being processed. Doing some quick maths from the answers given to the preceding questions that then leaves another 69 applications that have been applied for that no action has been taken on. Can the Convenor shed some light on this?

**Supplementary
Answer**

At the time that the answer was prepared, there were 66 applications which were in progress but not yet concluded. Unfortunately, the data for 2018 and 2019 was not held centrally and therefore it has not been possible to identify the reason for the difference in the number of applications received, those approved and those refused. However, officers have been advised that some of the applications included in the 2020 and 2021 data have been resubmitted as previous applications had not been concluded.

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Louise Young for
answer by the Convener of the
Education, Children and Families
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 28 October 2021**

Question **(1)** How many days/hours were eligible children offered in Playscheme, during the following school holiday periods (recognising some periods were impacted by Covid restrictions):

- Easter 2019
- Summer 2019
- October 2019
- Easter 2020
- Summer 2020
- October 2020
- Easter 2021
- Summer 2021
- October 2021

Answer **(1)** Easter 2019 - 1 week
Summer 2019 - 2-4 weeks
October 2019 - 1 week
Easter 2020 - No service was offered due to Covid
Summer 2020 – vulnerable children were offered 1-2 weeks
October 2020 - 2-4 days over the 1 week holidays
February 2021 – 2-4 Days over the 1 week holiday
Easter 2021 – 4-5 Days over 8 days
Summer 2021 – 4- 8 Days over 5 or six weeks
October 2021 – 2 Days over 1 week

Question (2) If Summer or October 2021 was lower than the equivalent pre-covid (ie 2019), why?

Answer (2) We specifically targeted some children with more significant needs as they had very little support over lockdown and they required a higher staffing ratio.

With the pandemic, support had to be changed in line with Scottish Governments instructions and so smaller bespoke supports were set up. (please refer to the information from Committee report dated March 21 for further details)

This continued into summer of 2021. Unfortunately, the easing of restrictions did not come in enough time to significantly increase the numbers of children attending. The organisation of summer holiday support starts in January due to the logistics involved in setting up this provision.

Following consultation with a representative parents group we extended the provisions already set up and an additional resource for children was arranged. This was based at Braidburn school. On advice from parents this was offered to a wider range of children with the aim of offering 2 days over the holidays.

The take up for this was lower than we planned for, and we were able to increase the number of days to 4 for 120 children.

October 2021 numbers were lower than anticipated and this was due to the providers not being able to recruit staff with Council officers experiencing similar difficulties .The Braidburn provision has been provided for October as well.

Question (3) Is the expected days/hours provision for Easter and Summer 2022 expected to be at pre-Covid levels? If not, why?

Answer (3) The development officer for holiday support will be looking at the model of support delivery for these key holiday periods and a plan will be presented at Committee once this is completed. There is a clear expectation that we will return to the pre-covid levels.

Question

(4) If 2022 is expected to continue at a lower level, when is it intended that the amount of days/hours will return to pre-Covid levels?

Answer

(4) It is likely that over the February holiday 2022, the support will be at a lower level (similar to Oct 21) and this is due to this always being a difficult time to recruit staff and there being a national shortage of social care workers. The plan going forward will be designed by the development officer post in consultation with parents/carers, stakeholders and the children.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Louise Young for
answer by the Convener of the
Transport and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 28 October 2021**

Despite emails sent on the 13th December 2020, and then on 6th February, 6th August, 28th August and 6th September, I have been unable to get an updated list of outstanding road adoptions for Kirkliston. Many emails have gone unanswered. The only responses received were to redirect my email in August and provide a copy of the 2019 status report.

Question (1) Does the Convener find it acceptable that a request made 10 months ago is still outstanding?

Answer (1) No, in general it is not acceptable that an elected member did not receive an appropriate response when the request for information was originally made. I would be grateful if Cllr Young can send me a complete copy of all the correspondence mentioned to allow a discussion with senior officers to take place on this matter.

Question (2) What timescale does the Convener consider appropriate for a response to such a request to be provided?

Answer (2) While I recognise that, in general, requests for specific information can sometimes be difficult to fulfil depending on, for example, the stage of development that a project is at or whether an outside contractor is involved, a response outlining the scope of a possible answer should be given with a short period to elected members. I understand that the Road Construction Consent Team generally aim to respond to councillor emails within 5 days and this has clearly not happened in this case.

I am pleased that this request has now been fulfilled in the table below.

Question (3) Can the Convener provide the requested update – namely “a list of unadopted roads/developments in Kirkliston and the latest position and proposed next steps for each”

Answer

- (3)** The table below provides an update on the unadopted roads/developments in Kirkliston

Developer	Reference	Location	Status Update
Miller Homes	ED/08/0001	Path Brae - Pikes Pool Drive	Waiting on remedial repairs before going onto maintenance period
	ED/04/0012	Drambuie, Stirling Road - Buies Estate	Awaiting application for adoption from developer
Barratt Homes	ED/10/0011	North Kirkliston Area B(The Willows) - Maude Place	Preparation of adoption certificates planned
	ED/10/0010	North Kirkliston Areas C&D – (The Beeches) - Maude Park, Eilston Terrace, Loan, Drive and Maude Park	
	ED/10/0022	North Kirkliston Area A – Taudshaugh Gardens	
	ED/10/0012	North Kirkliston Area X - Maude Close	
	ED/12/0014	North Kirkliston -Area Y – Mackinnon Crescent	Adoption application received
Cala Homes	ED/09/0014	North Kirkliston Area J - Catelbock Close	Awaiting response from the developer on remedial works
Walker Group	ED/13/0037	North Kirkliston Area K – Balcomie Gardens	Substantial completion given in August 2020 – Awaiting application for adoption from developer
	ED/15/0031	North Kirkliston Area G – Catastane Road	
Westpoint Homes	ED/20/0020	Almondhill	New development

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

Question (1) Please could you supply the cycle count data for the Water of Leith cycle counter by Spylaw Park for the whole of 2021 to date. Please provide this in the same format as previously supplied data for 2019 and 2020 - on a weekly basis and split by weekday and weekend.



WoL Counts Spylaw
Park.xlsx

Answer (1) Table and Graph 1 below provide this information.

Question (2) Please provide data for any other cycle counter on Water of Leith or Union Canal within 1 mile of Lanark Road, for 2019, 2020 and 2021 year to date, in the same format.

Answer (2) Table and Graph 2 below provide this information for the counter on the Union Canal path at Wester Hailes. This is the only other cycle counter within 1 mile of Lanark Road. Unfortunately, there is no data available for 2019 at this site due to damaged hardware.

Supplementary Question Lanark Road Spaces for People scheme was installed to provide an alternative to the Water of Leith pathway and facilitate physical distancing. In spite of negative impacts for disabled people, it is now proposed to keep it as a key part of the cycle network.

It would therefore be expected that to establish if the project was successful and justified being kept, it would be necessary to analyse data from both Lanark Road and the Water of Leith.

Was any of the data on the Water of Leith that has just been provided in answer to this question provided in reports or briefings to councillors when decisions were taken at the Transport and Environment Committee on 14th October?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The protected cycle lanes were initially installed on Lanark Road for a number of reasons associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including to provide an alternative to the Water of Leith pathway.

However, as reported to Transport and Environment Committee in January and June 2021, proposals to retain these measures on an experimental basis have also taken account of wider Council policy goals, and therefore data on cycle usage on the Water of Leith path and Lanark Road form part of a wider group of considerations.

The specific data provided in response to this question was not included in the Active Travel Measures – Travelling Safely update for Transport and Environment Committee in [October](#), although the viability of the Water of Leith in providing an improved active travel route was included in Appendix 2 of the report.

Table 1 - 2020-2021 Spylaw Park

Week	Weekend Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Weekend Total volume (Cycle) 2021	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2021
1	*	*	*	*
2	*	*	*	*
3	*	*	*	*
4	*	*	*	*
5	*	*	*	*
6	*	*	*	*
7	*	371	*	131
8	*	826	*	272
9	*	816	*	672
10	116	473	38	541
11	296	967	152	1153
12	798	520	568	860
13	*	934	991	676
14	1004	826	1533	1128
15	902	464	1923	1719
16	1200	*	2137	*
17	1396	533	2229	815
18	1374	386	1683	556
19	1133	493	2584	691
20	1103	357	2342	655
21	727	570	2469	582
22	1672	661	3373	1261
23	1315	654	2114	1191
24	1021	477	1989	1080
25	1245	460	2287	963
26	735	354	2542	1222
27	577	386	1664	624
28	981	589	1796	1201
29	827	687	1680	1549
30	623	425	1509	1127
31	811	315	1304	997
32	930	482	1095	846
33	772	298	1379	1168
34	789	489	929	1184
35	666	226	618	1072
36	752	*	988	*
37	555	*	1030	*
38	733	*	1281	*
39	744	*	1031	*
40	263	*	1018	*
41	723	*	813	*

Week	Weekend Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Weekend Total volume (Cycle) 2021	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2021
42	541		458	
43	495		746	
44	198		536	
45	*		531	
46	289		*	
47	396		297	
48	431		345	
49	158		239	
50	*		219	
51	*		*	
52	*		*	

An * indicates other occasions when data was unavailable.

Graph 1 - 2020-2021 Spylaw Park

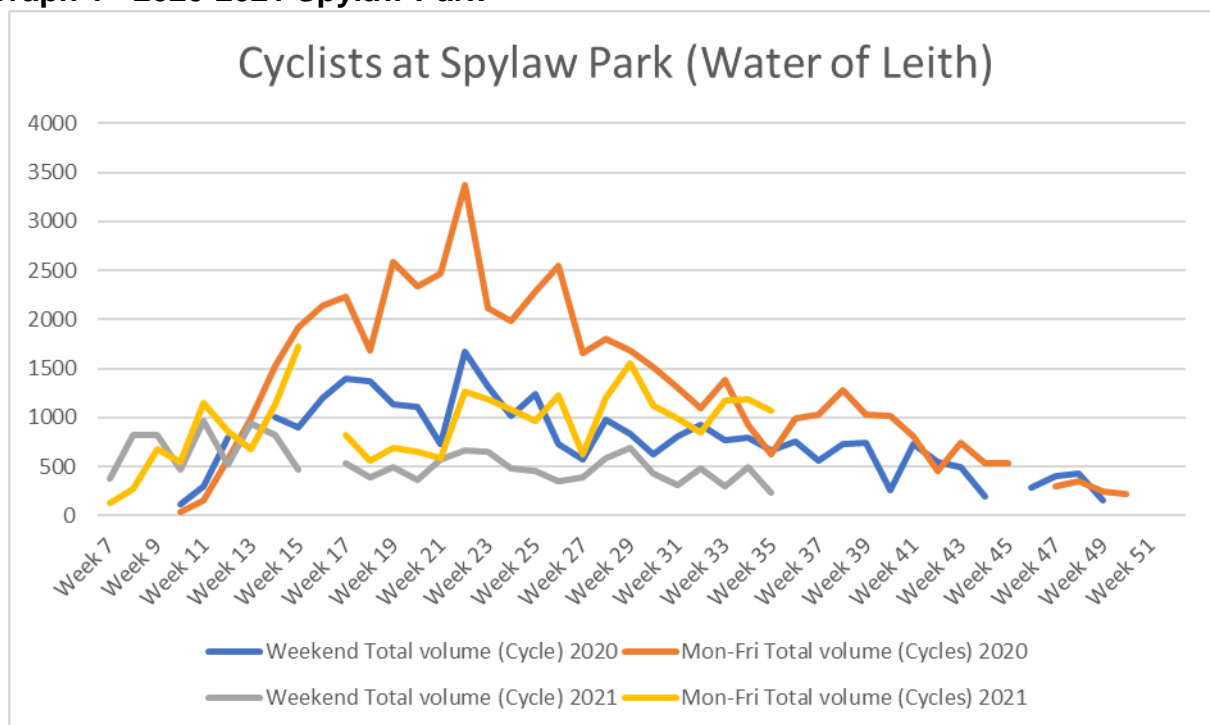


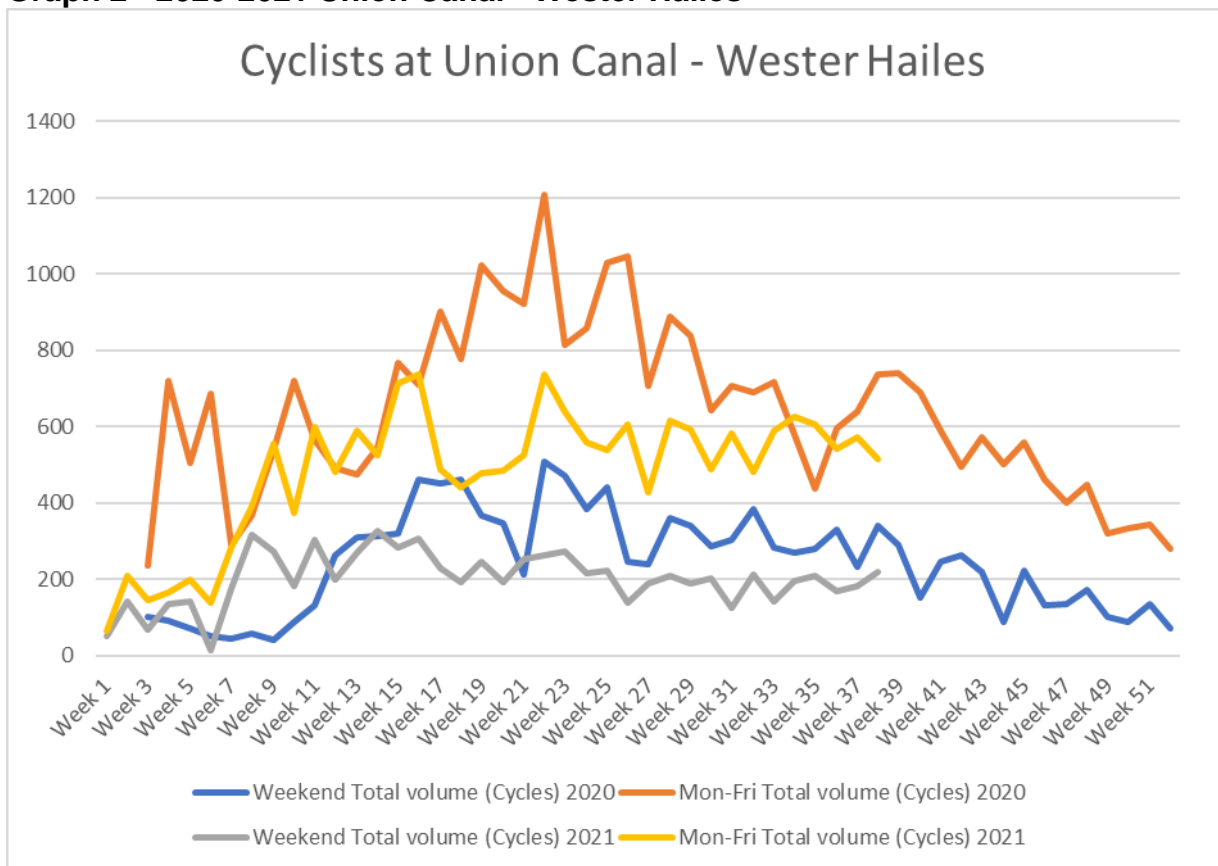
Table 2 - 2020-2021 Union Canal - Wester Hailes (No data for 2019)

Week	Weekend Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Weekend Total volume (Cycle) 2021	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2021
1	*	53	*	66
2	*	142	*	211
3	103	70	238	146
4	91	135	720	165
5	73	144	506	198
6	53	13	688	140
7	46	177	290	284
8	57	318	369	391
9	40	273	539	557
10	87	183	719	375
11	131	303	565	599
12	263	199	492	482
13	309	271	475	591
14	314	327	546	527
15	321	285	769	714
16	462	306	710	737
17	453	231	903	488
18	461	194	778	442
19	368	246	1022	480
20	347	193	956	486
21	212	253	922	524
22	510	265	1208	739
23	471	273	816	640
24	385	216	858	559
25	441	222	1029	538
26	248	140	1047	608
27	240	189	707	428
28	361	208	888	618
29	340	191	839	592
30	287	203	643	487
31	305	125	707	583
32	385	213	692	483
33	283	141	718	588
34	271	197	581	627
35	279	208	437	606
36	330	168	597	544
37	234	182	639	574
38	341	219	737	515
39	289	*	742	*
40	154	*	691	*
41	247	*	590	*

Week	Weekend Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Weekend Total volume (Cycle) 2021	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2020	Mon-Fri Total volume (Cycles) 2021
42	262		494	
43	219		573	
44	87		502	
45	224		558	
46	133		462	
47	137		400	
48	173		447	
49	103		320	
50	88		334	
51	136		343	
52	72		279	

An * indicates other occasions when data was unavailable.

Graph 2 - 2020-2021 Union Canal - Wester Hailes



QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 28 October 2021**

Question

(1) Please confirm the total cost of running the recent "local engagement" exercise for Lanark Road *Spaces for People* for all tasks involved which will include as a minimum:

- a) Planning the consultation approach;
- b) Designing and writing the consultation materials (in all accessible formats);
- c) Producing the consultation materials - print costs and digital implementation costs, and any technical requirements to keep the consultation secure and unable to be manipulated by special interest groups;
- d) Promoting the materials - including any delivery of letters, adverts design, media spend, time spent on press releases etc;
- e) Analysing the responses;
- f) Preparing the report for committee.

Please split the cost by:

- Internal council officer time
- External costs.

Specifically how much officer time was involved in:

- a) responding to complaints relating to the engagement exercise?
- b) identifying respondents who needed to be contacted?
- c) liaising with individual respondents to confirm or change their answers?

Answer

(1) Internal Council officer time:

In total, officers have spent approximately 26 hours on the local engagement exercise for Lanark Road. The cost of this is estimated to be: £585.00.

External costs:

The cost of letter distribution was £225.40.

The development of the design for engagement was approximately £3,500 (The total commission covered designs for both Lanark Road and Comiston/Braid Road).

In response to the specific questions:

- a) Approximately 2.5 hours of officer time were spent on responding to complaints about the consultation exercise;
- b) Information on the respondents who needed to be contacted were provided, therefore there was only a small amount of officer time spent on this (approximately 20 minutes); and,
- c) Liaising with individual respondents took approximate 1.5 hours.

Question

(2) Please provide the evidence that demonstrates the local engagement met, or did not meet, the required measures for the seven consultation quality standards within "Edinburgh's Consultation Framework - Guidance Note 7 - Consultation Quality Standards", under the headings:

- Process
- Genuine
- Inclusive and Accessible
- Informative
- Effective
- Action-focused
- Feedback

Answer (2) The Council's Consultation Policy does not apply to engagement work, therefore the Guidance Note referenced above is not applicable. This engagement exercise was a limited discussion to refine local outcomes, following the broader consultation on retaining Spaces for People measures.

Question (3) In this local engagement exercise, the postcodes and email addresses for individual respondents were captured. This created various concerns in terms of data and identification and that this method of validating responses can still be spammed and is inadequate etc.

a) Will this be reviewed to use a more robust method in future?

b) What will now happen to this data, bearing in mind it may need to be kept somewhere in case of future legal challenge?

Answer (3) a) Participants of the survey were required to supply first name, surname, postcode and email address. This information was used in data analysis to determine the responses received from within the leafleted area, those from the EH13 and EH14 postcode areas, and those received from a wider area. The details requested were also designed to make it difficult for someone to fake a response. However, should future engagement exercises be undertaken, a review of this approach will be carried out and any lessons learned will be implemented.

b) The information gathered will be stored in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures for Information Governance, including data protection.

Supplementary Question

If a survey appears on the council's consultation hub, citizens will reasonably expect that it meets basic quality standards. As the Council's consultation policy doesn't apply to engagement work, what quality standards are in place to ensure meaningful local engagement or if there aren't quality standards for surveys such as this, is the consultation hub an appropriate place for them as it risks damaging faith in full consultations covered by the guidelines?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Engagement takes many forms and the Council expects each activity to reflect the subject, the particular scope and the needs of those affected by any proposals. The National Standards for Community Engagement provide principles of good practice which services may reference to guide engagement activity and inform engagement plans. More information about these principles is available on the [Scottish Community Development Centre's](#) website. For this engagement exercise, officers from the project team referenced these good practice principles in developing the survey.

The Council's Consultation and Engagement Hub was utilised for this local engagement exercise as it is the most appropriate and secure platform to undertake an exercise of this nature. The survey was also clearly titled Local Engagement to ensure that people participating could identify that this was an engagement rather than consultation exercise.

QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 28 October 2021**

- Question** (1) The council is proposing extending the likes of the bollard cycle lanes on Lanark Road, Longstone, Comiston Road, Silverknowes and Newington for 18 months under ETROs. Some of these areas are within or border conservation areas. Assuming they will be made permanent, at what point does the council plan to replace the bollards with a more aesthetically pleasing design, eg as shown in the latest Cycling by Design guidelines, on p56 (p61 of the pdf), p79 (p84 of the pdf) or p104 (p109 of the pdf)
<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/50323/cycling-by-design-update-2019-final-document-15-september-2021-1.pdf>
- Answer** (1) The measures are currently proposed to be extended on an experimental basis using the same infrastructure as is currently in place. Decisions on more permanent infrastructure will depend on the outcome of the experimental period and will be based on funding and prioritisation as well as taking account of the expected longevity of the current infrastructure as well as aesthetic and other considerations.
- Question** (2) Please can you provide an approximate budget for replacing all bollard lanes in Edinburgh with a design such as this (broken down by each individual bollard scheme in Edinburgh)?
- Answer** (2) It is not possible to provide a budget for this as the cost will depend on a variety of factors, in particular the nature of 'replacement' infrastructure and the extent to which replacement projects incorporate other upgrades.
- Question** (3) Please confirm what level of evidenced cycle lane usage will be required to justify this investment?
- Answer** (3) Any decision on investment would be based on a number of factors including strategic fit, prioritisation, funding.

Question (4) Please confirm that the cost for this can be covered within the recently announced funding of £118m that has recently been secured for the next 5 years?

Answer (4) The report to Transport and Environment Committee on [14 October 2021](#) on the Active Travel Investment Programme set out how the funding available for active travel will be spent. The report highlighted that this does not include funding for the Travelling Safely programme and therefore the cycle lane infrastructure investment highlighted above has not been included.

The report did however highlight that it is expected new funding sources may become available in the coming years.

Supplementary Question Does the Convener see it is a priority to replace bollard schemes on arterial routes with something more aesthetically appropriate?

Supplementary Answer As set out above, the replacement of temporary infrastructure would be subject to the strategic context, scheme prioritisation and available funding and this is not something which is included in the current budget for Travelling Safely measures.

Should the measures be approved for retention following the trial period, the Council will work towards implementation of safe and permanent infrastructure considering appropriate contemporary design guidance.

QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Convener of the
Housing, Homelessness and Fair
Work Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 28 October 2021**

Question **(1)** How many properties has City of Edinburgh Council purchased or earmarked to become Home Share Temporary Accommodation since May 2017?

Answer **(1)** There have been 12 properties (46 rooms) in use or earmarked since May 2017. A further 12 properties (44 rooms) have been offered to the Council through a recent procurement process. If all of these are accepted, this will mean the Council has access to a total of 24 properties (90 rooms).

Question **(2)** In each case, can the date of purchase / decision to earmark be given, alongside the date the first tenant moved into the property?

Answer **(2)** The table below provides this information.

Question **(3)** Of the properties with at least one tenant, what is the current average occupancy of home share temporary accommodation?

Answer **(3)** The average occupancy of home share temporary accommodation is currently 36 tenants, who stay for an average of 242 days.

Table 1

Property Address	Date Taken on	Date of First Tenant	Comments	Average Stay	Total Days
Property 1	14/09/2020	01/10/2020			
Property 2	19/10/2005	13/06/2019	Previously B&B	117	587
Property 3	05/09/2019	10/09/2019		98	488
Property 4	24/05/2019	27/05/2019		570	2,281
Property 5	15/07/2019	16/07/2019		338	1,351
Property 6	28/09/2020	16/10/2020		292	875
Property 7	23/12/2019	23/12/2019		146	439
Property 8	14/09/2020	24/09/2020		208	832
Property 9	31/01/2020	31/01/2020		131	131
Property 10	08/10/2020	02/11/2020		191	875
Property 11	26/04/2021	10/06/2021		130	130
Property 12*	20/07/2021	n/a			

* Property 12 was purchased by the Council in July 2021. The property required work to increase the size of one of the bedrooms to meet HMO standards. This work is currently underway.

QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Convener of the
Transport and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 28 October 2021**

Question

I understand Committee has agreed to the introduction of a lower speed limit on Granton Road and Craighall Road in my Ward. Local people are interested in when this might be implemented on the ground.

Can the Convener use her Office to establish the go live date for the new speed limit, and share that with me by way of answer to this question, as all other enquiries have thus far failed?

Answer

I am sorry that you have not received an answer to your enquiries as to when this new speed limit will be implemented, and I have followed this up with the Service Director for Sustainable Development.

The design work for the changes to signs and road markings to implement the reduced speed limits is nearing completion and implementation of the changes is set to commence before the end of this calendar year.

I have been advised that it is not currently possible to provide precise dates when the new limits will be brought into operation at each individual street however, this information will be shared with local Ward Councillors for both Granton Road and Craighall Road when it becomes available.

QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by
the Leader of the Council at a
meeting of the Council on 28 October
2021**

Question **(1)** Will the Council Leader distance himself from the comments of the Council Depute Leader at Council on 23 September 2021, when the Depute Leader made clearly disparaging remarks about a fellow senior Member of this Council, a member of the Leader’s political Group, and the Vice Convener of the Education Children and Families Committee, comparing her work on behalf of constituents to “Miss Marple” in a pejorative way?

Answer **(1)** We have seen an increase in personal comments in our Council and I would strongly encourage members to refrain from doing so and engage in the substance of the issues which we discuss as Councillors.

I would note that Councillor Mowat is drawing a conclusion from remarks made by the Depute Leader that only he can clarify and would suggest Councillor Mowat follows this up with him.

Question **(2)** Is the Leader aware of the Depute Leader making a full unreserved apology for this public outburst?

Answer **(2)** See answer 1.

Question **(3)** If so, can the Leader share this apology?

Answer **(3)** See answer 1.

Question **(4)** If not, will the Leader use this question as an opportunity to condemn the lack of an apology?

Answer **(4)** See answer 1.

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor McLellan for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

Question (1) What discussions has the Convener had with Historic Environment Scotland about the re-opening of the Low Road from through Holyrood Park from Duddingston Village?

Answer (1) I meet with senior officials from HES regularly and discuss a wide range of park management issues and cooperation with CEC. The rock assessment and subsequent road closure are clearly key operational matters for HES and have been the subject of discussion with CEC officers.

Question (2) What work have council officers done to assist HES to bring about the re-opening of the road as quickly as possible?

Answer (2) The closure of Duddingston Low Road follows a recent rock risk assessment in Holyrood Park, which falls within the remit of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). HES are currently working to deliver a solution to allow the Low Road to reopen but for now the road remains closed. Council officers have been working with HES since the rockfall assessment was completed and regular meetings are to be established to enable the Council and HES to liaise more closely together in the future.

Question (3) Can an assessment of the impact of the Low Road closure on surrounding streets be conducted?

Answer (3) As the closure is short term officers currently have no plans to carry out an assessment of the impact of the closure on the surrounding streets. However, they are working to identify if baseline information is available to enable an assessment to be carried out should the closure be extended for a longer period of time.

QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by
the Convener of the Regulatory
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 28 October 2021**

For the following the streets could the information in the questions below be provided please:

- Scotland Street;
- Drummond Place;
- Dublin Street;

Question (1) The number of HMOs licensed in each street in each of the last 5 years.

Answer (1) Table 1 below shows the number of HMO licenses granted or renewed each year since 2016. It is important to note that, in 2017, the Council introduced a three-year license cycle which means that not all licenses are now renewed annually.

Question (2) The number of flats where there is a registered landlord in each street in each of the last 5 years.

Answer (2) The register of landlords is an external system which is operated by Registrars of Scotland. It has not been possible to obtain the information requested in time to respond to this Council Question. If this information is provided to the Council, it will be shared with Councillor Mowat.

Question (3) The number of properties registered for council tax in each of the last five years.

Answer (3)

	Council Tax Registered Properties				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
TOTAL	376	372	368	366	361
Scotland Street	129	127	126	126	126
Dublin Street	134	133	132	130	127
Drummond Place	113	112	110	110	108

Question (4) The number parking permits issued for each street in the last 5 years and the number of properties with more than two permits (should there be any) in any of the last five years.

Answer (4)

Unfortunately, this data is only available for the previous three years due to a change of IT systems:

	Drummond Place	Dublin Street	Scotland Street
2019	59	64	66
2020	35	69	51
2021	35	50	49

No properties have been issued with more than two parking permits in the previous three years.

Table 1 – HMO Licenses Granted or Renewed

HMO Licenses Granted or Renewed									
Street name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Drummond Place	3	2	3	1		1	1		11
Dublin Street Lane South	1		1			1			3
Dublin Street	11	9	13		1	12		1	47
Scotland Street	14	15	14	2	1	12	2	1	61
Grand Total	29	26	31	3	2	26	3	2	122

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Douglas for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

Question (1) What the current staffing levels are in the forestry service team?

Answer (1) The forestry team currently includes:

- 2 x Lead Arborists;
- 2 x Machine Operators;
- 6 x Arborist Climbers;
- 1 x Forestry Team Leader;
- 1 x Senior Trees and Woodlands Officer; and
- 2 x Trees and Woodlands Officers.

Question (2) What plans there are to fill any vacancies?

Answer (2) Recruitment is currently underway for:

- 1 x Lead Arborist; and
- 4 x Assistant Trees and Woodlands Officer (these are new positions to assist with additional tree surveying and condition assessments, including surveying for Ash Dieback Disease, Dutch Elm Disease, etc).

In addition, pre-employment checks are currently being progressed for a further Trees and Woodlands Officer.

Question (3) The current backlog of work within the department, including waiting times for dealing with new enquiries?

Answer

- (3) There are currently 4,226 outstanding trees in the works programme, of which 520 are classed as high priority.

All enquiries are risk assessed and prioritised based on the nature of the enquiry and in line with the Council's policies which guide the [management of trees and woodland](#). This is done to ensure that any emergency or highly dangerous tree enquiries are dealt with first. The schedule of works sets out the timescales which the forestry team aims to complete works.

The service area anticipates that once the recruitment outlined in part 2 of this answer is complete, this will improve the response times for general enquiries.

Supplementary Question

Once the recruitment outlined is complete, how long do you expect it to take to get through the outstanding trees in the work programme, and are there any legal/financial consequences if these trees cause any harm or damage in the interim?

Supplementary Answer

It is not possible to provide a timescale for completing the outstanding work programme because it is maintained on a rolling basis to ensure those trees in most immediate need for work are prioritised. Once emergency and urgent health and safety work is undertaken (mostly reactive), then other less urgent but necessary (proactive) tree work can be carried out. A monitoring programme also ensures that trees are assessed regularly should conditions change (e.g. in severe winter weather).

Tree health can change due to various factors (e.g. age, weather damage, condition, damage to roots or branches, pathogens, etc.). This places importance on inspection to ensure that priority is given to dealing with emergency works and dangerous trees. Officers also follow up on tree enquiries and concerns from the public. While it is impossible to remove all risk from trees, the approach taken aims to minimise risk of legal or financial consequences.

The focus of Council officers is on trees that are the responsibility of the Council, typically on Council land or where private trees overhang or interfere with road or

footway users. However, private owners are responsible for caring for and carrying out any work to trees growing on their property and managing associated financial and legal risks.

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Douglas for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 October 2021

Question

To ask the Convener whether any monitoring is done of the number of cyclists to have taken a left turn onto Waterloo Place when travelling from Leith Street, and if so, how many cyclists have made this turn?

Answer

No monitoring has been carried out of the number of cyclists making this manoeuvre.

The Active Travel team have indicated that they expect numbers to be fairly low.

Supplementary Question

Would there be a reduction in time that pedestrians had to wait to cross at Waterloo Place if the ability to make that left turn was taken away, therefore allowing pedestrians to cross while the lights were green at the top of Leith Street?

Supplementary Answer

Yes. Banning turns at signalled junctions can be used to increase the crossing time available to pedestrians. The fact that this movement is permitted reflects a presumption against banning turning movements for cyclists, to help contribute to the convenience of travelling by bike.

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Leader of the Council
at a meeting of the Council on 28
October 2021**

Question

It is understood the report by Susanne Tanner QC into the Sean Bell affair was shared with Group Leaders on 15 October and subsequently made available for review by other Council members.

Can the Leader inform Council which individuals outside Ms Tanner's team saw her report before 15 October and for what purposes?

Answer

This is a matter for the independent Chair who would be able to confirm who was granted access prior to publication.

QUESTION NO 20

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by
the Leader of the Council at a
meeting of the Council on 28 October
2021**

Question (1) Have any assurances been given to Council that the proposed Scottish Government scheme for those under 22 years to travel without charge on public transport will include Government funding to support such arrangements on the Transport for Edinburgh tram line?

Answer (1) The Council continues to make the case to the Scottish Government to extend the concessionary public transport scheme for under 22 years travel to the Edinburgh Tram service. Elected Members and officers will continue to engage with the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland on this until we secure the agreement to take this forward.

Question (2) In addition, has the Scottish Government given any commitment to include funding for Edinburgh Trams, so that the cost of providing 'free' tram travel to older citizens is covered by Government rather than this Council?

Answer (2) The situation remains the same as outlined in answer 1. Glasgow subway is also affected, as light rail, does not receive the same subsidy as bus travel but efforts to include both continue.