

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

30 June 2020

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
3.1 In relation to Item 9.8 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Rust – Engagement with Employees	UNISON, Unite the Union and the GMB
3.2 In relation to Item 9.10 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron – Liberton Primary School	Liberton Primary School Association
3.3 Awaiting submission from the EIS	Educational Institute of Scotland

Request for Deputation – UNISON, Unite the Union and the GMB

Item 9.8 – Motion by Councillor Rust – Engagement with Employees

UNISON, Unite the union and the GMB condemn the Conservative Group for their reprehensible motion to full council, 'Engagement with Employees', and welcome the Labour Group's amendment. The trade unions have been working non-stop with the council and our members to make sure that critical council work can be completed safely. We will not be dragged in to questioning the legitimacy of councillors and whether they are representative depending on the turnout of their elections, as we are above this sort of tawdry tit for tat response. The joint trade unions will continue to work unstintingly to make sure the workforce is represented and are able to work safely while providing services to the most vulnerable. We would advise that the Conservative Group should not use Covid-19 and the unprecedented public health situation as a smoke screen for out-dated political point scoring.

Tom Connolly
Staff Side Secretary

Brian Robertson
Unite the union

Keir Greenaway
GMB

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION – LIBERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

In respect of Item 9.10 on the Agenda

Liberton Primary School Association Deputation Supporting Statement

- 1) We previously requested that a holistic approach could be taken towards the refurbishment of Liberton Primary School. As well as the need to refurbish the fire damaged part of the school, the other part of the school was still undergoing renovations as part of an £800,000 refurb. We again strongly request that any refurbishment undertaken makes the most of this opportunity to equip the school to meet standards and guidelines for 2020 and not 1954 when the school was originally built. This would mean increasing classroom capacity, communal space and indeed providing for further rising rolls in the future. The outcome of the fire investigation was that no cause could be found; considering this, we must add that safety is also a priority for the families of our school. We would also like to make sure that both parents and staff are consulted on both plans and progress.
- 2) Prior to the COVID-19 related lockdown and suspension of construction work The TUs were meant to open in mid-April (after the Easter holidays), and the work only stopped in mid-March. We have been told work on this cannot yet be guaranteed completion by August and will be mid-September, so we are not clear where the new three month lead time has arisen - The whole project was mapped for less than two months on the GANT chart presented at the school meeting by Andy Grey and team. We strongly feel after all the school population has been through this year already, that the decant village being in place by August 11th, should be made a priority, especially in light of the hope for a full return for all pupils on August 12th.

Liberton Primary School children will have had over six months of interruption to their schooling and lives by August as it is, since the fire on Wednesday 5th February. We still face potential further months of uncertainty and if the TUs can be utilised to minimise this, with the possibility of an August return for all pupils at Liberton then we feel strongly that this should be considered, and prioritised by the Council.

Liberton Primary School Children have made a video with LPSA as part of this deputation. The video can be viewed via this link:

<https://youtu.be/PZHOeqXV8Q4>

