

# Minutes

## The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 22 June 2023

**Present:**

### **LORD PROVOST**

**The Right Honourable Robert Aldridge**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Scott Arthur  
Danny Aston  
Jule Bandel  
Alan C Beal  
Fiona Bennett  
Marco Biagi  
Chas Booth  
Graeme Bruce  
Steve Burgess  
Jack Caldwell  
Lezley Marion Cameron  
Kate Campbell  
Christopher Cowdy  
James Dalgleish  
Euan R Davidson  
Cammy Day  
Sanne Dijkstra-Downie  
Denis Dixon  
Stuart Dobbin  
Phil Duggart  
Katrina Faccenda  
Pauline Flannery  
Catherine Fullerton  
Neil Gardiner  
Fiona Glasgow  
Margaret A Graham  
Joan Griffiths  
Dan Heap  
Euan Hyslop  
Stephen P Jenkinson  
Tim Jones

David Key  
Simita Kumar  
Kevin Lang  
Lesley Macinnes  
Martha Mattos Coelho  
Finlay McFarlane  
Ross McKenzie  
Amy McNeese-Mechan  
Adam Nols-McVey  
Jane E Meagher  
Claire Miller  
Max Mitchell  
Jo Mowat  
Alys Mumford  
Marie-Clair Munro  
Vicky Nicolson  
Kayleigh O'Neill  
Hal Osler  
Ben Parker  
Tim Pogson  
Susan Rae  
Neil J Ross  
Alex Staniforth  
Edward J Thornley  
Val Walker  
Mandy H Watt  
Iain Whyte  
Norman J Work  
Louise Young  
Lewis J Younie

## 1 Deputations

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**a) Unison**  
**(in relation to item 7.1 on the agenda - Bed Base Review)**

The deputation expressed concern that the state-of-the-art care home at Drum Brae had lain empty for 18 months whilst in the grip of a health and social care crisis when it could have been filled with vulnerable older people who required 24 hour care. The felt that it had been left empty and no consultation taken place with Council members.

The deputation praised officers for the halting of the public consultation and replacing it with a strategic commissioning review which they felt was impartial and objective. The believed that honesty, openness, integrity and transparency had returned to the partnership and therefore agreed to work with colleagues to ensure that whatever happened in the future for Drum Brae Care Home, it would be for the benefit of the older citizens.

The deputation urged the Council to support the SNP Group amendment on the matter as they felt that proper scrutiny and oversight was essential if members were to govern effectively and serve the best interests of the people of Edinburgh.

(see item 5 below)

**b) Edinburgh Community Climate Forum and Edinburgh Community Climate Network**  
**(in relation to item 8.1 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Parker – Supporting Climate Community Action)**

The deputation requested the Council's support in finding suitable premises for a new community climate action hub. They stressed that the current lack of centralised resources to empower residents in their contributions towards achieving net zero posed a critical problem as support for residents' action and involvement was essential. The deputation indicated that a dedicated physical space was required to host activities, public events and exhibitions which promoted sustainability and provided crucial information to residents.

The deputation urged the Council to explore the possibility of offering premises in an appropriate workable location where a climate hub could act as a meaningful space and asset transfer potentially be explored.

(see item 18 below)

**c) Slurp: Students for Action on Homelessness  
(in relation to Item 8.2 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Parker –  
Student Homelessness Crisis)**

The deputation indicated that students in Edinburgh had been struggling with homelessness and unaffordable rents which had led to them commuting long hours, sofa surfing and signing rental agreements they could not afford to pay.

The deputation urged the Council to support the motion by Councillor Parker as recognition of how difficult matters had become, the need to have urgent discussions to ensure the crisis was alleviated and to look at new provision of accommodation.

(see item 19 below).

**d) Dalry Colonies Residents' Association  
(in relation to Item 8.3 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor McKenzie –  
Haymarket Square Construction)**

The deputation expressed concern at the continued noise and dust created by the ongoing works at Haymarket Square which had started in 2020 and were due for completion by the end of 2025. They asked for the Council's support to look at the hours of operation by the contractor as they were now having a significant impact on the health and well-being of the community. The deputation also felt that there did not seem to be any provision for impact risk assessments to be undertaken in relation to residents in the affected area.

The deputation asked for the Council's support in discussions with McAlpine and the developers to re-address the balance for the negative impact the ongoing works were having which included, consideration of a later work start on Saturdays and the appointment of a Community Liaison Officer.

(see item 20 below).

**e) Abortion Rights Scotland  
(in relation to Item 8.9 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor MacInnes –  
Abortion Rights)**

The deputation indicated that they supported the motion by Councillor MacInnes as abortion remained a crime in Scotland. They were urging the Scottish Parliament to look at the criminal law on abortion, seeking to remove it from criminal law.

The deputation indicated that the World Health Organisation supported the decriminalisation of abortion and felt that Scotland were in danger of being left behind if it did not start to look at getting rid of this law. They urged the Council to support the call for the decriminalisation of abortion in Scotland.

(see item 26 below).

## 2 Minutes

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 1 June 2023 as a correct record.

## 3 Leader's Report

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

- Councillor Walker – best wishes for a speedy recovery
- New Tram route – passenger numbers – thanks to members for support
- Edinburgh College – Relaunch of 2050 vision
- Greyfriars Hall – Project SEARCH Graduates
- Matt Acton – Area Commander, Scotland Fire and Rescue Service – best wishes for a long and happy retirement
- Pride March - support
- International Jazz and Blues Festival
- Congratulations to Communications team – PRCA Scottish In-house Team of the Year Award
- Facilities Management team – Assist FM Awards
- Congratulations to Clair Miller, Community Safety – British Empire Medal
- Congratulations to Paddy Maloney, Waste Services Team – Homeless World Cup
- Edinburgh Corporation Golf Club Competition - win

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor McVey	-	£105,000 contract for health and social care senior resource
Councillor Lang	-	George Street new town project – active travel investment programme re-evaluation
Councillor Mumford	-	Development of Rosebank Oilfield
Councillor Whyte	-	Trams to Newhaven – loan repayments financial update
Councillor McKenzie	-	Short term lets - policy
Councillor Faccenda	-	Use of prison ships as accommodation for refugees in Edinburgh
Councillor Biagi	-	Legal advice provided to members - review
Councillor Caldwell	-	Water conservation - advice
Councillor Parker	-	Inaccessible Council websites

Councillor Bruce	- Ratho – public transport
Councillor Griffiths	- Hope Cottage Nursery School and James Gillespie's High School - awards
Councillor Kumar	- Brexit – fundamental and negative impact on education, culture and youth sectors in Scotland
Councillor Thornley	- Fire at Craigievar House – work with property managers, residents and stakeholders
Councillor Rae	- Private vehicles blocking tram lines
Councillor Jones	- Joppa Road – bin hubs
Councillor Meagher	- Successful bid to allow the Council to bring back into use some of the most difficult void properties in Edinburgh
Councillor McFarlane	- Hunters Square – anti social behaviour – Tron Area Business group
Councillor Aston	- £14m Council underspend
Councillor Work	- Trams – extensions to rural west Edinburgh – transport links

## 4 Appointment to Committees etc

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### Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor McNeese-Mechan on the Edinburgh Partnership in place of Councillor McVey.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Fullerton to the Personnel Appeals Committee in place of Councillor McNeese-Mechan.
- 3) To appoint Councillor Mattos-Coelho to the Planning Committee, Development Management Sub-Committee and Local Review Body in place of Councillor Hyslop.
- 4) To appoint Councillor Glasgow to the Education, Children and Families Committee in place of Councillor Mattos Coelho.
- 5) To appoint Councillor Dobbin to the Transport and Environment Committee in place of Councillor Work.

- 6) To appoint Councillor Key to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in place of Councillor Campbell.
- 7) To appoint Councillor Kumar to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in place of Councillor Biagi.
- 8) To appoint Councillor Hyslop to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in place of Councillor Kumar.
- 9) To appoint Councillor Work to the Regulatory Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee in place of Councillor Fullerton.
- 10) To appoint Councillor Hyslop to the Education, Children and Families Committee in place of Councillor Key.
- 11) To appoint Councillor Biagi to the Finance and Resources Committee in place of Councillor Hyslop.
- 12) To appoint Councillor Fullerton to the Lothian Valuation Joint Board in place of Councillor McFarlane.
- 13) To appoint Councillor Staniforth to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor O'Neill.
- 14) To appoint Councillor Miller to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in place of Councillor Staniforth
- 15) To appoint Councillor O'Neill to the Transport and Environment Committee in place of Councillor Miller
- 16) To appoint Councillor Heap to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in place of Councillor Bandel.

## **5 Bed Base Review**

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Details were provided the current situation relating to the Bed Base Review including consideration of the use of Drumbrae Care Home together with options for the future use of the facility for consideration for Health and Social Care purposes.

The Finance and Resources Committee had also referred options for the future use of the Drumbrae Care Home for consideration to the Council for consideration.

The Council had heard a deputation from Unison on this issue (see item 1(a) above).

### **Motion**

- 1) To acknowledge that Edinburgh Integration Joint Board considered a recommendation from officers to undertake a strategic commissioning review. This would inform plans for community infrastructure and bed-based service provision in the medium to long term.

- 2) To await the outcome of this work before a decision was made on the future use of Drumbrae care home.
- 3) To note the decision from the Finance and Resources Committee held on 20 June 2023
- 4) Agrees that officers will, as matter of urgency, bring forward proposals for alternative uses of the Drumbrae Care Home to support care challenges faced by CEC.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Pogson

#### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To acknowledge that Edinburgh Integration Joint Board considered a recommendation from officers to undertake a strategic commissioning review. This would inform plans for community infrastructure and bed-based service provision in the medium to long term.
- 2) To await the outcome of this work before a decision was made on the future use of Drumbrae care home seeing merit in considering options 1-3 and ceasing any further work on option 4 to rule this option out.
- 3) Notes that Finance and Resources approved the SNP amendment:

*"1.1.2 For the purposes of transparency and following a period of uncertainty, requests the Strategic Commissioning Team deliver update reports to each EIJB, P&S and GRBV during the projected 6 months required for the exercise including offering briefings as requested by the EIJB board and to all councillors to prevent the omission of information being made available for scrutiny.*

*1.1.3 Acknowledges that it was agreed on the Strategic Commissioning Team including councillors and lay members of EIJB, including or as well as Trade Union representatives, make up the numbers within the group, along with council officers.*

*1.1.4 Acknowledges the inadequacy of the Bed Based Review (BBR) and agrees to make public the financial cost of the initiative to date.*

*1.1.5 Recommends this approach to the City of Edinburgh Council meeting to be held on 22 June 2023.*

- moved by Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

#### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To acknowledge that Edinburgh Integration Joint Board considered a recommendation from officers to undertake a strategic commissioning review.

This would inform plans for community infrastructure and bed-based service provision in the medium to long term.

- 2) To await the outcome of this work before a decision was made on the future use of Drumbrae care home.
- 3) To note the decision from the Finance and Resources Committee held on 20 June 2023.
- 4) Calls for a report to the next meeting of Finance and Resources Committee, after consultation with health and social care spokespeople, with options for meanwhile use within the care sector for Drumbrae Care Home”

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Miller

### **Amendment 3**

- 1) To acknowledge that Edinburgh Integration Joint Board considered a recommendation from officers to undertake a strategic commissioning review. This would inform plans for community infrastructure and bed-based service provision in the medium to long term.
- 2) To note the decision from the Finance and Resources Committee held on 20 June 2023.
- 3) Regrets failure of all parties to implement the original decisions around the Bed Base Review.
- 4) Regrets that all potential options for the use of Drumbrae Care Home were not pursued, as no approach was made to other care home providers to understand their willingness to re-open the facility as a care home.
- 5) Understands the EIJB cannot direct Council in respect of capital spending; therefore, Council does not need to wait until the EIJB completes the Strategic Commissioning Review to decide on the use of what is currently an unused asset.
- 6) Notes the time critical nature of the closure of the Council owned Liberton Hospital meaning there must be some new provision of HBCCC beds in the short to medium term.
- 7) Concludes the best short-term option for Drumbrae would be the adoption of option 3.

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was adjusted and approved as an amendment to the motion, Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the motion and Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.



With the agreement of the mover and seconder, Amendment 3 was withdrawn.

## Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To acknowledge that Edinburgh Integration Joint Board considered a recommendation from officers to undertake a strategic commissioning review. This would inform plans for community infrastructure and bed-based service provision in the medium to long term.
- 2) To await the outcome of this work before a decision was made on the future use of Drumbrae care home seeing merit in considering options 1-3 and ceasing any further work on option 4 to rule this option out.
- 3) To note the decision from the Finance and Resources Committee held on 20 June 2023.
- 4) To note the time critical nature of the closure of the Council-owned Liberton Hospital meaning there must be some new provision of HBCCC beds in the short to medium term.
- 5) To agree that officers would, as matter of urgency, bring forward proposals for alternative uses of the Drumbrae Care Home to support older people's care needs as assessed by the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 6) To note that Finance and Resources approved the SNP amendment:
  - "1.1.2 For the purposes of transparency and following a period of uncertainty, requests the Strategic Commissioning Team deliver update reports to each EIJB and P&S, and referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, during the projected 6 months required for the exercise including offering briefings as requested by the EIJB board and to all councillors to prevent the omission of information being made available for scrutiny.*
  - 1.1.3 Acknowledges that it was agreed on the Strategic Commissioning Team involving councillors and lay members of EIJB, including or as well as Trade Union representatives, make up the numbers within the group, along with council officers.*
  - 1.1.4 Acknowledges the inadequacy of the Bed Based Review (BBR) and agrees to make public the financial cost of the initiative to date.*
  - 1.1.5 Recommends this approach to the City of Edinburgh Council meeting to be held on 22 June 2023.*
- 7) To agree the approach recommended by the Finance and Resources Committee.

- 8) To call for a report to the next meeting of Finance and Resources Committee, after consultation with health and social care spokespeople, with options for meanwhile use within the care sector for Drumbrae Care Home.

(References – report by the Chief Executive; Finance and Resources Committee of 20 June 2023 (item no 15); referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted)

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Nicolson made a transparency statement in respect of the above item as a member of Unison.

Councillor Kumar made a transparency statement in respect of the above item as she had an ongoing staff contract with NHS Lothian.

## **6 Adult Support and Protection and Social Work and Social Care Inspection Improvement Plans**

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Details were provided on the actions taken in response to the Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection and the Inspection of Social Work and Social Care including the priorities identified for year 1 and the resources required, at this stage, to implement the improvement actions.

The following questions were submitted in terms of Standing Order 15.2 to the Convener of the Policy and Sustainability Committee and answers provided:

**Question by Councillor Miller** (1) Can the Convener please explain the benefit of two separate improvement plans versus a single integrated plan answering two closely related inspections.

**Answer** (1) The Adult Support and Protection inspection was a Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in Edinburgh and involved partner agencies including NHS Lothian and Police Scotland. The Adult Support and Protection improvement plan submitted to Council has been agreed by partner agencies and was a requirement of the Care Inspectorate. There was discussion that one plan be developed but the clear expectation from the Care Inspectorate to the Chief Social Work Officer and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership Service Director was that a separate plan for Adult Support and Protection was also developed and also that the improvement actions for that plan be prioritised.

Officers drafting the plan have recognised the interdependencies between the 2 improvement plans and that is recognised in the priorities for year 1.

**Question by  
Councillor  
Mumford**

(2) Can the Convener provide a full list of assistance provided to the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership by the “Edinburgh Assistance Programme”

**Answer**

(2) Assistance to the Partnership from the Edinburgh Assistance Programme was mainly provided through consultancy, advice and recommendations and in consultation with the Integration Joint Board and the Chief Executive.

In addition to the consultancy, Edinburgh Assistance Programme supported discussions with the Minister and Scottish Government officials including the use of reserves to increase bed capacity. Furthermore, the Edinburgh Assistance Programme initiated with Public Health Scotland, a Whole System Modelling exercise to prioritise the work with Edinburgh, which a group has been established to take forward, chaired by the Partnership’s Service Director for Strategy.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Thank you very much Council Leader. The supplementary was only just on the answer about the IIAs and I think, which was a little disappointing, because the point of integrated impact assessment is that they should be made, as plans are being made so that you can then assess the plan against the potential impact on marginalised groups and those with protected characteristics of, obviously that's particularly pertinent when we're talking about health and social care, so what options will there be to amend the plan if the IIA comes back and says that actually this will more deeply entrench inequalities, which we think is quite likely so appreciate that there is a process to come after but that completely misunderstands the point of doing any equality impact assessment, thank you.

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Thank you Lord Provost, could I thank Councillor Mumford for her supplementary question. I mean it will be I presume a decision for the IJB to decide what the impact, my understanding is that the IJB did agree this process, but I'm happy to meet with the Interim Chief Officer about exactly how we'll take this forward and absolutely accept Councillor Mumford's point if there are any issues about challenging inequalities that should be brought back to this Council as well.

**Question by Councillor Parker** (3) The report details a number of significant risks to delivery of the improvements required, and plans to deliver change to social care at this scale and pace have not previously been deliverable, so can the Convener please provide his level of assurance of delivery.

**Answer** (3) Given the continued underfunding of the Integration Joint Board which since its conception many years ago has been chronically underfunded by the Government, it's difficult to make that guarantee of the assurance, it is difficult for me to give the delivery as of yet. Work has already begun on implementing the plan and existing resources are being directed at the priorities outlined for year one.

Support from the wider Council departments is also being levied into this through the Chief Social Work Officer, and through collaboration with Children's Services and Corporate Services.

A Principal Social Work Officer and Chief Allied Health Professional have been appointed as dedicated resources for the Partnership, and will lead improvement and embed good quality practice. We will, however, be working to identify the full level of resource required to implement the plan fully. Some of this resource will only be known once improvement work gets underway and where additional resources are required or any risk to delivery, this will be escalated to the Council's Leadership Team and if required, to the Chief Officers Group.

**Question by Councillor Booth** (4) No evaluation of equalities impact has been carried out for either of the improvement plans, can the Convener explain how improvement to adult support & protection, social work and social care services are not expected to have equalities impacts.

**Answer** (4) It was agreed at the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board that an integrated impact assessment be undertaken on the improvement plan. A date is currently being arranged, alongside identifying the right group of attendees to complete the task appropriately.

**Question by Councillor Staniforth** (5) Does the Convener consider a briefing to elected members in advance of full council serves the same purpose as elected members asking questions to officers in a public committee meeting

**Answer**

- (5) I understand there was a briefing on Tuesday from the Interim Chief Officer and his colleagues where members were able to ask whatever questions they could then. I think it's common sense, the briefing was for all members to have facts at their fingertips when required, I understand that the Integration Joint Board have had these discussions before where all the groups in this Chamber are fully represented and would have had ample opportunity to raise questions about this concerns in public. But today, they have been reserved to have them today whilst we're on camera.

That's all the questions I have Lord Provost

**Motion**

- 1) To note the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan submitted to the Care Inspectorate on 29 March 2023.
- 2) To note the progress underway to implement necessary improvements.
- 3) To note the plan attached in appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive to implement further improvements, in response to the Adult Social Work and Social Care Inspection.
- 4) To agree that implementation of the Improvement Plan would be overseen and scrutinised through the Policy and Sustainability Committee.
- 5) To note that additional scrutiny would be undertaken through the EIJB by the Policy and Development Committee, with reports relating to governance referred to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee.
- 6) To agree that an annual review of the Improvement Plan be undertaken that actively engaged stakeholders including people using services and carers.

- moved by Councillor Pogson, seconded by Councillor Watt

**Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan submitted to the Care Inspectorate on 29 March 2023.
- 2) To note the progress underway to implement necessary improvements.
- 3) To note the plan attached in appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive to implement further improvements, in response to the Adult Social Work and Social Care Inspection. Notes the Care Inspectorate report highlighted that people and carers were not given every opportunity to co-produce their supports and therefore requests this plan also explores the opportunity to bring back the Funding Independence Team to support self-directed support.

- 4) To agree that implementation of the Improvement Plan would be overseen and scrutinised through the Policy and Sustainability Committee.
- 5) To note that additional scrutiny would be undertaken through the EIJB by the Policy and Development Committee, with reports relating to governance referred to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee.
- 6) To agree that an annual review of the Improvement Plan be undertaken that actively engaged stakeholders including people using services and carers.
- 7) Agrees the importance of including all staff in the development of the improvement plan and that a strategy is developed to make sure the workforce are integral to the implementation of the plan following Care Inspectorate findings.
- 8) Notes the importance of staff involvement following the Care inspectorate reports findings:
  - *that there was a disconnect between leaders', middle managers' and frontline staffs' views on how well strategic priorities were being implemented and that practicalities were that managing shorter term pressures often took precedence over implementing longer-term strategic priorities.*
  - *For most staff, leaders were not visible in driving priorities for change and improvement and that a proportion of staff would have liked to have seen a clearer link between the strategic vision, service redesign and day-to-day priorities and service delivery.*
  - *Many staff, at practitioner and team level, whilst aware of the general direction of travel, were not familiar with the detail of key strategic change agendas and that there is a need for improvement in the communication between leaders and frontline staff.*

- moved by Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

## **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan submitted to the Care Inspectorate on 29 March 2023.
- 2) To note the progress underway to implement necessary improvements.
- 3) To note the plan attached in appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive to implement further improvements, in response to the Adult Social Work and Social Care Inspection.
- 4) To agree that implementation of the Improvement Plan would be overseen and scrutinised through the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

- 5) To note that additional scrutiny would be undertaken through the EIJB by the Policy and Development Committee, with reports relating to governance referred to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee.
- 6) To agree that an annual review of the Improvement Plan be undertaken that actively engaged stakeholders including people using services and carers.
- 7) Regrets that this plan did not come to Finance & Resources Committee as agreed, which would have allowed Elected Members to question officers on the public record.
- 8) Therefore requests that this plan with any available updates is placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee to allow the public to observe retrospective scrutiny of the plan.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Parker

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 2.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	33 votes
For Amendment 2 (as adjusted)	-	29 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 2 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Staniforth and Work.)

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Pogson:

- 1) To note the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan submitted to the Care Inspectorate on 29 March 2023.
- 2) To note the progress underway to implement necessary improvements.

- 3) To note the plan attached in appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive to implement further improvements, in response to the Adult Social Work and Social Care Inspection. Notes the Care Inspectorate report highlighted that people and carers were not given every opportunity to co-produce their supports and therefore requests this plan also explores the opportunity to bring back the Funding Independence Team to support self-directed support.
- 4) To agree that implementation of the Improvement Plan would be overseen and scrutinised through the Policy and Sustainability Committee.
- 5) To note that additional scrutiny would be undertaken through the EIJB by the Policy and Development Committee, with reports relating to governance referred to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee.
- 6) To agree that an annual review of the Improvement Plan be undertaken that actively engaged stakeholders including people using services and carers.
- 7) To agree the importance of including all staff in the development of the improvement plan and that a strategy be developed to make sure the workforce were integral to the implementation of the plan following Care Inspectorate findings.
- 8) To note the importance of staff involvement following the Care inspectorate reports findings:
  - *that there was a disconnect between leaders', middle managers' and frontline staffs' views on how well strategic priorities were being implemented and that practicalities were that managing shorter term pressures often took precedence over implementing longer-term strategic priorities.*
  - *For most staff, leaders were not visible in driving priorities for change and improvement and that a proportion of staff would have liked to have seen a clearer link between the strategic vision, service redesign and day-to-day priorities and service delivery.*
  - *Many staff, at practitioner and team level, whilst aware of the general direction of travel, were not familiar with the detail of key strategic change agendas and that there is a need for improvement in the communication between leaders and frontline staff.*

(Reference: report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

## **7 Senior Councillor Remuneration**

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Approval was sought to pay a senior councillor remuneration for the two co-conveners of the Green Group.



## **Motion**

To authorise the senior councillor allowances for Councillors Mumford and Parker from 23 June 2023.

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Jenkinson

## **Amendment**

Council notes that Council allocated one Leaders allowance per opposition Group and that it is for the respective Groups to determine how they fill this single Senior Councillor Post.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Mowat

At this point in the meeting the Amendment was withdrawn.

## **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Meagher.

(References: Act of Council No 7 of 22 September 2022; report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

## **8 Appointment of Service Director, Finance and Procurement**

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Details were provided on the Recruitment Committee of 16 June 2023 and approval sought for the permanent appointment of a Service Director, Finance and Procurement.

## **Decision**

To approve the recommendation of the Recruitment Committee and appoint to the role of Service Director, Finance and Procurement.

(References: report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **9 Elected Member Champions**

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In response to a motion by Councillor Fullerton details were provided on the position of the elected member champions from the previous administration together with recommendations for a streamlined number of champion positions.

## **Motion**

- 1) To note the review of the elected member champion role from the previous administration.
- 2) Agrees that the Lord Provost retain the role as veterans and volunteering champion and that these positions are tied to the duties of the Lord Provost.

- 3) Agrees all other Champion positions are discontinued, given the further cross-party engagement with the newly established Working Groups.

- moved by Councillor Jenkinson, seconded by Councillor Arthur

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the review of the elected member champion role from the previous administration.
- 2) To agree the recommended streamlined champion roles, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services with the following additions:

Active Travel Champion  
Child Poverty Champion  
Equalities Champion  
Festivals Champion  
Homelessness Champion  
Veterans Champion

- 3) Notes that Veterans and Volunteering Champion/Ambassador have historically been the Lord Provost and agrees these remain the defined role of the Lord Provost.
- 4) Agrees the full amended list set out in section 1.2/appendix 2 of the report represents the needs of the Council and wider City to challenge, champion and drive change in areas and notes this is different from the role of a Convenor.

- moved by Councillor McNeese-Mechan, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the review of the elected member champion role from the previous administration.
- 2) To agree the recommended streamlined champion roles, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services
- 3) Agrees that, as part of their duties for which they receive a special responsibility allowance, conveners should champion the interests of the groups and causes set out in the report appendices.

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Young

### **Amendment 3**

- 1) Notes that while only six responses were received from the survey, there were only seven qualifying returning councillors who could fill this out, pre-determining a small sample size;

- 2) Notes that of these seven qualifying councillors, five felt that being a champion was distinct from that of being a convener;
- 3) Believes that champion roles are most useful where they are focused not on broad policy areas already covered by committees, but on more specialised areas, and that the role of the champion should be to provide insight about and scrutiny of the issue they champion across committees and in areas where their special interest may not be given the attention it deserves;
- 4) Believes that the role of champion can best be fulfilled when held by a Councillor not in administration to provide focused scrutiny;
- 5) To note the review of the elected member champion role from the previous administration;
- 6) Agrees in principle to retain the model of Councillor champions for specific special interests;
- 7) Agrees these should be held by Councillors not in administration;
- 8) Instructs officers to hold a roundtable discussion with party leaders or representatives to discuss potential champion roles going forward, following the model of the working group discussions, and to bring new recommendations to the August 31 meeting of the Council.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Heap

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 3 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted):	-	33 votes
For Amendment 1(as adjusted):	-	18 votes
For Amendment 3:	-	11 votes

For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Nicolson, and Work.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Bandel, Booth, Burgess, Heap, McKenzie, Miller, Mumford, O'Neill, Parker, Rae and Staniforth.)

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Jenkinson:

- 1) To note the review of the elected member champion role from the previous administration.
- 2) To agree that the Lord Provost retain the role as veterans and volunteering champion and that these positions be tied to the duties of the Lord Provost.
- 3) To agree all other Champion positions be discontinued, given the further cross-party engagement with the newly established Working Groups.
- 4) To agree that, as part of their duties for which they received a special responsibility allowance, conveners should champion the interests of the groups and causes set out in the appendices to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(References: Act of Council No 22 of 27 October 2022; report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

## **10 Office of Lord Provost: Year 1 Annual Report 2022/23**

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Details were provided on the activity and outcomes of the Lord Provost in the first year of the current administration from May 2022 to May 2023.

### **Motion**

- 1) To welcome this first annual report under the current administration.
- 2) To note the level of activity undertaken in 2022/23 and endorse the way forward as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.9 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To thank the Depute Lord Provost, Bailies and Lord Provost Consort for their support and assistance to the Lord Provost.
- 4) To note the Scheme of Delegated Authority for the Council's Civic Hospitality Policy and agree that the celebration of major anniversaries should normally be restricted to multiples of 25 years (but that exceptions can be made).

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To welcome this first annual report under the current administration.

- 2) To note the level of activity undertaken in 2022/23 and endorse the way forward as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.9 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To thank the Depute Lord Provost, Bailies and Lord Provost Consort for their support and assistance to the Lord Provost.
- 4) To note the Scheme of Delegated Authority for the Council's Civic Hospitality Policy and agree that the celebration of major anniversaries should normally be restricted to multiples of 25 years (but that exceptions can be made).
- 5) Regrets that the Progress Pride flag has not flown continuously through pride Month. Further regrets the European flag has not flown, as it had previously, despite Edinburgh's continuing membership of Eurocities and status as a proud European Capital. Notes the importance of using City Chambers as a beacon of inclusion for all citizens and requests that the Lord Provost ensures there is a space for European Flag to fly all year around and the Progress Pride flag for the whole month of Pride.

- moved by Councillor McNeese-Mechan, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

## **Amendment 2**

- 1) To welcome this first annual report under the current administration.
- 2) To note the level of activity undertaken in 2022/23 and endorse the way forward as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.9 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To thank the Depute Lord Provost, Bailies and Lord Provost Consort for their support and assistance to the Lord Provost.
- 4) To note the Scheme of Delegated Authority for the Council's Civic Hospitality Policy and agree that the celebration of major anniversaries should normally be restricted to multiples of 25 years (but that exceptions can be made).
- 5) Agrees to refer this report to Policy and Sustainability Committee.

- moved by Councillor Rae, seconded by Councillor Parker

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 2.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion	-	33 votes
For Amendment 2 (as adjusted)	-	28 votes
Abstentions	-	1

(For the Motion: Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 2 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Staniforth and Work.

Abstentions: Councillor McKenzie.)

## **Decision**

To approve motion by the Lord Provost.

(Reference: report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

## **11 Impact of Charging for Visitor Access to St Giles' Cathedral**

---

Details were provided on the possible impacts of charges for non-worshipping visitors to St Giles' Cathedral.

## **Motion**

To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on the possible impacts of charging for non-worshippers to enter St Giles' Cathedral.

- moved by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, seconded by Councillor Faccenda

## **Amendment**

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on the possible impacts of charging for non-worshippers to enter St Giles' Cathedral.
- 2) Welcomes the additional engagement with St Giles.
- 3) Notes that the nearest public accessible toilet to the High Street is around a ten minute journey on foot, and longer for those using wheelchairs or with buggies.
- 4) Notes that while the paper from April 2021 identified Premier Parks as the first priority for public toilet provision, the second was "At locations which are promoted as places for a higher number of visitors".

- 5) Requests officers investigate the possibility of allowing public access to facilities at the City Chambers and Waverley Court, and include an initial scoping of this in the next update relating to public provision of toilets to a relevant committee.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

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

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron:

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on the possible impacts of charging for non-worshippers to enter St Giles' Cathedral.
- 2) To welcome the additional engagement with St Giles.
- 3) To note that the nearest public accessible toilet to the High Street was around a ten minute journey on foot, and longer for those using wheelchairs or with buggies.
- 4) To note that while the paper from April 2021 identified Premier Parks as the first priority for public toilet provision, the second was "At locations which are promoted as places for a higher number of visitors".
- 5) To request officers investigate the possibility of allowing public access to facilities at the City Chambers and Waverley Court, and include an initial scoping of this in the next update relating to public provision of toilets to a relevant committee.

(References: Act of Council No 9 of 16 March 2023; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.).

## **12 Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill**

---

An update on the proposed Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was provided together with an outline of the Council's current policy position. The proposed parameters of the scheme were to be developed further and reported to Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2023.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note that the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was laid in the Scottish Parliament on 24 May 2023.
- 2) To note the Council's previously agreed position on a Visitor Levy (VL) for Edinburgh.

- 3) To note that the Bill sets out the current requirements for the Council to undertake in order to introduce a VL and that the earliest time a VL could be introduced could be from 2026.
- 4) To note that a report would be submitted to Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2023 setting out the proposed parameters of the Scheme and making recommendations on the Council's response to the Bill.
- 5) Further agrees that there should be more freedom in how the revenue raised through any visitor levy is allocated across the Council budget, in order to mitigate against issues facing Edinburgh residents.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

#### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note that the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was laid in the Scottish Parliament on 24 May 2023.
- 2) To note the Council's previously agreed position on a Visitor Levy (VL) for Edinburgh.
- 3) To note that the Bill sets out the current requirements for the Council to undertake in order to introduce a VL and that the earliest time a VL could be introduced could be from 2026.
- 4) To note that a report would be submitted to Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2023 setting out the proposed parameters of the Scheme and making recommendations on the Council's response to the Bill.
- 5) Agrees that the Council Leader and Council Officers will lobby the Government publicly and directly for the proposed powers to accommodate the Edinburgh TVL scheme as approved in February 2019 as the official Council position. Further agrees the draft consultation response presented to Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2023 for decision will reflect the policy as approved by Council in February 2019.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

#### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note that the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was laid in the Scottish Parliament on 24 May 2023.
- 2) To note the Council's previously agreed position on a Visitor Levy (VL) for Edinburgh.
- 3) To note that the Bill sets out the current requirements for the Council to undertake in order to introduce a VL and indicates that the earliest time a VL could be introduced could be from 2026.



- 4) To note that a report would be submitted to Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2023 setting out the proposed parameters of the Scheme and making recommendations on the Council's response to the Bill.
- 5) Requests that in advance of the meeting of the Policy & Sustainability Committee Officers engage with the Scottish Parliament and CoSLA to determine:
  - what work can be done by local authorities in tandem with the Bill process and whether any consultations can run concurrently to allow for earlier implementations;
  - whether any elements of the statement of objectives are in conflict with Edinburgh's previously stated objectives for the Bill.

And that this be reported back to the August meeting either as part of the report or as a verbal update.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

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

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the Motion and Amendment 2 were accepted as addendums to Amendment 1.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	44 votes
For the Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	18 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, McKenzie, Meagher, Miller, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumfords, Munro, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Nicolson, and Work.)

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note that the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was laid in the Scottish Parliament on 24 May 2023.

- 2) To note the Council's previously agreed position on a Visitor Levy (VL) for Edinburgh.
- 3) To note that the Bill set out the current requirements for the Council to undertake in order to introduce a VL and indicated that the earliest time a VL could be introduced would be from 2026.
- 4) To note that a report would be submitted to Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2023 setting out the proposed parameters of the Scheme and making recommendations on the Council's response to the Bill.
- 5) To further agree that there should be more freedom in how the revenue raised through any visitor levy was allocated across the Council budget, in order to mitigate against issues facing Edinburgh residents.
- 6) To request that in advance of the meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee, Officers engage with the Scottish Parliament and CoSLA to determine:
  - what work could be done by local authorities in tandem with the Bill process and whether any consultations could run concurrently to allow for earlier implementations;
  - whether any elements of the statement of objectives were in conflict with Edinburgh's previously stated objectives for the Bill.

and that this be reported back to the August meeting either as part of the report or as a verbal update.

(References: Policy and Sustainability Committee of 1 November 2022 (item 12); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.).

## **13 Family Swim Sessions in Braidburn Pool**

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In response to a motion by Councillor Arthur, details were provided on the current position with extra-curricular swimming lessons for learners with Additional Support Needs, and their families.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on special needs swimming lessons at Braidburn Pool.
- 2) To ask that there be further discussions, as soon as practicable, with Edinburgh Leisure regarding the Health and Safety and staffing issues and about how these barriers might be overcome; and that a briefing note is provided to Councillors following these discussions.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Arthur

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on special needs swimming lessons at Braidburn Pool.
- 2) Council regrets the lack of substantive action detailed in the report, especially given that this report was withdrawn from the City of Edinburgh Council meeting held on 1 June 2023.
- 3) Council agrees that the Chief Executive allocates funding (up to £17 000) from unallocated reserves immediately in order to ensure that the ASN swimming sessions will continue at Gracemount Leisure Centre for the session 23/24.
- 4) Council agrees that officers, in concert with Edinburgh Leisure officers, will investigate further sources of income to ensure longer term sustainability, including the option of a charging regime for parents and will bring back a report to Council within 3 cycles.
- 5) Council further agrees officers will continue to investigate the resumption of ASN swimming sessions at Braidburn School in order to cater for those children and families coping with the most severe and complex disabilities and will bring back a report to Council within 3 cycles including full details of the relevant financial, H&S and staffing issues that have been identified and how these will be overcome.

- moved by Councillor Key, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on special needs swimming lessons at Braidburn Pool.
- 2) Notes under next steps that officers will continue to work with Edinburgh Leisure on how to support access to specialist family swim sessions.
- 3) Agrees to provide an update in two cycles in the Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin on any progress.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion, and Amendment 2 was accepted in full as an addendum to the Motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on special needs swimming lessons at Braidburn Pool.

- 2) To ask that there be further discussions, as soon as practicable, with Edinburgh Leisure regarding the Health and Safety and staffing issues and about how these barriers might be overcome; and that a briefing note be provided to Councillors following these discussions.
- 3) To regret the lack of substantive action detailed in the report, especially given that this report was withdrawn from the City of Edinburgh Council meeting held on 1 June 2023.
- 4) To agree that the Chief Executive allocate funding (up to £17 000) from unallocated reserves immediately in order to ensure that the ASN swimming sessions would continue at Gracemount Leisure Centre for the session 23/24.
- 5) To agree that officers, in concert with Edinburgh Leisure officers, would investigate further sources of income to ensure longer term sustainability, including the option of a charging regime for parents and bring back a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee within 3 cycles.
- 6) To further agree officers would continue to investigate the resumption of ASN swimming sessions at Braidburn School in order to cater for those children and families coping with the most severe and complex disabilities and bring back a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee within 3 cycles including full details of the relevant financial, Health and Safety and staffing issues that had been identified and how these would be overcome.
- 7) To note under next steps that officers would continue to work with Edinburgh Leisure on how to support access to specialist family swim sessions.
- 8) To agree to provide an update in two cycles in the Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin on any progress.

(References: Act of Council No 33 of 4 May 2023; report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted.).

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Key made a transparency statement in respect of the above item as a member of a family who benefitted the Special Needs Swimming Sessions in Braidburn School Pool

Councillors Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dixon, and Staniforth made transparency statements in respect of the above item as Directors of Edinburgh Leisure.

## **14 Children's Houses**

---

In response to a motion by Councillor Key, details were provided on the Council's Children's Houses that provided care to young people within Edinburgh.

## **Decision**

To note the details of the Children's Houses that provided care to young people within Edinburgh and to arrange members' visits to them within this calendar year, 2023.

(References: Act of Council No 20 of 4 May 2023; report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted.).

## **15 Unaudited Annual Accounts, 2022/23**

---

Details were provided on the Council's 2022/23 Unaudited Annual Accounts prior to their submission to the external auditor. The statements detailed the financial position and performance of the Council, together with that of the wider Council Group, for the year ending 31 March 2023 and a summary of the draft outturn position.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note that the unaudited annual accounts for 2022/23 would be submitted to the external auditor by the statutory date.
- 2) To note that the provisional outturn position showed an overall underspend of £13.748m and that this sum had been set aside in reserves at this time given wider pressures and risks, including those within the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, and pending the outcome of the audit process.
- 3) To note that a more detailed revenue and capital outturn analysis would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee in September 2023.
- 4) To note the intention to submit the audited annual accounts and annual auditor's report initially to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee and thereafter to the Finance and Resources Committee in September 2023, for approval.
- 5) To agree the Chief Finance Officer would meet with Group Leaders and Finance Spokespeople to discuss proposals on how the underspend was allocated and a report brought to the Finance and Resources Committee to consider the outcome of discussions.
- 6) To agree that no proposals would be brought forward before the Finance and Resources Committee Meeting in September.

(Reference: report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.).

## **17 Review of Contract Standing Orders - referral from the Finance and Resources Committee**

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The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the Review of Contract Standing Orders to the City of Edinburgh Council for approval.

## Decision

To approve the Revised Contract Standing Orders.

(References: Finance and Resources Committee of 20 June 2023 (item 10); referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## 18 Supporting Community Climate Action – Motion by Councillor Parker

---

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes that becoming a net zero city by 2030 is a core priority of the Council’s business plan and that “engaging and empowering citizens to help tackle climate change” is a key focus of the Council’s 2030 Climate Strategy which underpins delivery of this priority.
- 2) Welcomes the work of EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ Council) and SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) to develop proposals for a Community Climate Hub where groups can co-ordinate and share resources around climate action, building on the success of the Community Climate Forum which is already supported by the Council.
- 3) Notes that overwhelming feedback from community groups through the Community Climate Forum highlights the need for a physical space where groups can meet and coordinate activity, and that a central Community Climate Hub could serve this function.
- 4) Welcomes that the Scottish Government has made £4.3m available for community groups, charities and social enterprises to apply for up to £250k to set up and lead Climate Action Hubs in local authorities across Scotland.

Further, Council agrees that:

- 5) In principle, creation of a Community Climate Hub would be positive for the city and help the Council to deliver its Climate Strategy by creating space for residents to meaningfully engage on issues relating to climate and sustainability, and that this could be a valuable resource for the Council too.
- 6) Given its role in developing the 2030 Climate Strategy and through its leadership and influence on climate action in the city already, the Council should be engaged with any Community Climate Hub that is created to ensure a joinedup approach as part of delivery of the 2030 Climate Strategy.

Therefore, requests that:

- 7) Officers explore how the Council could support EVOC / SCCAN and community groups with “in-kind” support throughout the bid writing process to secure funding for the development of a Community Climate Hub.
- 8) Officers also explore through its estates teams if there are any central spaces which could be leased by the Community Climate Hub if it is successful in securing funding, as part of its commitment to delivering a net zero city by 2030
- 9) Officers report back on actions 7) and 8) at the next Climate and Sustainability APOG.”

The Council had heard a deputation from Edinburgh Community Climate Forum and Edinburgh Community Climate Network (see item 1(b) above).

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Parker.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Bandel

### **Amendment**

In paragraph 9) of the motion by Councillor Parker, delete “Climate & Sustainability APOG” and insert “Policy & Sustainability Committee”

- moved by Councillor Beal, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

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

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Parker:

- 1) Notes that becoming a net zero city by 2030 is a core priority of the Council's business plan and that “engaging and empowering citizens to help tackle climate change” is a key focus of the Council's 2030 Climate Strategy which underpins delivery of this priority.
- 2) Welcomes the work of EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council) and SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) to develop proposals for a Community Climate Hub where groups can co-ordinate and share resources around climate action, building on the success of the Community Climate Forum which is already supported by the Council.
- 3) Notes that overwhelming feedback from community groups through the Community Climate Forum highlights the need for a physical space where

groups can meet and coordinate activity, and that a central Community Climate Hub could serve this function.

- 4) Welcomes that the Scottish Government has made £4.3m available for community groups, charities and social enterprises to apply for up to £250k to set up and lead Climate Action Hubs in local authorities across Scotland.

Further, Council agrees that:

- 5) In principle, creation of a Community Climate Hub would be positive for the city and help the Council to deliver its Climate Strategy by creating space for residents to meaningfully engage on issues relating to climate and sustainability, and that this could be a valuable resource for the Council too.
- 6) Given its role in developing the 2030 Climate Strategy and through its leadership and influence on climate action in the city already, the Council should be engaged with any Community Climate Hub that is created to ensure a joinedup approach as part of delivery of the 2030 Climate Strategy.

Therefore, requests that:

- 7) Officers explore how the Council could support EVOC / SCCAN and community groups with “in-kind” support throughout the bid writing process to secure funding for the development of a Community Climate Hub.
- 8) Officers also explore through its estates teams if there are any central spaces which could be leased by the Community Climate Hub if it is successful in securing funding, as part of its commitment to delivering a net zero city by 2030
- 9) Officers report back on actions 7) and 8) to the Climate and Sustainability APOG and the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

## **19 Student Homelessness Crisis – Motion by Councillor Parker**

---

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

“Committee:

- 1) Notes with concern reports from the student group ‘Slurp: students for Action on Homelessness’ that, last year:
  - 20.8% of second to fifth year undergraduates did not have their name on a tenancy agreement at the start of teaching in Semester 1
  - 8.7% of second to fifth year undergraduates did not have their name on a tenancy agreement by Week 5 of teaching in Semester 1
  - 78.6% of undergraduates are worried about where they will live next year



- 2) Notes that whilst the university has reported taking some steps to address this such as through its “Accommodation Guarantee” and making some temporary accommodation available within its estate for students experiencing homelessness, the student community reports that this response is inadequate for the scale of the problem.
- 3) Recognises that this is a crisis, and a joined-up response from the Council and University will be important to address it, and that this might include thinking about more creative solutions, such as supporting the creation of more student housing co-operatives to address needs.

Therefore, requests:

- 4) The Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee organises a clerked meeting in advance of Semester 1 of the 2023/2024 academic year with representatives from the University, Slurp campaign, student housing co-operative, each political group, Council officers and any other relevant, interested parties to discuss the crisis.
- 5) In advance of the meeting, officers prepare a short briefing note for attendees at the meeting outlining how the Council and University of Edinburgh currently work together to tackle issues relating to student housing and homelessness.”

The Council had heard a deputation from Slurp: Students for Action on Homelessness on this issue (see item 1(c) above).

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Parker

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Rae

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To delete part 3 of the motion by Councillor Parker and replace with:

“Recognises that this is a crisis, and a joined-up response from Edinburgh’s Universities and Edinburgh College will be important to address it, and that this might include thinking about more creative solutions, such as supporting the creation of more student housing co-operatives to address needs.

Notes that regular meetings take place between Council officers, elected members, the Universities and students, most recently on 19 June 2023.”
- 2) To delete parts 4 and 5 of the motion and replace with:

“That the next meeting of the aforementioned group takes place before Semester 1 of the 2023/2024 academic year with representatives from all Edinburgh Universities, Slurp campaign, student housing co-operative, members of the Planning and Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work

committees, Council officers and any other relevant, interested parties to further discuss the crisis.

In advance of the meeting, officers prepare a short briefing note for attendees outlining how the Council, through its planning function, and Edinburgh's Universities currently work together to tackle issues relating to student housing and homelessness."

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Pogson

## **Amendment 2**

Council

Deletes paragraph 3 – 5 of the motion by Councillor Parker and replaces with:

- "3) Recognises Edinburgh's housing crisis, and a joined-up holistic response from the Council, Scottish Government, Universities, tenants unions, and others, will be important to address it, and that this might include thinking about more creative solutions, such as supporting the creation of more student housing co-operatives to address needs, such as the Edinburgh Student Housing Co-Op model at Bruntsfield, and build on the roundtable discussions held in January 2023 at the Scottish Parliament, the roundtable in May 2023 at the Scottish Parliament as well as the session on Student Housing in June 2023.
- 4) Requests the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Convener writes to the Scottish Government to request an update, as a matter of urgency, for when the recommendations from the PBSA (Purpose-Built Student Accommodation) review will be published.
- 5) Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Convener requests the Universities (University of Edinburgh, Heriot Watt, Queen Margaret University and Napier) host a meeting with the National Union of Students, Slurp, The City of Edinburgh Council, Student Housing Co-operatives, the Scottish Government Housing Minister, and any other relevant, interested parties."

- moved by Councillor Flannery, seconded by Councillor Caldwell

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and accepted as amendment to the motion.

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Parker:

- 1) To note with concern reports from the student group 'Slurp: students for Action on Homelessness' that, last year:
  - 20.8% of second to fifth year undergraduates did not have their name on a tenancy agreement at the start of teaching in Semester 1

- 8.7% of second to fifth year undergraduates did not have their name on a tenancy agreement by Week 5 of teaching in Semester 1
  - 78.6% of undergraduates were worried about where they will live next year.
- 2) To note that whilst the university had reported taking some steps to address this such as through its “Accommodation Guarantee” and making some temporary accommodation available within its estate for students experiencing homelessness, the student community reported that this response was inadequate for the scale of the problem.
  - 3) To recognise that this was one part of the city’s housing crisis, and a joined-up holistic response from the Council, Scottish Government, Universities, tenants unions, Edinburgh College, and others, would be important to address it, and that this might include thinking about more creative solutions, such as supporting the creation of more student housing co-operatives to address needs, such as the Edinburgh Student Housing Co-Op model at Bruntsfield, and build on the roundtable discussions held in January 2023 at the Scottish Parliament, the roundtable in May 2023 at the Scottish Parliament as well as the session on Student Housing in June 2023.
  - 4) To note that regular meetings take place between Council officers, elected members, the Universities and students, most recently on 19 June 2023.
  - 5) To request that the next meeting of the aforementioned group take place before Semester 1 of the 2023/2024 academic year with representatives from all Edinburgh Universities, Slurp campaign, student housing co-operative, members of the Planning and Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committees, Council officers, Scottish Government, NUS and any other relevant, interested parties to further discuss the crisis.
  - 6) To request in advance of the meeting, officers prepare a short briefing note for attendees outlining how the Council, through its planning function, and Edinburgh’s Universities currently work together to tackle issues relating to student housing and homelessness.
  - 7) To request the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Convener write to the Scottish Government to request an update, as a matter of urgency, for when the recommendations from the PBSA (Purpose-Built Student Accommodation) review would be published.

## 20 Haymarket Square Construction – Motion by Councillor McKenzie

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

“Council:

Notes that:

- 1) Construction work at Haymarket Square began in March 2020 and is expected to continue until the end of 2025. Prior to this work, there had been two years of work to strengthen the railway tunnels.
- 2) This construction has caused noise pollution with knock-on mental health impacts, and in some cases, loss of earnings for local residents.
- 3) The building which is currently under construction will sit adjacent to the Dalry Colonies and will be leased to the Council for 25 years for the ‘Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) hotel and hotel school project’.
- 4) The final business case for this project states “the Council’s involvement is driving betterment of what would otherwise happen”.

Recognises that:

- 5) The Council allows construction work to take place from 7am until 7pm, Monday to Saturday.
- 6) This policy has never been updated post-covid to consider the impact of construction noise on residents, with increased impact on people who are working from home, working nights or with caring responsibilities.
- 7) An assessment of the impact of noise on local residents has not been conducted since construction began.
- 8) The development of a positive, supportive relationship between the hotel and the residents of the Dalry Colonies will be important for the success of the project.

Requests that:

- 9) Elected members who sit on the EICC Board should convene a meeting between representatives of Sir Robert McAlpine, Dalry Colonies Residents Association and QMile.
- 10) This meeting should take place within 2 weeks and should consider the following requests from neighbouring residents:

- a) Construction work should not begin before 9am on weekends. Site access – including the moving of vehicles – should not be permitted before 9am
- b) Site management should review the need for frequent use of horns, sirens and other loud site noise with workers requested to be considerate of the neighbours.
- c) Confirmation that post-construction surveys will take place to assess potential damage to neighbouring properties as a result of the development.”

The Council had heard a deputation from Dalry Colonies Residents’ Association on this issue (see item 1(d) above).

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor McKenzie.

- moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Heap

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To add the following two paragraphs after Paragraph 4 of the motion by Councillor McKenzie and renumber paragraphs under “Council notes” heading accordingly:

“The delivery of the EICC Hotel and Hotel School Project is via a partnership between M&G Real Estate, the QMile Group, Hyatt Hotels and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Recent discussion between CEC and Sir Robert McAlpine about local residents’ concerns of noisy construction works and a lack of contractor communication with residents, resulted in an agreement that planned ducting works from 14 June 2023 are undertaken with a finish time of 19:00 hrs, and that Sir Robert McAlpine is undertaking a letter drop to all conterminous proprietors in the development area, including the colony houses.”

- 2) In Paragraph 9 of the motion, replace:

“Elected members who sit on the EICC Board” with “Ward 7 Councillors.”

Thereafter, add the following paragraph:

“Council agrees the Planning Committee receive a report in one cycle to consider any actions of additional controls or amendments to permissions which would reduce the impact of construction work to nearby residents for all

new developments, to establish a more neighbour- friendly pattern of working for major construction and active sites.”

- moved by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, seconded by Councillor Dalglish

## **Amendment 2**

Delete from point 3 of the motion by Councillor McKenzie onwards and replace with:

“Agrees the Planning Committee receive a report in one cycle to consider any actions of additional controls or amendments to permissions which would reduce the impact of construction work to nearby residents to establish a more neighbour-friendly pattern of working for all major new and active construction sites.”

- moved by Councillor Fullerton, seconded by Councillor McFarlane

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the Motion was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to Amendment 2.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	44 votes
For Amendment 2 (as adjusted)	-	18 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, McKenzie, Meagher, Miller, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumford, Munro, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 2 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Nicolson, and Work.)

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor McKenzie:

- 1) To note that construction work at Haymarket Square began in March 2020 and was expected to continue until the end of 2025. Prior to this work, there had been two years of work to strengthen the railway tunnels.
- 2) To note that this construction had caused noise pollution with knock-on mental health impacts, and in some cases, loss of earnings for local residents.

- 3) To note that the building which was currently under construction would sit adjacent to the Dalry Colonies and would be leased to the Council for 25 years for the 'Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) hotel and hotel school project'.
- 4) To note that the final business case for this project stated "the Council's involvement is driving betterment of what would otherwise happen".
- 5) To note that the delivery of the EICC Hotel and Hotel School Project was via a partnership between M&G Real Estate, the QMile Group, Hyatt Hotels and the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 6) To note the recent discussion between CEC and Sir Robert McAlpine about local residents' concerns of noisy construction works and a lack of contractor communication with residents, resulted in an agreement that planned ducting works from 14 June 2023 were undertaken with a finish time of 19:00 hrs, and that Sir Robert McAlpine was undertaking a letter drop to all conterminous proprietors in the development area, including the colony houses
- 7) To recognise the Council allowed construction work to take place from 7am until 7pm, Monday to Saturday.
- 8) To recognise that this policy had never been updated post-covid to consider the impact of construction noise on residents, with increased impact on people who were working from home, working nights or with caring responsibilities.
- 9) To reconise that an assessment of the impact of noise on local residents had not been conducted since construction began.
- 10) To recognise that the development of a positive, supportive relationship between the hotel and the residents of the Dalry Colonies would be important for the success of the project.
- 11) To request that Ward 7 Councillors convene a meeting between representatives of Sir Robert McAlpine, Dalry Colonies Residents Association and QMile.
- 12) To request that this meeting should take place within 2 weeks and should consider the following requests from neighbouring residents:
  - a) Construction work should not begin before 9am on weekends. Site access – including the moving of vehicles – should not be permitted before 9am.
  - b) Site management should review the need for frequent use of horns, sirens and other loud site noise with workers requested to be considerate of the neighbours.

- c) Confirmation that post-construction surveys will take place to assess potential damage to neighbouring properties as a result of the development.”
- 13) To agree that the Planning Committee receive a report in one cycle to consider any actions of additional controls or amendments to permissions which would reduce the impact of construction work to nearby residents for all new developments, to establish a more neighbour- friendly pattern of working for major construction and active sites.

### **Declaration of Interests**

The Lord Provost and Councillors Lezley Mation Cameron, Fullerton, Mumford and Whyte made transparency statements in respect of the above item as Directors of EICC.

## **21 Fuel Poverty Assistance – Motion by Councillor O’Neill**

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The following motion by Councillor O’Neill was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22(5):

“Council:

- 1) Notes with regret that fuel poverty will remain a pertinent issue for many across the city due to inflation and the global energy crisis; and certain groups are at higher risk of extreme poverty – older adults, those on low income and disabled people for example.
- 2) Further notes the UK Government provided £400 off energy bills to eligible households in England, Scotland, and Wales from October 2022 – March 2023 to help households through winter.
- 3) Expresses concern that the levels of unclaimed support are extremely high across Scotland; according to Ofgem, 34% of eligible households in Edinburgh have not redeemed vouchers which equates to £1,374,120.

Therefore requests:

- 4) As soon as possible, the Council Leader writes to local advice and support services across the city to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the support they could access before the deadline.
- 5) Council uses its communication channels to make constituents aware of the deadline of vouchers expiring on 30th June 2023 and the following key facts from Energy Action Scotland;
  - a) The vouchers issued under the scheme are valid for 90 days, expired vouchers can be re-issued through the energy supplier, but all vouchers expire on 30th June when the scheme ends.



- b) If a household is 'storing' their vouchers to redeem later, they must be aware that most pre-payment meters can only hold up to around £250 of energy credit at a time.
- c) If a household didn't receive, has lost their voucher or had it expire, then they must ask their supplier for a new one to be reissued.
- d) All eligible pre-payment meter households should have received all six of their vouchers by now. These will have been sent from their energy supplier by post, email or text message.
- e) If the voucher was initially sent by post, people can ask their supplier to send it by email or text message instead."

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor O'Neill.

- moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Heap

### **Amendment**

To add at the end of the motion by Councillor O'Neill:

"f) Those on 'alternative methods' – such as park homes or in care homes - also need to apply and redeem their vouchers by 30th June."

- moved by Councillor Beal, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

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

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor O'Neill:

- 1) To note with regret that fuel poverty would remain a pertinent issue for many across the city due to inflation and the global energy crisis; and certain groups were at higher risk of extreme poverty – older adults, those on low income and disabled people for example.
- 2) To further note the UK Government provided £400 off energy bills to eligible households in England, Scotland, and Wales from October 2022 – March 2023 to help households through winter.
- 3) To express concern that the levels of unclaimed support were extremely high across Scotland; according to Ofgem, 34% of eligible households in Edinburgh had not redeemed vouchers which equated to £1,374,120.

- 4) To request that as soon as possible, the Council Leader write to local advice and support services across the city to ensure as many people as possible were aware of the support they could access before the deadline.
- 5) To request that the Council uses its communication channels to make constituents aware of the deadline of vouchers expiring on 30th June 2023 and the following key facts from Energy Action Scotland;
  - a) The vouchers issued under the scheme were valid for 90 days, expired vouchers could be re-issued through the energy supplier, but all vouchers expired on 30th June when the scheme ended.
  - b) If a household was 'storing' their vouchers to redeem later, they must be aware that most pre-payment meters could only hold up to around £250 of energy credit at a time.
  - c) If a household didn't receive, had lost their voucher or had it expired, then they must ask their supplier for a new one to be reissued.
  - d) All eligible pre-payment meter households should have received all six of their vouchers by now. These would have been sent from their energy supplier by post, email or text message.
  - e) If the voucher was initially sent by post, people could ask their supplier to send it by email or text message instead.
  - f) Those on 'alternative methods' – such as park homes or in care homes - also needed to apply and redeem their vouchers by 30th June.

## **22 Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) Anomalies – N6 Abbeyhill – Motion by Councillor Whyte**

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

- "1) Council notes that the N6 Abbeyhill CPZ is listed to have "implementation starting 12 June 2023" on the Council website and that a "go live" date is likely to be approximately two months later.
- 2) Council expresses concern that streets that were under development and were still "potentially adoptable" at the time of the initial design and legal process to implement the CPZ remain out with the controls and that work by Council officers to bring these within the CPZ is still in progress with a further legal process still to be undertaken.
- 3) Council recognises that this will create an uncontrolled island area within the CPZ and that residents in those streets will likely be plagued with overspill parking and commuter parking that previously used the surrounding areas. Further, should these streets be full any resident returning home to park for a

period that includes controlled hours would be unable to do so and would have to find a space outside the zone – a minimum of 800m and a ten minute walk from their home.

- 4) Council agrees that a report should be provided to the August Transport and Environment Committee updating the status of the process to include affected streets within the zone N6 controls.
- 5) Council further agrees that the report should explore the possibility of allowing residents in these streets access to an N6 permit prior to that legal process to allow them to park nearer to home while the anomaly is resolved and in line with the policy aims of the CPZ to prioritise resident parking over commuters.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Whyte.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Mowat

### **Amendment 1**

To add after Point 5 in the motion by Councillor Whyte:

- “6) Notes that the process is already underway to address the issues in N6 which the motion refers to.
- 7) Recognises that growth in the city means that it is inevitable that new roads will be constructed in areas where there are existing CPZs.
- 8) Agrees that it is not fair that residents in these new developments should be concerned that they will be under disproportionate pressure from neighbouring streets if they are not included in the CPZ
- 9) Asks that the report coming to the committee (4) sets out a process to ensure that any new roads within the boundary of existing CPZ areas are included in the CPZ as soon as is legally possible. This report should set out the legal implications for both adopted and unadopted roads.
- 10) Agrees that consideration should also be given to finding a mechanism to ensure traffic orders are in place prior to occupancy, to ensure that residents are moving into their properties with a better understanding of how parking will be managed. This would also require developers to be clear on vehicle/parking numbers as part of their sales materials.”

- moved by Councillor Arthur, seconded by Councillor Dalglish

## Amendment 2

To add at the end of the motion by Councillor Whyte:

- “6) Council further agrees that the report updates on the status of all new phase 1 CPZs with a full audit of information of the new controls. This should include, how much total new length of double yellow lines and any other additional controls have been added broken down by:
- improvements to accessibility
  - improvements to connectivity (preventing double parking etc)
  - improved access to utilities like bin hubs
  - improvements to safety at junctions and other areas
  - a full explanation of every stretch of controls that does not fit into the above list.”

- moved by Councillor Aston seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

## Amendment 3

- 1) To amend paragraphs 4 and 5 in the motion by Councillor Whyte to read (changes in bold):

- “4) Council agrees **to receive a Business Bulletin update** to the August Transport and Environment Committee updating the status of the process to include affected streets within the zone N6 controls.
- 5) **Suggests that officers** should explore the possibility of allowing residents in these streets access to an N6 permit prior to that legal process to allow them to park nearer to home while the anomaly is resolved and in line with the policy aims of the CPZ to prioritise resident parking over commuters, **and provide an update in the Business Bulletin.**”

- 2) To add to the motion by Councillor Whyte:

- “6) Agrees to receive a fuller update on any issues that have been arising in the process of introducing controlled parking in relation to new roads and developments and how to resolve them going forward in the next update report on the Strategic Review of Parking at Transport and Environment Committee.”

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor Rae

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 21(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 3.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	33 votes
For Amendment 2	-	18 votes
For Amendment 3 (as adjusted)	-	11 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Nicolson, and Work.

For Amendment 3 (as adjusted): Councillors Bandel, Booth, Burgess, Heap, McKenzie, Miller, Mumford, O'Neill, Parker, Rae and Staniforth.)

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Whyte:

- 1) To note that the N6 Abbeyhill CPZ was listed to have “implementation starting 12 June 2023” on the Council website and that a “go live” date was likely to be approximately two months later.
- 2) To express concern that streets that were under development and were still “potentially adoptable” at the time of the initial design and legal process to implement the CPZ remained out with the controls and that work by Council officers to bring these within the CPZ was still in progress with a further legal process still to be undertaken.
- 3) To recognise that this would create an uncontrolled island area within the CPZ and that residents in those streets would likely be plagued with overspill parking and commuter parking that previously used the surrounding areas. Further, should these streets be full any resident returning home to park for a period that included controlled hours would be unable to do so and would have to find a space outside the zone – a minimum of 800m and a ten minute walk from their home.
- 4) To agree that a report should be provided to the August Transport and Environment Committee updating the status of the process to include affected streets within the zone N6 controls.

- 5) To further agree that the report should explore the possibility of allowing residents in these streets access to an N6 permit prior to that legal process to allow them to park nearer to home while the anomaly is resolved and in line with the policy aims of the CPZ to prioritise resident parking over commuters.”
- 6) To note that the process was already underway to address the issues in N6 which the motion referred to.
- 7) To recognise that growth in the city meant that it was inevitable that new roads would be constructed in areas where there were existing CPZs.
- 8) To agree that it was not fair that residents in these new developments should be concerned that they would be under disproportionate pressure from neighbouring streets if they were not included in the CPZ
- 9) To ask that the report coming to the committee (4 above) set out a process to ensure that any new roads within the boundary of existing CPZ areas were included in the CPZ as soon as was legally possible. This report should set out the legal implications for both adopted and unadopted roads.
- 10) To agree that consideration should also be given to finding a mechanism to ensure traffic orders were in place prior to occupancy, to ensure that residents were moving into their properties with a better understanding of how parking would be managed. This would also require developers to be clear on vehicle/parking numbers as part of their sales materials.

## **23 Energy Efficiency in Homes - Introduction of Long-term Domestic Standards – Motion by Councillor Dalglish**

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

“Council:

- 1) Understands that the Scottish Government will set longterm domestic standards by introducing regulations requiring all residential properties in Scotland to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate rating of at least equivalent to EPC C by 2033, where technically and legally feasible and cost-effective.
- 2) Notes the findings of the Heat in buildings strategy (October 2021) which sets out plans for how the Scottish Government proposes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Scotland’s buildings, via introduction of regulations by 2025 setting energy efficiency standards across all housing tenures.
- 3) Notes that during a time of economic uncertainty and a cost-of-living crisis, many Edinburgh residents will have little to no disposable income to invest in upgrading their homes to the standards set out in the Heat in budlings strategy regulations over the short to medium term.

- 4) Understands the unique nature of Edinburgh as a city with a strong historic fabric, reflected by the presence of 50 Conservation Areas and over 4,000 Listed Buildings, and the significant number of residential properties located within the designated conservation areas and directly and indirectly designated as listed buildings.
- 5) Acknowledges that a wide range of physical alterations and adaptations to residential homes in these cases are subject to regulation including the need for planning permission and listed building consent which will likely be required as part of efforts to achieve greater energy efficiency.
- 6) Acknowledges the ongoing work associated with the Motion by Councillor Osler on Conservation and Adaption, including the completion of the recent consultation which sought views on the additional challenge those living within conservation areas face, when trying to adapt homes to make them more sustainable to improve energy efficiency and notes that the findings of this and the associated working group will be reported to Planning Committee.

Finally, Council requests

- 7) That the Council Leader write to Minister for Housing requesting a meeting to discuss the challenges in residential properties within conservation areas and those which are listed buildings, face when looking to adapt and alter homes to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate rating of at least equivalent to EPC C, and to request further clarification on whether the adaptations required in the context of being technically feasible, legally feasible and cost-effective apply as exemptions to the regulations.
- 8) Furthermore, the Council Leader should discuss with the Minister the possibility of additional funds being allocated to the City of Edinburgh Council to assist with any potential consequences of the regulations found in the Heat in buildings strategy report."
- 9) The outcome of these discussions be circulated to the Housing, Homelessness and fair work Committee, and the Planning Committee via an addition to the Business Bulletin.

## **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Dalglish.

- moved by Councillor Dalglish, seconded by Councillor Meagher

## **Amendment 1**

To add to the motion by Councillor Dalglish:

- 1) At the end of paragraph 5):

“That this can include an assessment before works are carried out; and financial support in the form of grants, or long-term loans, such as the Warmer Homes Scotland fund, for landlords and private tenants.”
- 2) After “The City of Edinburgh Council” in paragraph 8):

“as well as individual residents, Private Rented Sector Landlords and Registered Social Landlords”
- 9) Furthermore the Leader should discuss with the Minister the operation of the exemptions register - namely the threshold level, determination of reasonable exemptions and how frequently people will need to reapply to remain on the register. As the register would apply to all buildings, then the ability of the householder to afford such changes should be taken into account.
- 3) To add an additional paragraph as follows:

“11) The Leader should also discuss further allowances for electric heating – current dwelling Band Cs will only reach Band D in future EPCs.

- moved by Councillor Beal, seconded by Councillor Flannery

## **Amendment 2**

- 1) In paragraph 2 of the Motion by Councillor Dalglish, before “via”, insert “including”
- 2) In paragraph 3 of the Motion, delete ‘budlings’, insert ‘buildings’
- 3) To add at end of paragraph 3, of the Motion

“and further notes that as part of the Heat in Buildings Strategy (HIBS) the Scottish Government has committed to ‘a clear and identified range of financial support mechanisms available to support building owners’ (p.91)”
- 4) In paragraph 5 of the Motion, delete “will likely”, insert “may”
- 5) Insert new paragraph after the existing paragraph 6 of the Motion and renumber existing paragraphs accordingly:

“7) notes that 21% of the population in the City of Edinburgh area are classed as living in fuel poverty, according to Scottish Government statistics published in 2019, and further notes that energy use in



buildings accounts for 68% of territorial greenhouse gas emissions in the CEC area, and the number one priority in the council's approved 2030 Climate Strategy is, "We will accelerate energy efficiency in homes and buildings" (p.6)"

- 6) In the existing paragraph 7 of the Motion, (renumbered as paragraph 8), after 'residential properties', insert, 'including, but not limited to, those'
- 7) To add the following paragraph at the end of the Motion:

"Furthermore, the Council Leader should discuss with the Minister the anticipated financial support mechanisms available to support building owners, as outlined in the HIBS, and specifically how these will support the principles of a just transition and will ensure that those on the lowest incomes are given the most support, and what support will be available for those in listed buildings and conservation areas."

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Rae

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the Motion was adjusted, Amendment 1 accepted as an addendum to the Motion and Amendment 2 adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion.

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Dalglish:

- 1) To understand that the Scottish Government would set longterm domestic standards by introducing regulations requiring all residential properties in Scotland to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate rating of at least equivalent to EPC C by 2033, where technically and legally feasible and cost-effective.
- 2) To note the findings of the Heat in buildings strategy (October 2021) which set out plans for how the Scottish Government proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Scotland's buildings, including via introduction of regulations by 2025 setting energy efficiency standards across all housing tenures.
- 3) To note that during a time of economic uncertainty and a cost-of-living crisis, many Edinburgh residents would have little to no disposable income to invest in upgrading their homes to the standards set out in the Heat in buildings strategy regulations over the short to medium term.
- 4) To understand the unique nature of Edinburgh as a city with a strong historic fabric, reflected by the presence of 50 Conservation Areas and over 4,000 Listed Buildings, and the significant number of residential properties located within the designated conservation areas and directly and indirectly designated as listed buildings.

- 5) To acknowledge that a wide range of physical alterations and adaptations to residential homes in these cases were subject to regulation including the need for planning permission and listed building consent which may be required as part of efforts to achieve greater energy efficiency, that this could include an assessment before works were carried out; and financial support in the form of grants, or long-term loans, such as the Warmer Homes Scotland fund, for landlords and private tenants.
- 6) To acknowledge the ongoing work associated with the motion by Councillor Osler on Conservation and Adaptation, including the completion of the recent consultation which sought views on the additional challenge those living within conservation areas face, when trying to adapt homes to make them more sustainable to improve energy efficiency and notes that the findings of this and the associated working group will be reported to Planning Committee.
- 7) To note that 21% of the population in the City of Edinburgh area were classed as living in fuel poverty, according to Scottish Government statistics published in 2019, and further note that energy use in buildings accounted for 68% of territorial greenhouse gas emissions in the CEC area, and the number one priority in the council's approved 2030 Climate Strategy was, "We will accelerate energy efficiency in homes and buildings" (p.6)
- 8) To agree that the Council Leader write to relevant Ministers requesting a meeting to discuss the challenges in residential properties, including, but not limited to, those within conservation areas and those which were listed buildings, faced when looking to adapt and alter homes to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate rating of at least equivalent to EPC C, and to request further clarification on whether the adaptations required in the context of being technically feasible, legally feasible and cost-effective apply as exemptions to the regulations.
- 9) Furthermore, to agree the Council Leader should discuss with the Minister the possibility of additional funds being allocated to the City of Edinburgh Council as well as individual residents, Private Rented Sector Landlords and Registered Social Landlords to assist with any potential consequences of the regulations found in the Heat in buildings strategy report.
- 10) Furthermore, the Council Leader should discuss with the Minister the anticipated financial support mechanisms available to support building owners, as outlined in the HIBS, and specifically how these would support the principles of a just transition and would ensure that those on the lowest incomes were given the most support, and what support would be available for those in listed buildings and conservation areas.
- 11) Furthermore, the Leader should discuss with the Minister the operation of the exemptions register - namely the threshold level, determination of reasonable exemptions and how frequently people would need to reapply to remain on the

register. As the register would apply to all buildings, then the ability of the householder to afford such changes should be taken into account.

- 12) To agree the outcome of these discussions be circulated to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, and the Planning Committee via an addition to the Business Bulletin.
- 13) To agree the Leader should also discuss further allowances for electric heating – current dwelling Band Cs would only reach Band D in future EPCs.

## **24 Toilet Provision – Motion by Councillor Faccenda**

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

“Council:

Recognises the importance of safe accessible toilets across the city and that the lack of such facilities is a serious impediment to many, especially women, older people and those with certain health conditions to be able to go out, shop and enjoy green spaces.

Furthermore, notes that the toilets at Taylor Gardens in Leith have been closed since lockdown and still show as under repair on the council website.

Council asks for an update to the Transport and Environment Committee on the necessary work required and related costs to reopen the Taylor Garden toilets and what security measures and any staffing that will be required.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Faccenda.

- moved by Councillor Faccenda, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) In paragraph 2 of the Motion by Councillor Faccenda, after Leith insert: “, and the toilets in Nicolson Square in Newington”
- 2) In paragraph 3 of the Motion, after Taylor Garden insert “and Nicolson Square”

- moved by Councillor Flannery, seconded by Councillor Osler

## **Amendment 2**

From “*Council asks for an update.*” in the Motion by Councillor Flannery, delete and replace with:

“Council asks for an update to the next Culture and Communities Committee on;

- a) details of the necessary work and cost required to reopen Taylor Garden toilets, including any security measures and staffing that will be required
- b) summary of city-wide provision of existing public toilets, with specific reference to wheelchair accessible toilets, or lack thereof, in each ward and note of how long toilets have been closed or out of order.
- c) updates on future plans for building and providing public accessible toilets in each ward.”

- moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion and Amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion.

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Faccenda:

- 1) To recognise the importance of safe accessible toilets across the city and that the lack of such facilities was a serious impediment to many, especially women, older people and those with certain health conditions to be able to go out, shop and enjoy green spaces.
- 2) Furthermore, to note that the toilets at Taylor Gardens in Leith and the toilets in Nicolson Square in Newington had been closed since lockdown and still showed as under repair on the council website.
- 3) To ask for an update to the next Culture and Communities Committee on:
  - a) details of the necessary work and cost required to reopen Taylor Garden and Nicolson Square toilets, including any security measures and staffing that would be required;
  - b) a summary of city-wide provision of existing public toilets, with specific reference to wheelchair accessible toilets, or lack thereof, in each ward and note of how long toilets had been closed or out of order;
  - c) an update on future plans for building and providing public accessible toilets in each ward.

## **25 Established Character of Edinburgh's Communities – Motion by Councillor Hyslop**

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

- “1) Notes that Policy HOU 6 of the CityPlan 2030 states that “Planning permission will be granted for purpose-built student accommodation where: d) there will be no adverse impact on the established character of the area”.
- 2) Notes that there have been instances at the Development Management Sub-Committee where questioning of Planning Officers has highlighted challenges in determining the established character of an area.
- 3) Requests that a report be prepared and presented to the Planning Committee within 2 cycles which outlines a strategy for authoritatively determining the established character of communities across Edinburgh with associated potential timescales.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Hyslop.

- moved by Councillor Hyslop, seconded by Councillor Dobbin

### **Amendment 1**

To delete from point 2 in the motion by Councillor Hyslop and replace with:

- “2) Notes that there have been instances at the Development Management Sub-Committee where issues have been highlighted in determining the established character of an area.
- 3) Notes that officers are preparing a report on student housing following a decision of Planning Committee on 24 March.
- 4) Requests that a report on student housing to Planning Committee should consider on how the issue of “established character” can be addressed.
- 5) Notes that no further action will be taken on the issue of defining the character of an area until City Plan 2030 has passed its examination stage and that Planning Committee has had time to scrutinise the requested report in point four.
- 6) Reaffirms our commitment to building balanced communities through the planning process and will continue to press for a more sustainable approach to student accommodation planning policies.

- moved by Councillor Dalglish, seconded by Councillor Jenkinson

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

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Hyslop:

- 1) To note that Policy HOU 6 of the CityPlan 2030 stated that “Planning permission will be granted for purpose-built student accommodation where: d) there will be no adverse impact on the established character of the area.”
- 2) To note that there had been instances at the Development Management Sub-Committee where issues had been highlighted in determining the established character of an area.
- 3) To note that officers were preparing a report on student housing following a decision of Planning Committee on 24 March.
- 4) To request that a report on student housing to Planning Committee should consider on how the issue of “established character” could be addressed.
- 5) To note that no further action would be taken on the issue of defining the character of an area until City Plan 2030 had passed its examination stage and that Planning Committee had had time to scrutinise the requested report in point four.
- 6) To reaffirm the commitment to building balanced communities through the planning process and would continue to press for a more sustainable approach to student accommodation planning policies.

## **26 Abortion Rights – Motion by Councillor Macinnes**

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

“Council:

notes with dismay the recent 28 month prison sentence imposed on a woman who, during the very difficult circumstances of Covid lockdown, choose to exercise her right to an abortion but who was not aware of how advanced her pregnancy was.

Does not consider that a prison sentence is appropriate in these circumstances and calls for a change in attitude and if required legislation to prevent this occurring.

Regrets the excessive punishment, particularly when viewed in comparison to other sentencing guidelines and practice in other fields.

Welcomes those efforts, such as ‘Abortion should not be a crime’, an event hosted by BPAS, Women’s Equality Party and the Fawcett Society, to shine a light on these

issues, to highlight the disparity in the treatment of women in the judicial system, particularly in relation to reproductive rights.

Requests that the Council Leader, in consultation with Group Leaders on content, writes to appropriate Ministers in the UK government, expressing our concern and requesting feedback on how such a situation could be avoided in future. Further requests an additional letter to appropriate Scottish Ministers seeking assurance that Scottish Courts would as things stand not come to the same conclusion and any action the Government plans to further ensure this is the case.”

The Council had heard a deputation from Abortion Rights Scotland on this issue (see item 1(e) above).

### **Motion**

Council:

- 1) Notes with dismay the recent 28 month prison sentence imposed on a woman who, during the very difficult circumstances of Covid lockdown, choose to exercise her reproductive right to an abortion being unaware of how advanced her pregnancy was.
- 2) Does not consider that a prison sentence is appropriate in these circumstances and calls for a change in attitude and if required legislation to prevent this occurring.
- 3) Regrets the excessive punishment, particularly when viewed in comparison to other sentencing guidelines and practice in other fields.
- 4) Notes that abortion currently comes under the category of criminal offence and is not legally available at the request of the person faced with a decision about continuing or ending a pregnancy.
- 5) Notes that the 1967 Abortion Act makes abortion legal subject to certain conditions, including requiring abortion seekers to obtain the approval of two doctors, and that the Offences against the Person Act 1861 does not apply in Scotland, and Abortion Law in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Parliament.
- 6) deletes the words “Scottish Courts” from the last sentence of the final paragraph and replaces with “Scots law”.
- 7) Reiterates that abortion rights are human rights, and we should be vigilant of discriminatory laws that restrict people’s rights to choose what they do with their own bodies.
- 8) Notes with concern, the recent 28 month prison sentence imposed in England on a woman who induced an abortion after the legal time limit, and the impact this custodial sentence will have on her family.

- 9) Remembers those who have suffered because of and who have lost their lives due to arcane abortion laws across the world, including women known as Agnieszka T and Izabela who have recently died in Polish hospitals after being denied medical intervention."
- 10) Welcomes those efforts, such as 'Abortion should not be a crime', an event hosted by BPAS, Women's Equality Party and the Fawcett Society, to shine a light on these issues, to highlight the disparity in the treatment of women in the judicial system, particularly in relation to reproductive rights, and "It Is Time to Decriminalise Abortion" taking place on Thursday 22 June outside the Scottish Parliament organised by Abortion Rights Scotland.

Council agrees that:

- 11) Women have the right to control their own sexual and reproductive health choices;
- 12) Abortion is healthcare, is highly regulated, and should solely be subject to appropriate professional standards in line with any other healthcare procedures, not criminal sanctions, and that abortion services should be available and accessed free from fear of penalty, harassment and intimidation by anyone facing a decision on continuing or terminating a pregnancy.

Council further welcomes:

- 13) Moves towards national legislation on buffer zones and Gillian Mackay MSP Member's Bill in the Scottish Parliament seeking the introduction of buffer zones outside of healthcare settings which offer abortion services; and The Scottish Government's announcement to legislate on buffer zones.
- 14) The recent all-party support given to Gillian Mackay MSP's final proposal which will protect patients and staff from intimidation and harassment as anti-choice protestors will be stopped from targeting medical facilities that provide abortion services including those in Edinburgh, building on work previously done in this council calling for protest-free access to clinics.

And Council therefore agrees to:

- 15) Ask the Council Leader, in consultation on content with the original mover of the motion, writes to appropriate Ministers in the UK government, expressing our concern and requesting feedback on how such a situation could be avoided in future. Further requests an additional letter to appropriate Scottish Ministers seeking assurance that Scottish Courts would as things stand not come to the same conclusion and any action the Government plans to further ensure this is the case.



- 16) Ask the Council Leader to write to the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health for an update on what steps we can take as a local authority to protect vulnerable service users in the interim period.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Mattos-Coelho

### **Amendment**

To take no action on the motion.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Doggart

### **Voting**

For the motion	-	50 votes
For the amendment	-	7 votes
Abstentions	-	1

(For the motion: Lord Provost, Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Work, Young and Younie.

For the amendment: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mowat, Munro and Whyte.

Abstentions: Councillor Mitchell.)

### **Decision**

To approve the motion as moved by Councillor Macinnes.

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron made a transparency statement in respect of the above item as a member of Abortion Rights Scotland.

## **27 Short Term Lets – Motion by Councillor Gardiner**

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The following motion by Councillor Gardiner was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22(5):

- "1) Council notes the outcome of the Court of Session decision on Edinburgh's Short Term Let policy.
- 2) Council therefore agrees to receive a report to the Planning and Regulatory Committees within once cycle: to examine the impact of the judgement, to identify any actions required to make the policy legally competent and to set a

timeline for when changes can be made to ensure the policy is enforceable. This should also contain information on the legal advice sought prior to implementation.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Gardiner.

- moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

### **Amendment**

To delete paragraph 2) in the motion by Councillor Gardiner and insert:

- “2) Council notes that officers are currently taking legal advice and considering the relevant options, including whether to submit an appeal.
- 3) In the event that an appeal is submitted, and in order to protect the Council’s position, it would be inappropriate for officers to present a report to the Planning and Regulatory Committees within one cycle. Instead, a briefing note would be issued to all councillors advising them of the actions taken and the implications arising therefrom.
- 4) If no appeal is submitted, Council agrees to receive a report to the next Regulatory Committee, for onward referral to the Planning Committee, to examine the impact of the judgement, to explore all options open to the Council, to identify *if* any actions *are* required to make the policy legally competent and to set a timeline for any changes to be made to ensure the policy is enforceable. A separate report would also be provided under B agenda containing information on the legal advice sought prior to *such* implementation. Council also agrees that a briefing note would thereafter be issued to all councillors advising them of the actions taken and the implications arising therefrom.”

- moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Caldwell

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

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Gardiner:

- 1) To note the outcome of the Court of Session decision on Edinburgh’s Short Term Let policy.
- 2) To note that officers were currently taking legal advice and considering the relevant options, including whether to submit an appeal.

- 3) In the event that an appeal was submitted, and in order to protect the Council's position, it would be inappropriate for officers to present a report to the Planning and Regulatory Committees within one cycle. Instead, a briefing note would be issued to all councillors advising them of the actions taken and the implications arising therefrom.
- 4) If no appeal was submitted, To agree to receive a report to the next Regulatory Committee, for onward referral to the Planning Committee, to examine the impact of the judgement, to explore all options open to the Council, to identify if any actions were required to make the policy legally competent and to set a timeline for any changes to be made to ensure the policy is enforceable. A separate report would also be provided under B agenda containing information on the legal advice sought prior to such implementation. To also agree that a briefing note would thereafter be issued to all councillors advising them of the actions taken and the implications arising therefrom.

## **28 Dignity and Support for Asylum Seekers – Motion by Councillor Mumford**

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

“Council

### **Notes:**

- 1) that the use of HMS Victoria to house people arriving in Edinburgh from Ukraine was agreed with the Scottish Government only under specific circumstances which included consultation with the Ukrainian Community, agreement of support packages, and in the context of national schemes to support people displaced by the invasion of Ukraine;
- 2) that this arrangement is due to end on July 11th 2023 and following extensive work from Council staff and with support from the Scottish Government, Ukrainian families are now moving into more suitable accommodation which can better meet their needs;
- 3) That the Convener of HHFW Convener has been instructed to write to the relevant ministers in Scottish and UK Governments setting out the housing needs of all refugee communities in the city and requesting details from both governments of their long-term plan to support the Council to address this;
- 4) That last month the Council reaffirmed its commitment to be a city which welcomes refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and all those seeking sanctuary.

### **Further notes**

- 5) the UK Government's continuation of the 'hostile environment' for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants which now includes proposals to place them in

- highly unsuitable floating accommodation, with the Prime Minister pledging to use “as many barges as it takes”;
- 6) that this approach includes utilising the ‘Bibby Stockholm’, an engineless barge in Falmouth which is intended to “house” 500 people, each given a living area smaller than a parking space;
  - 7) that there is no indication of plans being put in place to support the wellbeing of people placed on this barge, or to provide additional funding or support to the local authority or public and third sector organisations for this;
  - 8) that Wirral Council were approached about a similar scheme and refused to support this proposal, with the leader of the council saying “The idea that as many as 2,000 asylum seekers, people fleeing persecution and torture, would be marooned on barges, effectively prison ships, is immoral and inhumane.”
  - 9) **Condemns** the UK Government’s hostile environment and their plans for unsuitable floating accommodation without due regard for human rights and the wellbeing of people seeking support;
  - 10) **Opposes** any potential moves by the UK Government to dock boats to house refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Edinburgh unless the UK Government will commit to:
    - a) Ensuring adequate standards of living, access to services including health checks and medical care and civic freedoms;
    - b) Early and ongoing conversations with Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, the NHS and other potential service providers including the third sector;
    - c) Ending the national policy of No Recourse to Public Funds, which prevents Edinburgh Council from offering support to people needing help; and
  - 11) **Instructs** the Council Leader and Chief Executive to communicate this position should the UK Government approach Edinburgh Council about utilising floating accommodation to accommodate people in the city.”

## **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor Mumford.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Bandel

## **Amendment 1**

To add to the motion by Councillor Mumford:

“Understands that Forth Ports are also against proposals to house asylum seekers on ships given the lack of assurances and engagement from the UK Government.

Notes that a meeting took place between the Council Leader, Chief Executive of the Council, President of COSLA, the Scottish Government Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees and the UK Government.

Further notes that following this meeting an unhelpful response was sent from the UK Government.

Recommends that until the City of Edinburgh Council gets adequate reassurances from the UK Government regarding welfare and ongoing engagement and support, then the Council cannot accept the imposition of a floating asylum/prison ship.”

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

## **Amendment 2**

Council

In paragraph 10) of the motion by Councillor Mumford, deletes from “unless the UK Government...” to “...offering support to people needing help”, and replaces with:

“believing these to be an inappropriate form of accommodation which fails to ensure an adequate standard of living.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Davidson

## **Amendment 3**

Remove points 5 – 11 in the motion by Councillor Mumford and inserts as point 5:

“Agrees that the Council Leader and Chief Executive will write to the Home Office to request greater resources and funding, along with necessary flexibility, to support the residency in appropriate accommodation of any Ukrainian refugees wishing to remain in Edinburgh.”

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 3 were accepted as addendums to the Motion

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1 and Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

### **First Vote**

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	28 votes
Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	24 votes
Amendment 3	-	8 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Staniforth and Work.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Beal, Bennett, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Lang, Meagher, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, and Whyte.)

There being no overall majority, Amendment 3 fell and a second vote was taken between the Motion (as adjusted) and Amendment 1 (as adjusted).

### **Second Vote**

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	28 votes
Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	24 votes
Abstentions	-	8

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Staniforth and Work.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors. Beal, Bennett, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Lang, Meagher, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Young and Younie.

Abstentions: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro and Whyte.)

## Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Mumford:

- 1) To note that the use of HMS Victoria to house people arriving in Edinburgh from Ukraine was agreed with the Scottish Government only under specific circumstances which included consultation with the Ukrainian Community, agreement of support packages, and in the context of national schemes to support people displaced by the invasion of Ukraine.
- 2) To note that this arrangement was due to end on July 11th 2023 and following extensive work from Council staff and with support from the Scottish Government, Ukrainian families were now moving into more suitable accommodation which could better meet their needs.
- 3) To note that the Convener of Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee had been instructed to write to the relevant ministers in Scottish and UK Governments setting out the housing needs of all refugee communities in the city and requesting details from both governments of their long-term plan to support the Council to address this.
- 4) To note that last month the Council reaffirmed its commitment to be a city which welcomes refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and all those seeking sanctuary.
- 5) To further note the UK Government's continuation of the 'hostile environment' for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants which now included proposals to place them in highly unsuitable floating accommodation, with the Prime Minister pledging to use "as many barges as it takes".
- 6) To further note that this approach included utilising the 'Bibby Stockholm', an engineless barge in Falmouth which was intended to "house" 500 people, each given a living area smaller than a parking space.
- 7) To further note that there was no indication of plans being put in place to support the wellbeing of people placed on this barge, or to provide additional funding or support to the local authority or public and third sector organisations for this.
- 8) To further note that Wirral Council were approached about a similar scheme and refused to support this proposal, with the leader of the council saying "The idea that as many as 2,000 asylum seekers, people fleeing persecution and torture, would be marooned on barges, effectively prison ships, is immoral and inhumane."
- 9) To condemn the UK Government's hostile environment and their plans for unsuitable floating accommodation without due regard for human rights and the wellbeing of people seeking support.

- 10) To oppose any potential moves by the UK Government to dock boats to house refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Edinburgh unless the UK Government would commit to:
  - a) Ensuring adequate standards of living, access to services including health checks and medical care and civic freedoms;
  - b) Early and ongoing conversations with Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, the NHS and other potential service providers including the third sector;
  - c) Ending the national policy of No Recourse to Public Funds, which prevented Edinburgh Council from offering support to people needing help.
- 11) To instruct the Council Leader and Chief Executive to communicate this position should the UK Government approach Edinburgh Council about utilising floating accommodation to accommodate people in the city.
- 12) To understand that Forth Ports were also against proposals to house asylum seekers on ships given the lack of assurances and engagement from the UK Government.
- 13) To note that a meeting took place between the Council Leader, Chief Executive of the Council, President of COSLA, the Scottish Government Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees and the UK Government.
- 14) To further note that following this meeting an unhelpful response was sent from the UK Government.
- 15) To agree that until the City of Edinburgh Council got adequate reassurances from the UK Government regarding welfare and ongoing engagement and support, then the Council could not accept the imposition of a floating asylum/prison ship.
- 16) To agree that the Council Leader and Chief Executive would write to the Home Office to request greater resources and funding, along with necessary flexibility, to support the residency in appropriate accommodation of any Ukrainian refugees wishing to remain in Edinburgh.



## **29 Cancellation of the City of Edinburgh Council 3 August Meeting – Emergency Motion by the Lord Provost**

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The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

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

“Notes the calendar of Full Council meetings has meant two meetings are now scheduled for August, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Notes that Group Leaders and Executive Directors have been engaged with and no conflicts in reports have been identified.

Therefore, agrees to cancel the Council Meeting on 3 August 2023.

Asks officers to consider these conflicts in planning for future Council meeting planners.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

## **30 Edinburgh Women's Aid 50th Anniversary– Motion by Councillor Day**

---

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes with concern SEPA’s water scarcity report which was re-issued on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 describing the Loch Maree area as in a “Significant Water Scarcity situation” putting large swathes of Southwest and Central Scotland in “Moderate Water Scarcity” and the City of Edinburgh on “Alert” level.
- 2) Recognises that continued hot weather over the Summer will exacerbate the issue and that SEPA are warning that, without recovery in river levels, the situation will escalate as several additional areas will see “Significant Water Scarcity” in the coming weeks, and there will be a heightened risk of severe long-lasting ecological impacts if the situation continues for more than 30 days.

- 3) Recognises that extreme weather and drought is a direct consequence of the climate and nature emergencies and therefore reaffirms the Council's commitment to tackling these dual crises as a priority in all of its work.
- 4) Welcomes the ongoing work of officers in developing Edinburgh's climate adaptation plan, and stresses the importance of adopting a climate justice approach in this, recognising that the impacts of extreme weather and other consequences of the climate and nature emergencies will affect different demographics differently and the Council's climate adaptation planning ought to be cognisant of this fact.
- 5) Requests that the Council amplifies messaging from SEPA around water scarcity, how residents can help to save water to reduce the risk of drought, and how residents can stay safe during periods of extreme heat / drought through its various communications channels this Summer.
- 6) Requests that a short update about the activity undertaken to meet 5) is outlined in the Business Bulletin of the next Policy & Sustainability committee, including evidencing how this embraced a climate justice approach in line with 4)."

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

## **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Parker.

## **31 Edinburgh Women's Aid 50th Anniversary– Motion by Councillor Day**

---

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

"Council:

Notes this year marks the 50th anniversary of Edinburgh Women's Aid.

Recognises the tens of thousands of women and children that have had access to safe accommodation and support through their activism and action against domestic abuse.

Understands that they will be hosting a year-long series of events to mark their anniversary, with one co-hosted by the School of Social and Political Science at Edinburgh University attended by the Council Leader, in recognition of their important endeavours.

Celebrates this milestone and asks the Lord Provost to recognise this anniversary in an appropriate manner."

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

## **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

### **32 Traverse 60th Anniversary Celebrations – Motion by Councillor Day**

---

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

” Council:

Notes this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Traverse Theatre.

Recognises the far-reaching impact that the Traverse has had in terms of talent discovery and development; and the impact it has had on the cultural environment of the City.

Understands that on their landmark 50th anniversary year, the Council honoured the theatre with a reception to acknowledge the contribution the Traverse has made to the City, Scotland, UK and wider global new playwriting ecology.

Asks the Lord Provost to celebrate this milestone in an appropriate manner.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

## **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

### **33 20th Anniversary UNESCO City of Literature – Motion by Councillor Walker**

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

“Council:

Recognises and celebrates the 20th anniversary in 2024 of Edinburgh’s designation as the world’s first UNESCO City of Literature reflecting our exceptional contemporary writing talent and rich tradition as the home of so many world-renowned literary figures throughout the centuries.

Acknowledges the founding role of Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust in the establishment and growth of what is now a network of 42 UNESCO Cities of Literature cities in 32 countries worldwide.

Acknowledges the Council’s continued support of the UNESCO City of Literature designation.

Looks forward to Edinburgh's hosting the annual UNESCO Cities of Literature Conference in 2024 as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations and supports the conference as an opportunity to promote in our city the UNESCO designation as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, providing opportunities to further develop international partnerships, and ensuring literature professionals in our city can meet international programmers and organisations.

Reflects the Council's key role in both achieving the designation and on-going success of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature and the network of up to 70 international delegates participating in the Conference in 2024. Requests the Lord Provost marks this important occasion in an appropriate manner."

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Walker.

### **34    Ard-Sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig - James Gillespie's High School - Award for Gaelic Education – Motion by Councillor Parker**

---

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

"The Council:

- 1)     Congratulates pupils, teachers and staff from Àrd-Sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig / James Gillespie's High School for winning the 'Gaelic Education' category at the Scottish Education Awards in Glasgow on 7 June 2023;
- 2)     Notes that Scottish Education awards recognise those who dedicate their lives to children and young people and showcases the valuable work and innovation in Scottish classrooms;
- 3)     Notes that the Gaelic Education category is dedicated to education settings which foster a culture of respect, ambition and achievement with regard to Gaelic - and help promote the flourishing of the Gaelic language;
- 4)     Recognises that this award follows the opening last year of the Ath-Thaigh Darroch / Darroch annex for Gaelic education at JGHS – and the virtual tour here <https://youtu.be/CB3KB4S9jSI>
- 5)     Requests that the Lord Provost recognises this achievement 'sgoinneil' in an appropriate way."

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

## Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Parker.

### 35 Hope Cottage Nursery – Education Scotland Award 2023 for ‘Making a Difference’ – Motion by Councillor Burgess

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

“Council:

- 1) Congratulates Hope Cottage Nursery School in SouthsideNewington for winning the early years ‘Making a Difference’ category at the Scottish Education awards 2023 in Glasgow on 7 June;
- 2) Notes that Scottish Education awards recognise those who dedicate their lives to children and young people and showcases the valuable work and innovation in Scottish classrooms;
- 3) Recognises that this award celebrates an early learning or childcare establishment that has committed to transforming the lives of learners - overcoming obstacles to nurture equality, achievement and wellbeing;
- 4) Recognises the innovative work at Hope Cottage Nursery in taking an Eco Pledge to ‘cut down, cut out and source natural not synthetic’ and ‘tackle the huge problem of plastic waste by making permanent sustainable changes, focusing on cutting out non-recyclable plastics and microplastics’;
- 5) Applauds the Hope Cottage Eco Journal, that aims to share their ‘Eco Journey’ into sustainable practice including with other schools  
<https://hopecottageeco.blogspot.com/>
- 6) Thanks Hope Cottage teachers Lisa McLaughlin and Natasha Stewart for bringing children from Hope Cottage Nursery to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 June to present examples of their work -  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdeuerk6> (from 00:27:00) and that the council will now look to ensure that materials in the procurement catalogue used in schools are truly environmentally friendly;
- 7) Requests that the Lord Provost recognises this fantastic achievement in an appropriate way.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

## Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burgess.

## **36 Multi-Cultural Family Base – Motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan**

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The following motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council notes the significant contributions made by Multi-Cultural Family Base (MCFB) to families arriving to settle in the capital city.

Council recognises that MCFB are now celebrating their 25th year in Edinburgh.

Council acknowledges the contributions to social cohesion this work offers, and the value and importance of professional social services being available in key community languages by MCFB staff who are trained in cultural awareness.

Council further notes that the key services offered by MCFB continued even during the pandemic, bringing reassurance to highly vulnerable families.

Council therefore asks that the Lord Provost recognises the welcome contributions of Multi-Cultural Family Base in an appropriate manner.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

## **37 Questions**

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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 37 of 22 June 2023)**

### **QUESTION NO 1**

**By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Question</b> | (1) What consideration is given to bats and other wildlife when street lighting and lighting in parks is installed?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (1) All new lighting schemes consider best practice, with reference made to specific guidance documents, depending on where the application site is located. Where requests are received for the installation of new lighting in dark areas, such as parks, ecology reports are requested before any progress is made with any lighting design.   |
| <b>Question</b> | (2) Is Council policy in relation to artificial lighting consistent with best practice guidance issued by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals as first published in 2018 and recently revised in May 2023?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (2) The Council's Street Lighting Engineers are members of the Institution of Lighting Professionals, and the Council's lighting designs comply with current guidance (including BS5489-1:2020 Design of road lighting and Bat Conservation Trust/Institution of Lighting Professionals Bats and artificial lighting in the UK Guidance Note GN08 Rugby: Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2018.5). Although the latter guidance document was expected to be published in May 2023, it is still being rewritten and is likely to be published later this summer. |
| <b>Question</b> | (3) If the answer 2) is no, will Council officers review policy with regard to the updated guidance, and how will Councillors receive assurances that Council policy is in line with this best practice?  |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (3) N/A   |

**QUESTION NO 2**

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer  
by the Leader of the Council at a  
meeting of the Council on 22 June  
2023**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Question</b> | (1) When will the feasibility study of an Edinburgh Drug Consumption Room be delivered to the Policy and Sustainability Committee? |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (1) The feasibility study will be presented to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on the 24 October 2023.                     |
| <b>Question</b> | (2) What funding has been allocated for the feasibility study?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (2) £49,206 has been allocated for the feasibility study.  |
| <b>Question</b> | (3) Who has been commissioned to undertake the feasibility study?  |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (3) A consortium led by the University of Stirling has been commissioned to undertake the feasibility study.                       |



**QUESTION NO 3**

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer  
by the Convener of the Planning  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**

When will a council officer be meeting with a representative of Planning Democracy to discuss how the Council can assist with the RAMPS project (a website which enables the progress of planning applications to be tracked in an accessible format), as originally requested on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 and finally agreed on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2023?

**Answer**

Officers have been investigating the potential for the RAMPS project to access data. At present the planning computer systems are in the process of being upgraded. This work is due to be completed by the end of July 2023 and it is thought that once this is done the RAMPS project should be able to access data. Officers will liaise with Planning Democracy, if required, after the system upgrade.

## **QUESTION NO 4**

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer  
by the Leader of the Council at a  
meeting of the Council on 22 June  
2023**

**Question** (1) Has the Council Leader written to then Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning in line with the motion passed at Full Council on May 4<sup>th</sup>?

**Answer** (1) A meeting with the Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning had already been arranged with the Leader of the Council before the passing of the motion at Full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Question** (2) Can the Council Leader share the letter?

**Answer** (2) N/A

**Question** (3) Has the Council Leader met with the Minister since May 4<sup>th</sup>?

**Answer** (3) Yes. There was a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Question** (4) a) If so, did the Council Leader raise the points agreed in the motion?  
  
b) If not, when does the Council Leader expect to next meet with the Minister?

**Answer** (4) The Leader of the Council discussed a number of issues during the meeting with the Minister relating to Local Government, including both review rights of appeal in planning and the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill.

**Supplementary Question** The motion passed on May 4<sup>th</sup> agreed: "that the Council Leader would request at this meeting that the Minister respond to the complaint by committing to a review of rights of appeal, and would write to the Minister to that effect, and that Planning Committee would be updated on progress of this action and any response from the Minister".

Can the Council leader commit to fulfilling the actions agreed in the motion at the earliest opportunity and to have the outcomes reported at the next Planning Committee?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

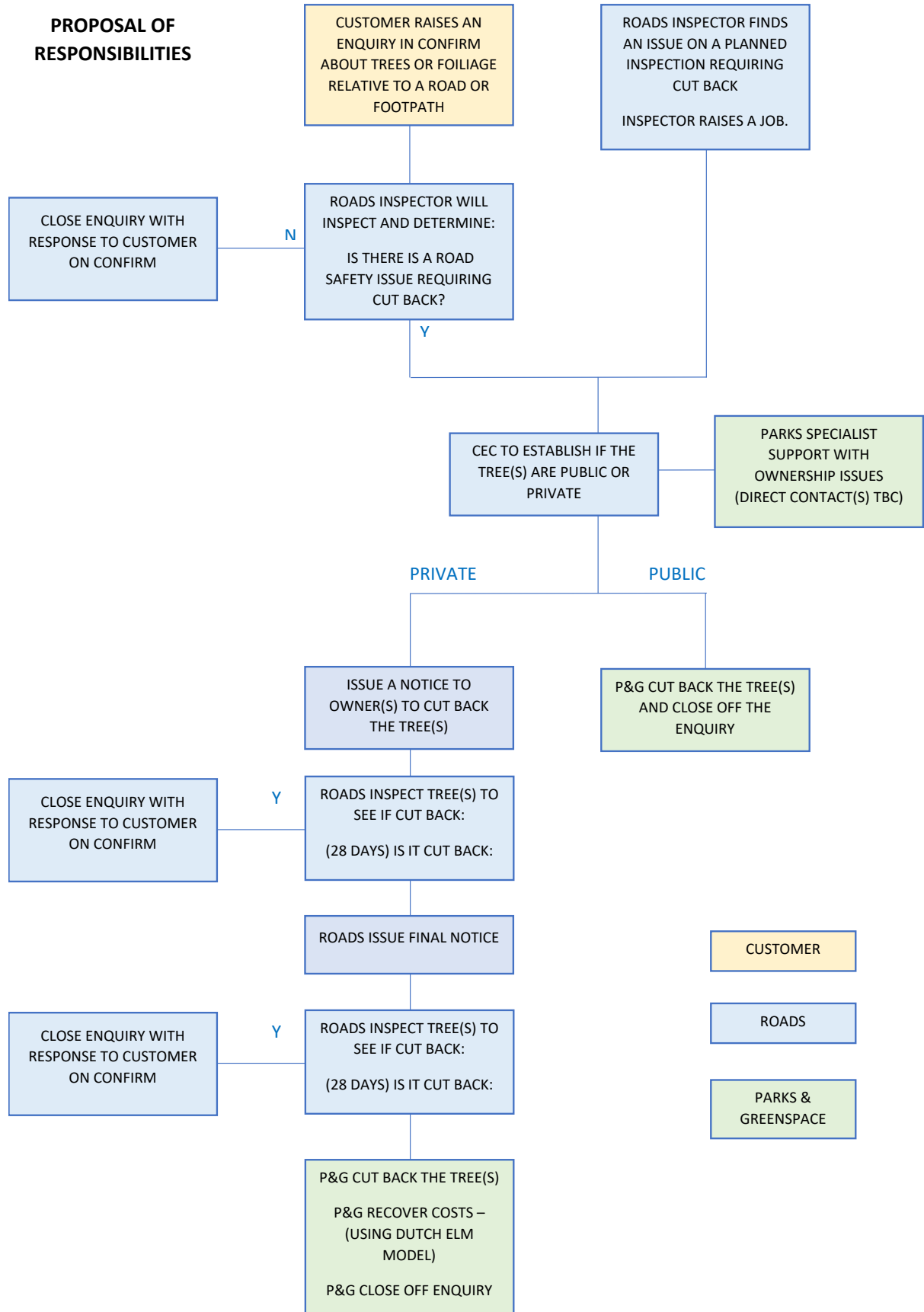
The actions outlined in the motion have been fulfilled and an update will be provided in the business bulletin for the Planning Committee.

**QUESTION NO 5**

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer  
by the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Question</b> | (1) Can the Convener confirm how many cases relating to foliage have been reported in the past 3 years?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (1) There have been 8,591 cases reported to the Council since 1 January 2020.   |
| <b>Question</b> | (2) How many of these cases remain 'open issues'?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (2) There are currently 850 open cases.   |
| <b>Question</b> | (3) Can the Convener outline the enforcement process for responding to reports relating to foliage on private land?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (3) The chart below shows the process for dealing with cases relating to trees or foliage.  |
| <b>Question</b> | (4) How many foliage-related enforcement cases have been initiated in the past 3 years?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (4) There have been 2,791 cases which have been concluded at one of the three stages set out below. There were 116 cases where the inspector did not think action was required and there were 722 cases which have been referred to parks as they were on public land or where parks have undertaken remedial works and the cost has been recharged to the owner. |

## PROPOSAL OF RESPONSIBILITIES



## **QUESTION NO 6**

**By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

In May 2023, the Transport and Environment committee agreed a mini flood study would be undertaken in North Gyle as one of the agreed projects for 2023/24, funded from the £2 million agreed in Lib Dem budget proposals for flooding.

**Question** (1) When does the Convener understand this flood study will begin?

**Answer** (1) It is intended the outline surface water study will be carried out in financial year 2023/24. There is no specific timescale for this project yet.

**Question** (2) What engagement with local groups, such as the North Gyle Flood Group, will be undertaken, to hear firsthand examples of how the issue is affecting them?

**Answer** (2) Council officers have already met with residents regarding the flooding and are aware of the issues faced. The findings of the study and potential options will be shared with affected residents and groups.

**Question** (3) Will the study include engagement with the Scottish Flood Forum?

**Answer** (3) Council officers have already engaged with the Scottish Flood Forum and informed them of the plans for this study. The initial study will be to consider the source of potential flooding and identify if there are viable options for mitigation measures. It is not intended that this will involve engagement with the Scottish Flood Forum unless there is a direct requirement to do so.

**QUESTION NO 7**

**By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**

In January 2022, the Transport and Environment committee agreed speed limit reductions from 40mph to 30mph on Queensferry Road, Glasgow Road, South Gyle Broadway and South Gyle Access.

When are these speed limit reductions going to be implemented?

**Answer**

I share your concerns about these delays and the outstanding 30mph to 20mph changes (TRO/20/07) agreed in January 2021.

In January 2022, Committee agreed speed reductions from 40mph to 30mph on 22 street across the road network, including Queensferry Road, Glasgow Road, South Gyle Broadway and South Gyle Access. It is currently anticipated that the designs for all 22 streets will be completed by October 2023, with implementation as soon as possible thereafter and hopefully by March 2024.

An update on the Council's road safety work programme is expected to be presented to Transport and Environment Committee in September 2023.

**QUESTION NO 8**

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the  
Convener of the Education, Children  
and Families Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**

Further to her answers at 10.4 on the 15 December 2022 meeting of the Council, when will the report on the voting rights for religious representatives come to Council?

**Answer**

Following additional information being provided, the report will be amended to include this information and will be shared at the full Council meeting to be held on 31 August 2023.



## **QUESTION NO 9**

**By Councillor Ross for answer by the  
Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

I note that there are holidays from parking restrictions on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Easter Monday. I have had a few questions from residents and would appreciate some clarifications.

**Question** (1) Are these days set for us by the Scottish Government or does the Council have a choice of which days to choose?

**Answer** (1) Parking holidays are determined by the Council.

**Question** (2) Are they in line with the majority of Edinburgh workplaces?

**Answer** (2) The parking holidays have been set in line with traditional Scottish holidays. Council officers are unable to confirm if these are in line with the majority of Edinburgh workplaces.

**Question** (3) Do most Edinburgh employers take these holidays and close their workplaces on these days or is there another day, for example Good Friday, that is more commonly chosen for closing workplaces?

**Answer** (3) See answer 2.

**Question** (4) When were parking holidays last reviewed?

**Answer** (4) The parking holidays were last reviewed in 2018.

**QUESTION NO 10**

**By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for  
answer by the Convener of the  
Transport and Environment  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question** (1) How many outstanding road defects and potholes are currently registered under Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4?

**Answer** (1) The number of outstanding defects (both hard landscaping and asphalt) on the system on the 14 June 2023 are as follows:

- Cat 1 – none outstanding
- Cat 2 – 41 outstanding
- Cat 3 – 200 outstanding
- Cat 4 – 131 outstanding

I accept this data does not reflect the true condition of our roads, footpaths and cycleways. Indeed, I would urge residents to report defects using this link:

[https://webforms.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/portal/request/road\\_defect](https://webforms.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/portal/request/road_defect)

**Question** (2) What are the intended timescales for repair of defects in each of these categories?

**Answer** (2) The intended timescales for defects are as follows:

- Cat 1 – 24 hours
- Cat 2 – 5 working days
- Cat 3 – 60 working days
- Cat 4 – Programmed work

The Transport and Environment Committee approved a report titled The Risk Based approach to Road Asset Safety Inspections – Update on [6 October 2022](#), within which the timescales were included (Appendix 1, page 22).

- Question** (3) What are the current estimated timescales of repairs within each of these categories?
- Answer** (3) The current estimated timescales are the same as the intended timescales.
- Question** (4) How many of these defects per category do not currently have an identified timescale for repair?
- Answer** (4) Only Cat 4 defects do not have a timescale. There are 131 Cat 4 defects.

**QUESTION NO 11**

**By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for  
answer by the Convener of the  
Transport and Environment  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 22 June 2023**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Question</b> | (1) What time do collection crews start their collections of waste and recycling from on-street communal bins, communal bin hubs and underground bins during weekdays, and at weekends?  |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (1) Work shifts begin at 0600. Subject to where each route starts, the earliest collection should not be before 0630.  |
| <b>Question</b> | (2) What is the earliest time that glass collections from communal bins take place during weekdays, and at weekends?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (2) Glass collections from communal bins should only take place on weekdays and should not be earlier than 0700.   |
| <b>Question</b> | (3) In light of the increased frequency of collections from communal bin hubs in areas such as Trinity and Newhaven, has consideration been given to the impact of these more frequent early collections on residents at the start of the route?                     |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (3) Whilst the increased collection frequency is welcomed by many residents, I accept that this work can be disruptive. Changing the starting point for each route to another location simply moves any impacts of early collections to somewhere else on the route. |
| <b>Question</b> | (4) If so, what mitigations are in place?  |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (4) Routes are typically designed in such a way that they are compact and cover as small a geographical area as possible for efficiency purposes. Routing will continue to be reviewed as the communal bin project roll-out progresses.                              |

## QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Davidson for answer  
by the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

Ward councillors were previously advised that road safety interventions would be progressed for Ellersley and Kinellan Roads in the 2022/23 programme. This did not happen.

**Question** (1) Will the convener advise which projects were included in the 22/23 programme?

**Answer** (1) An updated Road Safety Delivery Plan to April 2024 was agreed at Transport and Environment Committee in [December 2022](#).

**Question** (2) Which projects are also included in the 23/24 programme of works?

**Answer** (2) See answer 1. Public demand for road safety improvements exceeds the resources available. Recognising that there have been challenges in delivering the road safety programme within the resources available, an update on the Council's programme of work for road safety is scheduled for Transport and Environment Committee in September 2023. This will allow Committee members to agree funding priorities and scrutinise delivery on an ongoing basis.

**Question** (3) What are the next steps he sees in improving pedestrian safety and reducing speed on these two roads?

**Answer** (3) As noted in answer 2, an update on the delivery plan for the road safety programme is scheduled for Transport and Environment Committee in September. The updated plan will include details of the next steps in improving pedestrian safety and reducing speed on roads across the city, including Ellersly Road and Kinellan Road.

**QUESTION NO 13**

**By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

With Trams to Newhaven successfully launching on June 7th, and much discussion about traffic re-routing, I am hoping to obtain clarity on how the Council are engaging with residents in residential streets just off of the tram route.

**Question** (1) In addition to the Automatic Traffic (and speed) Counter installed by the Road Safety team on Easter Road this Spring, what traffic level monitoring has taken place on the streets directly west and east of Leith Walk and Elm Row since January 2022?

**Answer** (1) No formal traffic level monitoring has taken place on streets directly west and east of Leith Walk and Elm Row since January 2022 by the Trams to Newhaven project. Traffic modelling was procured as part of the design development.

**Question** (2) What, if any, traffic monitoring is being considered before the end of 2023?

**Answer** (2) On-going monitoring is taking place as traffic movements become clear now that Trams to Newhaven is operational.

**Question** (3) Does the Convener agree that the most densely populated area in Scotland, located just outside of, but impacted by, the Trams to Newhaven project, has had a material change in traffic flow and that residents should be part of an evolving process to further develop safer, greener and cleaner streets?

**Answer** (3) Yes.

**Supplementary Question** Thank you for your answer. Can I please get clarification on Answer 2: Can this monitoring include Lorne Street, Dalmeny Street, Windsor Street and Easter Road? If not, why not? If so, which department will be carrying this out?

**Supplementary Answer** The Council carries out traffic monitoring as part of its ongoing review of the road network. Monitoring of the suggested locations will form part of that ongoing work.

## QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question** (1) Given the recent incidence of wildfires in Scotland this year what action is the Council taking to enforce the Park Rules in its parks that no Barbecues are allowed outwith designated areas?

**Answer** (1) Council officers are using social media communications both through Edinburgh Outdoors and the Council's social media page to remind people that barbecues are only allowed in designated areas within parks. A poster has also been used to warn people of the dangers of barbecues in the Pentland Hills Regional Parks. Officers on site will also address any issues as they arise in parks and open spaces.

**Question** (2) What related action is the Council taking to discourage retailers from selling single use barbecues within the Council area given that work by the University of Sheffield has shown that a typical summer barbecue releases more greenhouse gas emissions than 80-mile car journey and single use barbecue creates additional waste that is often left as litter in Edinburgh's parks?

**Answer** (2) Whilst I understand and sympathise with the point being made the Council has no powers to seek to restrict the sale of products which are legally on the market.

Experience shows that to be effective retailers need to be persuaded to take action nationally and myself and the Transport and Environment Convener plan to write to relevant Scottish Government minister asking that they consider taking up this issue with the major supermarkets and suppliers.

I have also asked that the Corporate communication team broadens the messages on social media encouraging businesses to voluntarily stop selling single use barbecues.

**QUESTION NO 15**

**By Councillor Bruce for answer by  
the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**

Please list the outstanding remedial works required to conclude the tram line completion from York Place to Newhaven and please detail the expected costs for these works?

**Answer**

Remedial works characterised as defects can be raised within 2 years of overall contract completion. There is no additional cost as they are contained within the forecast cost to completion.

Work is currently ongoing with the contractor to agree a final list of remedial works and programme. I will share it with the APOG once it is available.



**QUESTION NO 16**

**By Councillor McVey for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> the Transport Convenor replied to the below question with the following:

*Question (1) How many car parking spaces (based on average use on available bays) have been reduced through the rollout of the CPZ in June 2023?*

*Answer (1) No marked car parking spaces have been removed due to the rollout of Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). The layout of all parking places and yellow lines reflects the Council's legal obligations, and the need for the layout of parking places to avoid negative impacts on vehicle movement or access to property, including private or off-street parking places. Parking places have been located, following consultation, where it is considered safe and appropriate for vehicles to park.*

**Question** (1) Does the Convenor understand that the information given to Council on June 1<sup>st</sup> above is inaccurate? As exemplified by stretches of double yellow lines on streets like Lindsay Street, Nichollfield and many other locations across the new CPZ areas that serve no purpose in terms of improved connectivity, accessibility, access to local services or improved safety.

**Answer** (1) You will recall that you were Council Leader when these plans were developed under the leadership of your Transport & Environment Committee Convener. Additionally, Councillors in your group gave the plans their full support under your leadership. In short, double yellow lines on streets like Lindsay Street *“that serve no purpose in terms of improved connectivity”* are there with the full support of you and your group.

Nonetheless, Officers assure me that no marked parking places have been removed. The above-mentioned controls have been applied to previously uncontrolled areas of the road to help ensure access and improve road safety.

**Question** (2) Will the Convenor apologise for misleading Council?

- Answer** (2) Based on the information provided to me by Officers, the Council has not been misled.
- Question** (3) Can the Convenor confirm that the Council knows and has tracked how much space has been lost for resident parking, either for legitimate reasons (such as improve line of sight at junctions, improved access to bin hubs etc)?
- Answer** (3) No marked parking places have been removed. The Council does not hold data on parking volumes in unrestricted roads.
- If you want to increase the amount of parking available to make car use more convenient in your Ward a motion can be submitted to the Transport & Environment Committee, but it would have to be considered within the context of the Parking Action Plan consultation currently underway.
- Question** (4) Does the Convenor understand that the arbitrarily constrained approach which has been implemented will cause issues for local residents accessing their properties which didn't need to be the case?
- Answer** (4) The approach has been taken to help ensure access and improve road safety.
- You will recall that you were Council Leader when these plans were developed under the leadership of your Transport & Environment Committee Convener. Additionally, Councillors in your group gave the plans their full support under your leadership. In short, any *“arbitrarily constrained approach”* is there with the full support of you and your group.

**Question**

**(5)** Can the Convenor now answer the questions tabled on June 1<sup>st</sup> honestly:

- a) How many car parking spaces (based on average use on available bays) have been reduced through the rollout of the CPZ in June 2023?
- b) How many of these reductions were due to:
  - i) improving connectivity by reducing double parking on narrow streets blocking general vehicle and service vehicle access?
  - ii) improving access to local bin hubs and other serviced amenities?
  - iii) improving visibility at junctions?
  - iv) another reason?

**Answer**

**(5)** No marked parking places have been removed. The Council does not hold data on parking volumes in unrestricted roads.

You will recall that you were Council Leader when these plans were developed under the leadership of your Transport & Environment Committee Convener. Additionally, Councillors in your group gave the plans their full support under your leadership. In short, if any *“car parking spaces have been reduced through the rollout of the CPZ”* has happened it did so with the full support of you and your group.

**QUESTION NO 17**

**By Councillor Work for answer by the  
Convener of the Regulatory  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**                    (1) Is the Convener aware of the pressure put on small local Gala committees such as Kirkliston and Davidson's Mains due to the fees the Council charges for these relatively small community events?

**Answer**                    (1) The Council has consistently supported community events, such as Gala Days, within the licensing fee structure. The current fee structure offers substantial discounts to the cost of Public Entertainment Licenses for community, charitable, religious and community group events. This was last reviewed by Regulatory Committee in 2015. In 2019, Licensing Sub-Committee made clear that the Council would not entertain fee reduction requests from community groups seeking to obtain discounted fees on behalf of commercial operators.

However, the discounted fee structure does not apply to amusement devices, which are considered to be commercial activities. In these circumstances, commercial operators of devices (such as funfairs) are required to obtain a separate licence for the public entertainment use of a funfair.

**Question**                    (2) Will the Convener commit to a review of the fee structure to allow those small community groups to put on fantastic local events loved by residents?

**Answer**                    (2) As noted in answer 1, a discounted fee structure is already in place for community groups to host local community events. However, a small number of inconsistencies have been identified this year in the administration of public entertainment license applications. The Regulatory service is currently reviewing this, and I expect a report to be presented to Regulatory Committee later in the year on the lessons learned in 2023.

**QUESTION NO 18**

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer  
by the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**

- (1) To ask the convener why Euro 6 compliant diesel-fuelled cars are included in the parking diesel surcharge despite being fully LEZ compliant.

**Answer**

- (1) The committee decision was taken in 2018 and applies to all Euro classes equally, and is independent of the LEZ. At the time, the Transport and Environment Committee Convener (your party Colleague, Cllr Macinnes) correctly said that failing to act on the known dangers of diesel emissions would be an act of *“turning back the clock”* and that *“evidence is mounting that diesel emissions are causing serious health problems and worsening air quality in cities across the globe”*.

Indeed, right across Europe the use of diesel as a fuel for private vehicles has been disincentivised and the sale of these vehicles has fallen significantly as a result.

I feel that, with less than one year until we launch Edinburgh’s LEZ, now would be the wrong time to abandon the diesel surcharge. You are, of course, welcome to raise the issue at the Transport and Environment Committee if you want to *“turn back the clock”*.

**QUESTION NO 19**

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer  
by the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Question</b> | <b>(1)</b> To ask the Transport and Environment Convener for clarity on the policy of fixing permanent signage to the listed railings in the West End, whether permission needs to be sought from residents and businesses before the placement of such signage and why this cannot be displayed on existing lampposts instead. |
| <b>Answer</b>   | <b>(1)</b> Permission must be sought from the owner of the property before signage can be attached to it. Lamppost columns are used wherever possible when they are able to accommodate signs.  |
| <b>Question</b> | <b>(2)</b> To further ask whether additional road marking is in the pipeline as part of CCWEL on Melville Street to delineate the allocation of parking spaces and denote who may use them?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | <b>(2)</b> Road markings in Melville Street, east of the statue, are still to be completed. These markings will delineate parking spaces with a mixture of regular parking, permit parking, car club and loading only spaces.   |

**QUESTION NO 20**

**By Councillor Work for answer by the  
Convener of the Housing,  
Homelessness and Fair Work  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question** (1) How many vacant council properties are there currently in the Almond Ward?

**Answer** (1) There were 122 vacant Council properties as at 13 June 2023. This can be further broken down as follows:

Repairs required	57
Scheduled to be demolished	20
New Builds (not yet ready)	19
Unlettable (e.g. decant properties, whole house retrofit projects etc)	13
Newly void	9
Utility issues	3
Letting in progress	1

**Question** (2) Are targets being met for the turnaround time for getting void properties rented to new tenants?

**Answer** (2) Turnaround targets are not being met. There is a focus on returning long term voids back into circulation which will continue to affect average relet times until these properties are relet.

**Question** (3) What is the cost to the council's HRA of lost rental income from properties not available for rent?

**Answer**

**(3)** Void rent loss is not captured at Ward level.

In 2022/23, the amount of rent lost through properties being empty city-wide was £2,323,634. This figure represents the amount of rent lost while properties are empty and going through the letting process. This is reported annually to the Scottish Housing Regulator as part of our Annual Return on the Scottish Social Housing Charter.



**QUESTION NO 21**

**By Councillor Flannery for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

*Our decisions on how to get from A to B are based on the choices available and how we feel about them. There are several factors which can influence how we choose to move, including availability and quality of infrastructure, cost, journey time, safety, personal ability and convenience. - City Mobility Plan*

**Question**

- (1) In the light of this statement, can the Convener confirm what alternative arrangements are being explored to serve residents in the South of the city who are now cut off from the city centre because of the withdrawal of the No 41 bus route?

**Answer**

- (1) I accept there are concerns about the service changes, and I will ensure Transport & Environment Committee members have a chance to question Lothian Buses' Managing Director on the matter when she next attends.

Lothian Buses' Service 9 and Service 24 provide residents in the south of the city (including the Grange area and Marchmont) with direct connections to the city centre. The Service 9 covers some of the stops previously served by the 41 and routes via the east end of the city centre, while the Service 24 routes via the west end and Frederick Street.

Both services run every 20 minutes daytime (30 minutes each on Sunday), providing up to 6 buses per hour linking the city centre. Lothian Buses have assured me that will continue to monitor the performance of services in these areas. Nonetheless, bus connections to George IV Bridge can be made at Tollcross or Frederick Street/Hanover Street with walking routes also available from Surgeons' Hall or South Bridge.

The Services 47/47B also provide additional connectivity options to the west end of the city centre for those in the south of the city.

Service changes are undertaken by Lothian Buses with consideration of areas of demand set against covid recovery, changing travel patterns, limited resource and higher operating costs.

In response to the growing city region, changes in travel patterns and to fully integrate with the opening of Trams to Newhaven, their network has been fully reviewed to ensure that it continues to meet the evolving needs of customers and the communities served.

New services, route variations, and amended timetables are likely to be a regular feature as patronage grows, travel behaviours continue to evolve and bus driver numbers recover and increase to pre-pandemic levels.

**Question**

- (2) Can the Convener confirm how the City Mobility Plan which makes several direct references to 'people with mobility issues' are to be prioritised with the recent withdrawal of two bus routes, No 42 and No 41, and the scaling back of disabled parking spaces and universal provision?

**Answer**

- (2) I welcome the point you make about many people in Edinburgh with mobility issues relying heavily on public transport.

Nonetheless, Lothian Buses have assured me that whilst Service numbers 41 and 42 were withdrawn and replaced by new/augmented service, not a single stretch of the bus network has been left without a service following these changes.

The City Mobility Plan and its associated action plans aim to provide everyone with a safer, cleaner, and greener environment and this will benefit those with mobility issues and others. If it does not, it will have failed.

The Council is currently consulting on these action plans and I would encourage people to respond to the Council's current consultation about this, in particular those with mobility issues and their representative groups.

**Question**

- (3) *Inclusion: For many the city has an excellent, inclusive public transport system, though some areas are poorly served limiting opportunities for those who live there. We also recognise that public transport and taxi usage can be unsuitable for people with severe mobility problems, therefore private cars are essential for some in the city – city mobility plan.*

Can he confirm that along with Lothian Buses, who are 'monitoring' the new No 9 route, that the Council is doing likewise, and responding to residents' concerns in a timely manner, particularly in the light of increased congestion on North Bridge and South Clerk Street due to the addition of the No 9?

**Answer**

- (3) I've seen no complaints about buses causing congestion on North Bridge and South Clerk Street, I expect the issue is due to non-essential car use and the partial closure of North Bridge. Nonetheless, I am always mindful of the impact congestion has on Lothian Buses' services and the wellbeing of their staff.

At city level I am pleased at the degree to which bus patronage has recovered post-covid, and impressed by the thought Lothian Buses invest in responding to changing travel patterns. Council officers have regular meetings with Lothian Buses, and at the next I have asked that patronage and feedback associated with recent service changes is discussed.

**QUESTION NO 22**

**By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Question</b> | (1) What are the current provisions made for CYP using BSL in mainstream schools?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (1) We use interpreters in a number of classrooms and we have advertised twice for a BSL tutor, with another advert in progress. We have Teachers of the Deaf and Deaf Support Team Nursery Nurses who support the learning of BSL.   |
| <b>Question</b> | (2) Has the convener had discussions with leading third sector organisations around this area?  |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (2) Officers have met regularly with the National Deaf Children's Society and with our own Tutors of the Deaf who also work nationally e.g. at Scottish Parliament. Commissioning of services remains a top priority. We also engage with academics e.g. at Edinburgh University.   |
| <b>Question</b> | (3) What are the convener's proposal for improvement / future provisions?   |
| <b>Answer</b>   | (3) We hope to continue meeting with all stakeholders to promote BSL. It is taught as a qualification at Broughton High School. Mainstream schools have access to the Highland BSL 1+2 resource pack in order to teach BSL at L3. The signing in specialist provision is also advancing and we intend to further improve access to BSL provision within City of Edinburgh's BSL plan. |

**QUESTION NO 23**

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 22 June 2023**

Further to the answer to my question 10.27 at full council on 4 May 2023, which contained inaccurate information, please will the convener:

**Question**

Further to the answer to my question 10.27 at full council on 4 May 2023, which contained inaccurate information, please will the convener:

- a) explain why inaccurate information was given in a council answer?
- b) set out when an accurate response will be provided?

**Answer**

- a) It was explained in the original answer that due to the quick turnaround required, the information was based on what could be provided by officers in the timescales available. It was highlighted (because of the timescales available) that the areas were calculated using a desk-based approach and that further assessment would be required for definitive site sizes to be provided.
- b) It is estimated the more detailed assessment involving estates and legal services where necessary will be completed by the end of July 2023 at the latest.

**QUESTION NO 24**

**By Councillor Booth for answer by  
the Convener of the Transports and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 22 June 2023**

**Question**

Further to the answer to my question 10.30 at full council on 9 February 2023, please will the convenor provide an update on progress towards the introduction of a school street at Stanwell Street to serve Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce?

**Answer**

The School Travel Plan (STP) for Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce is nearing completion and will hopefully be signed off by all stakeholders shortly.

An update on the STP will be incorporated into a report for Transport and Environment Committee on the wider road safety work programme in September 2023.