

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 4 February 2021

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Frank Ross

COUNCILLORS

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

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

1 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 10 December 2020 as a correct record.

2 Leader's Report

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

- Edinburgh's current Covid position
- Tribute to NHS and Council staff for work over the past year
- LGBT history month

The following questions/comments were made:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Whyte | - | Brexit Working Group – update on actions |
| Councillor Staniforth | - | Staff at Special Schools – vaccine prioritisation |
| Councillor Aldridge | - | Thanks to workers across the City |
| | - | Welcome LGBT history week |
| | - | Scottish Government proposals – Council Tax freeze 2021/22 |
| Councillor Day | - | Commend Executive Director of Resources on his Chartered Companion 2020 accolade |
| | - | Scottish Government draft budget – Council Tax freeze |
| Councillor Gardiner | - | Welcome Scottish Government investment in the school estate |
| Councillor Johnston | - | Council Tax freeze |
| Councillor Miller | - | Welcoming news that 20mph speed limits have reduced vehicle accidents in Edinburgh – support to expand 20mph zones in other areas |
| Councillor Lang | - | Controlled parking in Gorgie/Road closure in Portobello – Council consultation responses |
| Councillor Munro | - | COSLA vote on Council funding |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Councillor Dickie | - | Welcome announcement of phased return to school |
| Councillor Laidlaw | - | Effects of Covid on sole traders – Clarification on the eligibility for funding from the business temporary closure fund |
| Councillor Barrie | - | Healthy, active and sustainable future – dedicated traffic lanes |
| Councillor Wilson | - | Congratulations to James Carlyle for his work in the city |
| Councillor Kate Campbell | - | Discretionary funds for businesses – thanks to staff, stakeholders, partners and Scottish Government |
| Councillor Bruce | - | Discretionary business support fund - applications |
| Councillor Louise Young | - | Anticipated phased return to schools – outstanding spaces for people projects |
| | - | Offer of vaccination for teachers |
| Councillor Rae | - | COSLA recommitment to 1% to participatory budgeting – Congratulations to Leith Chooses project |
| Councillor Fullerton | - | Thanks to Licensing officers for their work in processing the support grants for taxi and private hire car drivers |
| Councillor Webber | - | Thanks to military personnel for help with vaccination process in Edinburgh |

3 Councillors' Code of Conduct Consultation

Details were provided on the Council's proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Motion

- 1) To note the closing date for responses to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Councillors' Code of Conduct was 8 February 2021.

- 2) To agree that the Council would not support proposals set out under Section 5: Declarations of Interest of the consultation document.
- 3) To note that an important element of the Code of Conduct was how it was enforced and that any review of the Code was incomplete unless the processes and effectiveness of the Ethical Standards Commissioner for Scotland and the Standards Commissions in implementing the Code were also reviewed.
- 4) To note that the current process could be slow, drawn out and offer little protection for Councillors, and more importantly, Council staff and the public in relation to incidents and serious allegations including but not limited to violence, sexual harassment, and bullying and harassment.
- 5) To request that the Council Leader write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government to express the Council's concern that effective protection did not exist through the current Ethical Standards Commissioner and Standards Commission's approach and seek a review, explicitly of the effectiveness of its processes and decision making.

- 6) To agree the Council's response to the consultation as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive but add to the response at questions 1:

"While the review to update the documents is helpful for the reasons above, the omission of a review of the effectiveness of the Ethical Standards Commissioner and Standards Commission itself means there is likely to remain a fundamental lack of confidence by many Councillors, Council staff and the public in issues being addressed swiftly and effectively. Following the conclusion of the review of the Councillors' Code of Conduct (if not before), there should be a review of the Commission and the activities of the Commissioner to examine the effectiveness of decision making, culture and approach of these institutions. Until this review is carried out, it is likely any changes to the Code itself will be meaningless in trying to provide effective protection for elected members, and most importantly, Council staff and the public."

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the closing date for responses to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Councillors' Code of Conduct was 8 February 2021.
- 2) To agree that the Council would not support proposals set out under Section 5: Declarations of Interest of the consultation document.

- 3) To agree to add the following points to the Council's response to the Consultation on the Councillors Code of Conduct 2020 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive:

Question 2:

1.9 This should include senior and experienced Councillors as persons from whom to seek advice in addition to senior Council employees.

Question 3:

Councillors are elected to their role by the public and serve the public first and foremost. The current proposals over emphasise the Councillor's duty to the Council rather than to representing their constituents. As drafted, the code assumes the public interest and a Council's interests are synonymous, but it is often demonstrated that this is not always the case.

The entity of "the Council" is made up of all the Councillors sitting together as a collective body – all decisions carried out by officers of the Council are on the behalf of this body via powers delegated away from it. It is therefore right, proper and necessary that Councillors will have to hold officers to account in public for their actions when these have not met the expectations of the Council or there is malpractice to uncover.

Section 2 gives insufficient weight to Paragraph 1 of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and could be open to challenge. The issue of free speech is no superficial issue; it is fundamental to a functioning democracy and is necessary to allow for full and open debate, scrutiny and exposure of wrongdoing and a re-drafting of this section is advisable.

In particular, Section 2:1, selflessness ("I have a duty to take decisions solely in terms of the public interest") conflicts with the paragraphs on duty (I have a duty to act in the interests of the Council as a whole) and leadership (I have a duty to ... to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the Council and its Councillors in conducting public business).

A clear exceptional public interest defence should be part of the code.

Question 4:

However, as above, a clear exceptional public interest defence is needed for paragraphs 3.21, 3.22 and 3.23.

- moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the closing date for responses to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Councillors' Code of Conduct was 8 February 2021.
- 2) To agree that the Council would not support proposals set out under Section 5: Declarations of Interest of the consultation document.
- 3) To agree the proposed Council response to the consultation at Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive, subject to the following:

Council welcomes the work of officers on this consultation but seeks to strengthen the code by including the following paragraph to the Council response, at question 4 of the consultation - Section 3 General Conduct.

At paragraph 3.2 of the draft Code of Conduct add:

'I will not engage in any conduct or action that seeks to hinder another Councillor from carrying out their full duties in relation to their role.'

And renumber all consequent paragraphs appropriately.

- moved by Councillor Barrie, seconded by Councillor Bridgman

Voting

For the Motion	-	36 votes
For Amendment 1	-	23 votes
For Amendment 2	-	2 votes

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

For Amendment 1: Councillors Aldridge, Brown, Bruce, Jim Campbell, Cook, Daggart, Douglas, Gloyer, Hutchison, Johnston, Laidlaw, Lang, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Osler, Rose, Neil Ross, Rust, Smith, Webber, Whyte and Louise Young.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Barrie and Bridgman.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

4 Senior Councillor Remuneration January 2021

The Council had agreed senior Councillor remuneration to Councillor Staniforth as co-leader of the Green Group with effect from 29 July 2020. Details were provided on a proposal that this be allocated to Councillor Main to take effect from 29 January 2021.

Decision

To agree to transfer the Senior Councillor Allowance relating to the Green Group Leader from Councillor Staniforth to Councillor Main with effect from 29 January 2021.

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 28 July 2020; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.).

5 Council Diary 2021-22

The draft Council diary for 2021-2022 was presented together with proposed dates for recess periods and Council meetings from August 2021 to August 2022.

Decision

- 1) To agree the Council Diary for August 2021 to August 2022 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive, and authorise the Chief Executive to make minor adjustments, as necessary.
- 2) To note the Council meeting dates and recess periods for August 2022 to August 2023 would be considered by Council in June 2021.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

6 The Designation of New Polling Places as a result of a Statutory Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts – Report by the Chief Executive

In response to a motion by Councillor Lang and following the completion of a statutory review as per Section 18(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, approval was sought for proposed changes to UK Parliamentary polling places within the City of Edinburgh local government area.

Motion

- 1) To agree to the amendments to current polling arrangements as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive.

- 2) To note that there were no significant changes to current polling district boundaries.
- 3) To note that the Chief Executive had delegated authority to make one-off minor amendments to outlined polling arrangements for the 2021 Scottish Parliament Election should the availability of venues be impacted at short notice by Coronavirus.
- 4) To note that the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) would make any necessary amendments to the Register of Electors.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To agree to the amendments to current polling arrangements as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To note that there were no significant changes to current polling district boundaries.
- 3) To note that the Chief Executive had delegated authority to make one-off minor amendments to outlined polling arrangements for the 2021 Scottish Parliament Election should the availability of venues be impacted at short notice by Coronavirus.
- 4) To note that the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) would make any necessary amendments to the Register of Electors.
- 5) While welcoming the reduction in number of schools designated, to note that 25 schools were still assigned as polling places; to recognise that, since March 2020, schools had been closed to most pupils for significant periods of time, for public health reasons, and that further closure in May 2021 for election purposes would be very unwelcome; to further note that voting over multiple days for the Scottish Parliament election had not been ruled out; and therefore:
 - Mandates continuing efforts to ensure schools are not closed for election purposes for the Scottish election;
 - Explicitly commits not to close schools for polling place use should the option of multiple voting days be put in place nationally; and
 - In anticipation of a large increase in demand for postal votes to reduce pressure on polling places, welcomes all efforts to encourage voters to register for postal votes in a timely fashion.

- moved by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Amendment 2

To add at the end of Paragraph 1 of the motion by Councillor McVey:

“but agrees that, as soon as circumstances allow, officers should make arrangements for trialling the use of Cramond Kirk Halls as an alternative to Cramond Primary.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Louise 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 as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To agree to the amendments to current polling arrangements as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive but agrees that, as soon as circumstances allow, officers should make arrangements for trialling the use of Cramond Kirk Halls as an alternative to Cramond Primary.
- 2) To note that there were no significant changes to current polling district boundaries.
- 3) To note that the Chief Executive had delegated authority to make one-off minor amendments to outlined polling arrangements for the 2021 Scottish Parliament Election should the availability of venues be impacted at short notice by Coronavirus.
- 4) To note that the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) would make any necessary amendments to the Register of Electors.
- 5) While welcoming the reduction in number of schools designated, to note that 25 schools were still assigned as polling places; to recognise that, since March 2020, schools had been closed to most pupils for significant periods of time, for public health reasons, and that further closure in May 2021 for election purposes would be very unwelcome; to further note that voting over multiple days for the Scottish Parliament election had not been ruled out; and therefore:
 - Mandates continuing efforts to ensure schools are not closed for election purposes for the Scottish election where possible;

- Explicitly commits not to close schools for polling place use should the option of multiple voting days be put in place nationally unless absolutely necessary; and
- In anticipation of a large increase in demand for postal votes to reduce pressure on polling places, welcomes all efforts to encourage voters to register for postal votes in a timely fashion

(References – Act of Council No 20 of 21 November 2019: report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7 Rolling Actions Log – May 2015 to December 2020

Details were provided on the outstanding actions arising from decisions taken by the Council from May 2015 to December 2020.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

Action 1 - Private Business – Motion by Councillor Lang

Action 2 – Elected Member Champions

Action 6 - Claim for an Award of Expenses in the Appeal PPA-230-2207 – Motion by Councillor Mowat

Action 7 -Office of Lord Provost: Year Three Report 2019/20

Action 8 - Signage for Scotland's Largest Historical Mural– Motion by Councillor Arthur

Action 9 - Engagement with Employees– Motion by Councillor Rust

Action 10 -Revenue Budget 2020/21 Update – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

Action 12 - Public Health - Motion by Councillor Jim Campbell

Action 13 - Flooding – Motion by Councillor Corbett

Action 15(a) and (b) - Whistleblowing Culture– Motion by Councillor Whyte

Action 16 - Child Protection – Motion by Councillor Dickie

Action 17 - Edinburgh International Activity – Motion by the Lord Provost

Action 18 - Public Health Emergency Measures – Emergency Motion by Councillor Doggart

- 2) **Action 5 - Climate Change Impact and Management - Motion by Councillor Macinnes** - To agree that a report would be submitted to the Council as previously requested.
- 3) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference: Rolling Actions Log, submitted)

8 Operational Governance: Annual Review of Contract Standing Orders

Details were provided of proposed changes to the Council's Contract Standing Orders following their annual review.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed revisions to the Contract Standing Orders, as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Resources.
- 2) To approve the adoption of the revised Contract Standing Orders, attached as Appendix 2 to the report.
- 3) To note that there would continue to be an annual review of the Contract Standing Orders to ensure that they were operating effectively and provided a robust framework for Council purchasing and contract management activities

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

9 Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Annual Report 2019-20

In response to a motion by Councillor Dickie, the Education, Children and Families Committee had considered the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20, which summarised the work of this multi-agency strategic partnership within the past year and referred it to the Council for information.

Decision

- 1) To note the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20.

- 2) To note the positive contribution made by services across the City in keeping children safe.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee of 15 December 2020 (item 12); Act of Council No 14 of 15 October 2020; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

10 Allocation Policy - Motion by Councillor Kate Campbell

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

“Notes that a report on Allocations policy is due to the next Housing Homelessness and Fair work committee and agrees the report will include:

- 1) An analysis of the Scottish Housing Regulator requirements on allocations and our compliance with those policies.
- 2) A detailed appraisal of how homes are allocated to people with specific housing needs and particularly how accessible homes are allocated to ensure that they are allocated to those who have accessibility requirements.
- 3) An analysis of our policies around exceptional need and how we are meeting the housing needs of exceptionally vulnerable groups, including but not limited to how we meet our own policies on housing for people who have experienced domestic abuse and care experienced young people.
- 4) Identify areas where vulnerable people may be experiencing additional barriers to access to housing or where processes could be improved to ensure outcomes are met.
- 5) Identify additional actions that we could take to ensure that those barriers are reduced and that there are pathways for people who are at risk, including processes around management transfers.
- 6) Requests officers examine the case for a robust escalation route for cases of exceptional need, including multi-agency and interdepartmental working to ensure that checks and balances are in place, and that we remain transparent and fair in our allocations policy, but that where there is urgent need because of risk of harm we have a process for ensuring that housing needs are met.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.

- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

To agree the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell and to add a new point 1 as follows, and renumber accordingly:

- 1) An analysis of the impact on allocation policy of a 16% reduction in the Scottish Government social and affordable housing budget while noting that: The Budget did not provide any detail about affordable housing funding beyond the next financial year, despite pressure from the housing sector for governmental commitment to a new long-term affordable housing programme.
 - This Council is clear on the need for such support in Edinburgh.
 - The government's current five-year £3bn Affordable Housing Supply Programme is set to come to an end in March.

- moved by Councillor Jim Campbell, seconded by Councillor McLellan

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	43 votes
For the amendment	-	17 votes

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

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Corbett declared a financial interest as an employee of Shelter Scotland and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

11 Year of Childhood – Motion by Councillor Dickie

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

“Council:

Welcomes, the Children’s Parliament ‘Year of Childhood 2021’ to celebrate the forthcoming United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child into Scots law, and their own 25th birthday.

Commends, the work of the Children’s Parliament to progress the rights of children, recognising them as citizens in their own right, and working to ensure their human rights and voice are embedded across all aspects of our society.

Further commends, their ‘What Kind of Edinburgh?’ partnership work in 2019 to influence children’s services, and acknowledges how it has now shaped the 3Bs of our new Children’s Services Plan.

Celebrates the Scottish Parliament’s unanimous agreement to the general principles of the UNCRC Bill at Stage One, and notes the Deputy First Minister’s expectation that readiness for commencement of the Bill should be a priority for all public authorities.

Recognises, the ongoing hard work and increasingly collaborative approach of our own services and partners to deliver for children, including our new Corporate Parenting Plan, Children’s Services Plan and our second Child Poverty Action Plan.

Further recognises, the outcomes of last year’s governance review of Children’s Services, particularly the importance of a whole system approach to the involvement and participation of children, and the creation of an independent ‘One Edinburgh’, children and young people’s board.

Council therefore,

Acknowledges 2021 as a year to maximise on the right and participation of children, and our delivery with and for them.

Agrees that this needs holistic commitment by Council and partner organisations.

Requests that the Chief Executive works with all Council Directors to establish how the impact of children’s rights, particularly the rights of care experienced children as Corporate Parents, and children experiencing poverty are considered in relevant decisions as the Council drives its agenda forward of reducing poverty, becoming more sustainable and improving wellbeing for all citizens.

Agrees that the Chief Executive report to Full Council in two cycles on the readiness of the Council for the commencement of the UNCRC Bill; progress with 'One Edinburgh'; and, building on 'What Kind of Edinburgh?' work, the assigning of children Ambassadors across all Council services.

Agrees that a further report comes to the first Full Council in 2022, highlighting the impact of the UNCRC on Council wide services delivering for children in Edinburgh."

- moved by Councillor Dickie, seconded by Councillor Perry

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Dickie.

12 Winter Weather Response – Motion by Councillor Miller

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

"Council:

- 1) Thanks the dedication and hard work of all officers and volunteers who contributed to the gritting and de-icing of roads, pavements and cycle paths during the recent wintery weather;
- 2) Notes that with higher than usual levels of walking, wheeling and cycling there was increased focus on the need to prioritise pavements and cycle paths for treatment, a view long held by the Greens on the basis of equalities;
- 3) On behalf of residents who have contacted the Green group with reports of slips, falls and injuries, and those prevented from leaving home completely until the thaw, calls for the upcoming review of winter weather surface treatment at the Transport and Environment Committee to:
 - a) Identify ways to prioritise the treatment of infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, in line with the transport hierarchy and with a focus on equalities
 - b) Evaluate innovations in technology that would increase coverage and efficiency of treatment for pavements and cycle paths, including but not limited to the types of de-icer suitable for pavements and cycle paths, vehicles and equipment, and grit bin sensors
 - c) Review the network of snow wardens and consider how best to support neighbourhood communication."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Miller.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Corbett

Amendment 1

- 1) To agree point 1 of the motion by Councillor Miller.
- 2) To delete points 2 and 3 of the motion and replace with:
 - “2) Observes that in order to encourage the uptake of active travel, increased mitigation against winter weather will be requires on our paths and pavements
 - 3) On behalf of all Edinburgh residents calls for the forthcoming review of Winter Weather Surface Treatment at the Transport and Environment Committee to:
 - a) Recognise the importance of roads for emergency vehicles, public transport and the movement of goods, but also align this with the position of pedestrians and cyclists in the Urban Transport Hierarchy and their need for paths and pavements to be appropriately prioritised.
 - b) Evaluate how innovation and technology could help to increase coverage and efficiency of all surface treatment, including but not limited to the types of de-icer suitable for pavements and cycle paths, vehicles and equipmen
 - c) Ask each Locality to review the need for a network of snow wardens and consider how best to support neighbourhood communication.
 - d) review Grit Bin location and replenishment.
 - 4) Observes similar motions and questions have previously been brought to Council by Conservative Group members, for example in November 2017, February 2018 and October 2020.”

- moved by Councillor Webber, seconded by Councillor Rust

Amendment 2

- 1) To delete paragraph 2 of the motion by Councillor Miller and insert:
 - “2) nevertheless recognises the substantial concerns which have been raised with councillors of all parties regarding a) the limited gritting of footways and cycleways and b) the times residents have waited to get local grit bins refilled”.
- 2) To delete the first three lines of paragraph 3 of the motion and insert:

“notes with concern the reports of slips, falls and injuries which added further pressure onto our NHS at this time of crisis, and that many other residents felt unable to leave their home because of treacherous conditions outside,”
- 3) To insert at the end of 3c) of the motion:

“including improved online information on the expected timescales for refilling grit bins and more timely updates on when bins have been refilled.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Paragraph 3(d) of Amendment 1 and paragraph 3) of Amendment 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted)	-	35 votes
For Amendment 1	-	19 votes
For Amendment 2	-	6 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): The Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Bird, Booth, Burgess, Cameron, Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Child, Corbett, Day, Dickie, Dixon, Doran, Fullerton, Gardiner, Gordon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Henderson, Key, Macinnes, Main, McNeese-Mechan, McVey, Miller, Munn, Munro, Perry, Rae, Staniforth, Watt, Wilson, Work and Ethan Young.

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

For Amendment 2: Councillors Aldridge, Gloyer, Lang, Osler, Neil Ross and Louise Young.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Miller:

- 1) To thank the dedication and hard work of all officers and volunteers who contributed to the gritting and de-icing of roads, pavements and cycle paths during the recent wintery weather;
- 2) To note that with higher than usual levels of walking, wheeling and cycling there was increased focus on the need to prioritise pavements and cycle paths for treatment, a view long held by the Greens on the basis of equalities;
- 3) On behalf of residents who had contacted the Green group with reports of slips, falls and injuries, and those prevented from leaving home completely until the thaw, to call for the upcoming review of winter weather surface treatment at the Transport and Environment Committee to:
 - a) Identify ways to prioritise the treatment of infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, in line with the transport hierarchy and with a focus on equalities.
 - b) Evaluate innovations in technology that would increase coverage and efficiency of treatment for pavements and cycle paths, including but not limited to the types of de-icer suitable for pavements and cycle paths, vehicles and equipment, and grit bin sensors.
 - c) Review the network of snow wardens and consider how best to support neighbourhood communication including improved online information on the expected timescales for refilling grit bins and more timely updates on when bins have been refilled.
 - d) Review grit bin location and replenishment.

13 Thank You James Carlyle – Motion by Councillor Doran

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

“Council notes that James Carlyle, the Inch Plant Nursery Manager retired in December 2020.

Jim began work with Edinburgh Council at the age of 16 in 1976 and has served 10 Lord Provosts.

Council notes with many thanks the enormous contribution Jim has made to the City's green spaces, the famous Princes Street clock and the many other events held by the Lord Provosts and the Council.

Council asks the Lord Provost to write to Jim to thank him from all of us for his huge contribution to the City."

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Doran.

14 Questions

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

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 14 of 4 February 2021)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 February 2021

- Question** (1) Does the Convener agree with the statement ‘High school examinations are an out-of-date 19th and 20th century technology operating in a 21st century environment of teaching and learning’?
- Answer** (1) The statement is found on page 14 of the International Council of Education Advisers Second Formal Report of 2018-20 to the Scottish Government, published 17 December 2020. The ICEA report as a body to the Scottish Government, offering advice on Scotland’s education system. The first Higher examination diet in Scotland was in 1888 so it is entirely correct to refer to their usage since the 19th century to present day. The issue of whether high school examinations are “out-of-date” is the matter of much current debate.
- Question** (2) Does he agree headteachers should ‘seize the opportunity presented by the decision to cancel the exams to reshape assessment and moderation’
- Answer** (2) Following the decision to cancel all SQA examinations for session 2020-21, all Head Teachers are required to ensure that there are robust systems in place to allow teachers, learners, parents and carers to have confidence in grades which will be set by teachers themselves. High quality assessment and moderation lies at the heart of such confidence, and this applies to the Broad General Education

(Early years to S3) as well as the Senior Phase (S4-S6). See for example the Education Scotland document “The Moderation Cycle” at

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/the-moderation-cycle/> .

We expect Head Teachers to be aware that improving practice and confidence in this area is an essential part of improving attainment for all of our learners. We therefore would expect Head Teachers to appreciate that the decision to cancel examinations does present them with an opportunity to support staff to improve in this area, and that this is an opportunity which they should take.

Question

- (3) Does he agree with the statement ‘issues of high-stakes end-loaded one-off exams in S4, S5 and S6 despite very low leaving rate in S4. Not fit for purpose’?

Answer

- (3) The statement is found in the “response” section of a document containing Head Teacher questions. The question in full is:

‘High school examinations are an out-of-date 19th and 20th century technology operating in a 21st century environment of teaching and learning’ (International Council of Education Advisors 2020)

How will you seize the opportunity presented by the decision to cancel the exams to reshape assessment and moderation in Trinity Academy?

The statement is given as a possible response. Again, there is much current debate about examination structures in Scottish education, with concerns of an overload of an assessment in the Senior Phase leading to stress for our learners. Concerns over a “two-term dash” to Highers in S5 remain, due to pupils sitting National 5 examinations in S4. We would expect our Head Teachers to have knowledge of the challenges facing Scottish education and to be able to question whether current arrangements are suitable or can be improved.

However, the statement was included for illustrative purposes and is not designed to be interpreted as the settled opinion of the council.

Question

- (4) Does he feel these are appropriate as a question presented to headteachers in their final short-leet interviews.

Answer (4) We expect our Head Teachers to be intellectually curious, willing to challenge the thinking of others (and themselves), and not be afraid to voice their own opinions. We also expect them to be aware of current developments in education, and to be able to express their views on them. The question was appropriate.

Supplementary Question Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for his answers, just a quick supplementary. Whilst the answer provided does give the context for setting a question that suggests that exams are an outdated form of assessment doesn't really answer my core question, so does the Convener agree with me that asking such a question of head teachers in an interview with a recommended response in the assessment guide that exams are not fit for purpose is inappropriate, likely to give the head teachers the impression that this is a policy decision of the council despite this being something that we have not debated, we have not agreed and which contradicts the position of the Scottish Government?

Supplementary Answer Yes I understand where you're coming from and it might be seen as a provocative question but given the debate that's been conducted just now because of the cancellation of exams in the last term because of the pandemic, there's a lot of debate within education circles about what is the best way to assess pupils ability and that's being carried on in the Council, in the academic world and in the Scottish Government and hopefully, I'm hopeful that at some point there may be a formal review of how to assess pupils ability where we can all take part in that debate, it's a very live debate at the moment and if we do get a consultation document then head teachers would be expected to participate, so in that sense it's a very live issue and it's a very pertinent question.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for
answer by the Convener of the
Transport and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 4 February 2021**

Question

What comfort can the Convener provide that the emptying of communal waste bins between the hours of 06:00 and 22:00 seven days a week, as set out in policy approved by the Transport and Environment Committee, is consistent with Noise Pollution legislation and the Councils own policy on Noise?

Answer

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not include specific time constraints on noise and any concern raised needs to be considered based on the facts of the case.

The waste collection service generally operates between the hours of 6am and 10pm (with a nightshift in the city centre) and, where collections commence before 7am or after 7pm these may result in complaints from residents about short term disturbance.

However, due to the short duration and frequency of these collections, experience has shown that they generally do not constitute a noise nuisance and therefore are not a breach of the legislation.

However, where complaints or enquiries are received from affected residents Environmental Health will, where appropriate, work with Waste and Cleansing teams to nevertheless explore whether steps can be taken to minimise any disturbance.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for her answer, I'm sure the Convener will have spotted this is in relation to a constituent in the Forth Ward who has been quite vociferous on the issue. Can I just ask for some small clarification, do we keep any records of the extent to which this is raised by constituents as a problem, I do take the

broad thrust of the Convener's answer but I'm just wondering if we have any information and if this is a common problem or not?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you Councillor Campbell I would have to revert back to the service department to know exactly what records are kept on this but I must say in my time as Convener in almost 4 years now, this is the first level of complaint of this nature. I have enormous sympathy with residents who find noise intrusion a problem, but it is one of the difficulties in trying to manage the efficient running of a waste service that requires us to go forward on the kind of actions that we take. It should be noted in my written answer that because of the short duration, the frequency of these kind of street interventions that we've got around waste collections, the general experience from previous investigations indicate that they actually don't constitute a noise nuisance and therefore don't breach the legislation, thank you.

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Webber for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 February 2021

Given the recent Edinburgh Evening News Article of 13th January 2021 reported that the Council had only received 2 official complaints about the scheme since it was originated in May, 2020, can the Convener please clarify:

Question (1) What is the recognised complaints process for the public and Councillors to follow?

Answer (1) The Council's [Complaints Procedure](#) is described on the website.

Question (2) What records are maintained to evidence the complaints lodged, recorded and responded to?

Answer (2) All correspondence received in the Spaces for People mailbox has been categorised by theme and individual project and treated as objections (in a similar way to responses received for Traffic Regulation Orders).

Recently there have been a number of formal complaints received and these are being logged, acknowledged and dealt with at the appropriate stage of the Council's complaints process. However, due the number of complaints received recently it has not been possible to respond to all of the stage 1 complaints within the appropriate timeframe. These will, however, all be dealt with.

Question (3) How were complaints raised with Councillors which were forwarded to Spaces for People staff registered and recorded?

a) How were these complaints classified?

b) How many items of correspondence by email and letter have been received by officers in relation to concerns, issues, areas of improvement needed since the introduction of Spaces for People schemes?

- Answer** (3) a) See Answer 2 above.
- b) There have been in excess of 5,000 items of correspondence of various types received by officers in respect of Spaces for People measures.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost. Yes there was much coverage in the press obviously around the fact that there were only 2 formal complaints but there's also I would interpret some recognition that perhaps the officers are indeed stretched given that there are an excess of 5,000 items of correspondence coming in to the team that are managing this and given also that we have that try and modify approach, I'm hoping that there might be some real nuggets of information in those 5,000 items that might assist the many complaints that are facing, so at what point do we expect these 5,000 items of correspondence to be addressed or should we be looking to get all the outstanding issues registered as formal complaints given the answer to number 1, thanks Convener?

Supplementary Answer

Thank you. Undoubtedly the Spaces for People projects have elicited an enormous amount of correspondence in from residents although I would note that on the notifications that went out to stakeholders it was quite clear in those statements there would be difficulty in the team addressing every single piece of correspondence that would come in, so that's been made clear right from the very start. There are inevitably difficulties in dealing with this number of pieces of correspondence, I would hasten to add though, that I'd like it to be made absolutely clear that not all of these are complaints, we've also had people who have come forward with useful suggestions, indications of where we could go further for example or simply, thanks for us taking action around a particular hotspot that they have felt as a resident needed to be actioned, so not all of those 5,000 correspondence pieces are in fact complaints and I want to make that very very clear. In terms of how we go forward on this, as you know the team is trying very hard to deliver a massive amount across the city for all the reasons of the original objectives of the project and we will be dealing with

those as quickly as we can, you'll note also from answer 2 that those who are being classified as complaints are going through the process of being categorised and try to be responded to according to the Council complaints procedure and that's what we'll be relying on in this particular situation as well, as one would expect, thank you.

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Webber for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 February 2021

On 27th November 2020 the “Colleague Guide to Working from Home” was circulated and within this there was a link to “Display Screen Guidance”, “Display Screen Equipment Assessment” and a “Workstation Assessment at home Flow Chart”.

Given that most of our employees have been working from home, in often challenging situations since March 2020, can the convener confirm:

Question (1) How many Workstation Assessments were carried out?

Answer (1) See below.

Question (2) How many Display Screen Equipment Assessments were carried out?

Answer (2) **Q1 and Q2**

The Council’s assessment methodology follows the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) model inasmuch as workplace assessment and Display Screen Equipment (DSE) are interchangeable terms. DSE assessment is a self-assessment process. This approach means that overall numbers of completed DSE assessments are not collated or recorded centrally.

Question (3) What were high level recommendations from these assessments?

Answer (3) The high-level findings from DSE self-assessments generally related to the provision of equipment to enable individuals to work more effectively from home.

In a small number of more complex assessment outcomes this resulted in specialist equipment being supplied to home addresses and with the involvement of Occupational Health

professional advice. An additional safeguard was also put in place if adjustments could not be made in response to DSE self-assessments, or individual mental health and wellbeing issues, for line managers to seek to authorise a return to work. Such requests were carefully managed and have been very limited to date. Such access has also been reviewed regularly in light of changing public health guidance and associated restrictions.

- Question** (4) What equipment/solutions were provided to employees to ensure their working conditions at home met the Display Screen Guidance?
- Answer** (4) The individual needs of employees were met by the supply of equipment from the workplace to their home. The main items supplied included: chairs; desks; monitors; and, peripherals such as keyboards. The provision of such equipment has enabled employees to have adjustable seating, improved posture, correct desk height and distancing from monitors, etc.
- Question** (5) How long did staff need to wait until they were provided with the suitable equipment?
- Answer** (5) The timescale varied between individuals, given that this was wholly dependent upon the completion of the DSE self-assessment by employees, engagement with the line manager and the complexity of any identified requirements to be fulfilled. However, following identification of a need, a system was organised by Property and Facilities Management to enable rapid delivery or collection of equipment. A significant number of items were dispatched from Council premises in response to these assessments.
- Question** (6) How many outstanding requests are there and what is the nature of these?
- Answer** (6) There are no outstanding requests currently registered.
- Question** (7) What has been the financial cost of the required modifications, equipment and health and wellbeing support to members of staff who have been working from home?

Answer (7) These costs are not managed corporately, with any additional costs being contained within individual service budgets. However, the majority of the equipment supplied was existing office equipment and, consequently, additional costs have been minimised significantly.

Supplementary Question Thank you. I brought this question because I did one of those self assessments myself and some key things were found lacking in my kit so I suppose, and I was also very aware of how long it took for them to be resolved, in fact I'm actually fortunate enough to be in a position where I can supplement and buy product to make my little home office environment effective. So that answer to point 2 where you're saying you're not keeping a track of this, we have a duty of care to our employees and as we move forward and for all intents and purposes we may well be looking at home working for some of our members of staff for quite some time, I really think we need to be getting a bit cannier with this, and we need to know what's going on and the limitations, I've got an officer myself where I see that they're working in their bedroom, so can we have some commitment to really demonstrate our duty of care for our employees and staff that are now forced or having to work from home?

Supplementary Answer I thank Councillor Webber for her question and it's something that I think all members will be aware of given their own personal working from home situation. It's something I've been in dialogue with the Director with, not least since you submitted your question, and it's something that I followed up, trying to anticipate if there would be a supplementary because I expected one, and it is something that I would want all staff who are working from home to make sure that they have carried out the self-assessment, that they perhaps retake the self-assessment and I know that reminders go out from managers regularly, there's information via Newsbeat and through the intranet, there's also guidance on the Orb that staff can look at, but it's something that does concern me, like Councillor Webber, I've made my own home office here, I was lucky enough to have an old desk and I've acquired a decent chair but I know before that it was quite uncomfortable at times trying

to do work in that home situation. So my appeal to staff is make sure you've done the assessment and my appeal to officers is we should redouble our efforts to make sure that staff are assisted in any way that's necessary to allow them to carry out their work at home safely.

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Webber for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 4 February 2021

Following the announcement of the lockdown on 4th January and the previous suspension of repairs on 26th December how many tenants have outstanding non-essential repairs to their council homes? And can they be broken down by:

- Question** (1) How many requests for repairs have been made since March 2020?
- Answer** (1) Since March 2020 there have been 51,947 repair requests were made. Of these, 38,004 were classed as essential repairs, 4,002 were requests for non-essential repairs between March and October when these could not be carried out, and 9,941 were for non-essential repairs raised between October and December 2020 when non-essential repairs could be carried out.
- Question** (2) How many of these requests were deemed urgent?
- Answer** (2) As set out above, 38,004 requests were considered essential.
- Question** (3) How many of these requests have resulted in works on site?
- Answer** (3) All of the 38,004 requests for essential repair have resulted in works on site. Not all of the 9,941 non-essential repairs booked will have resulted in works being carried out on site.
- Question** (4) Can you confirm the procedure for tenants to follow for repairs that are not deemed urgent?
- Answer** (4) For those tenants who had non-essential repairs cancelled as a result of the introduction of the level 4 restrictions from 26 December 2020, the Council will contact them when these repairs can be safely carried out. The tenant will be asked to contact Repairs Direct to book a new appointment.

When the Council is again able to carry out non-essential

repairs, this will be communicated to all tenants through our normal communication channels, providing details on how to contact Repairs Direct to request repairs

Question (5) Based on historic information, or other sources, what backlog of repair work do you anticipate has built up as a result of the pandemic?

Answer (5) We anticipate that around 80% of the 1,600 non-essential repairs which had to be cancelled will be requested over the initial four week period when work can begin again on non-essential repairs.

Following the reintroduction of non-essential repairs in October 2020 analysis showed that requests for repair appointments were lower than the same period the previous year with just under 2,600 compared to around 3,400 the previous year over a five week period from October to November.

Feedback points to a number of reasons for this lower demand including tenants, particularly those shielding, not requesting repairs unless absolutely essential.

Question (6) What plans can you share for completing any outstanding work, and over what timescale?

Answer (6) The service plans to reinstate non-essential repairs on a safe and phased basis when Scottish Government Guidance allows, and it is safe to do so.

In addition to continuing to prioritise essential repairs, those tenants that had non-essential repairs cancelled in January 2021 will be given priority for appointments.

All other non-essential repair appointments will be scheduled as soon as possible, while ensuring that the service is not overwhelmed.

However, based on experience from October 2020, it is anticipated that all appointments will be completed within four weeks of being reported.

There is some risk that demand could be higher than it was when non-essential repairs were reintroduced previously. To

mitigate this the service has a framework of contractors who can provide additional temporary capacity if required. In addition, the HRA Business Plan includes a number of contingencies to fund additional revenue expenditure and loss of income which could be utilised if required to support this approach.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 4 February 2021**

Question (1) How many grit bin refill requests were made between 1 December 2020-15 January 2021, broken down by ward?

Answer

(1)

WARD	NO. OF REFILL REQUESTS
01- ALMOND	291
02 - PENTLAND HILLS	306
03 - DRUM BRAE/GYLE	174
04 - FORTH	18
05 - INVERLEITH	84
06 - CORSTORPHINE/MURRAYFIELD	87
07 - SIGHTHILL/GORGIE	63
08 - COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD	337
09 - FOUNTAINBRIDGE/CRAIGLOCKHART	117
10 - MEADOWS MORNINGSIDE	88
11 - CITY CENTRE	13
12 - LEITH WALK	20
13 - LEITH	3
14 - CRAIGENTINNY/DUDDINGSTON	20
15 - SOUTHSIDE/NEWINGTON	57
16 - LIBERTON/GILMERTON	136
17 - PORTOBELLO/CRAIGMILLAR	35
NO CODE ALLOCATED	3
	1,852

Please note that, of the 1,852 requests received, only 896 were identified with a specific grit bin reference to allow the request to be formally recorded and tracked.

As well as the Council's Road Operations team, additional support to refill grit bins has been provided by other Council services (e.g. Street Cleansing and Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries) since January 2021. Work completed by other services is recorded manually and therefore may not yet be included in the information provided below.

There are 3,000 grit bins around Edinburgh for which the

Council is responsible. Complaints or requests may also be received about grit bins that are the responsibility of others, including developers of newer housing developments.

Question (2) What was the average time taken to fulfil grit bin refill requests made between 1 December 2020-15 January 2021?

Answer (2) The average time taken to refill the 896 grit bins was eight days.

Question (3) How many of the grit bin refill requests made between 1 December 2020-15 January 2021 were

- a) fulfilled within 7 days?
- b) fulfilled within 14 days?
- c) fulfilled within 21 days?
- d) still outstanding after 21 days?

Answer (3) For the 896 requests:

- a) 460 (51%) were fulfilled within 7 days;
- b) 297 (757 cumulative or 84%) were fulfilled within 14 days;
- c) 121 (878 cumulative or 98%) were fulfilled within 21 days;
- d) 18 (896 cumulative) are still outstanding.

Question (4) What performance target exists for responding to grit bin refill requests?

Answer (4) There are no performance targets for responding to grit bin refill requests.

It is worth noting that in times of snow fall, ice or prolonged cold replenished grit bins can be emptied very quickly. In these instances it is far more efficient to undertake a full

replenishment of all bins rather than try to attend only the ones that have been reported, which could lead to residents feeding back that only one bin (that has been reported) being refilled when there are others that are empty in the same or neighbouring street.

**Supplementary
Question**

Can I thank the Convener for the answers that she's provided. The last answer confirms that there are no performance targets in place, so can I ask her to clarify, what does she think is the maximum reasonable time for someone to wait to have their grit bin refilled?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thank you for the supplementary Councillor Lang. I think this is almost an impossible question to answer, if I had my way then the minute we got a request in from any resident in any part of the city, within the hour we'd be out with a filled grit bin but given the fact we've got 3,000 grit bins across the city, we also sometimes get requests in for grit bins that are not ours to replenish because they sit either in developments or they sit in private land. it would be almost impossible for us to achieve that. So in terms of the length of time, in order to refill all of our grit bins if we were going out on a replenish it would take 10 squads of the teams that go out seven days in order to get round all of them. These are the kind of things that were dealing with alongside very uncertain weather conditions, so it's a rolling programme that we've got of trying to replenish those, trying to respond to individual requests with making sure that every grit bin that is complained about, that it's neighbouring ones are also done in order to improve levels of efficiency around delivering grit bins, so it is an almost impossible question for us to answer. We could find a performance measurement, it might be a possibility, but it would take a lot more work than just a straightforward answer from me on that to find something that is truly useful and can benefit the city. In the meantime our winter teams are working very hard to fulfil those individual requests and the general requirements of gritting across the city, thank you.

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 4 February 2021**

Question

What is the current timetable for implementing new parking restrictions on Almondhill Road following the Council's consultation on TRO/19/88 in December 2019?

Answer

TRO/19/88 related to the introduction of proposed double yellow lines on Kilmorey Place, Kirkliston.

Following issue of the first consultation letters comments were received from local elected members relating to the introduction of additional restrictions in Almondhill Road. After discussion with elected members it was agreed to withdraw the original TRO and to consult on a new plan for both Kilmorey Place and Almondhill Road.

This will be submitted in February 2021 and a new TRO process will commence as soon as possible after that.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Staniforth for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 4 February 2021**

Question

What is the estimated impact of Brexit on the economy of the city of Edinburgh?

Answer

There aren't any up to date forecasts of the economic impact of Brexit at a local authority level that take full account of the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) approved and then ratified by the UK parliament on December 30 that I am aware of.

However, in November 2020, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published a range of forecasts outlining the potential impacts of Brexit on the UK economy under different scenarios. Under the assumption of a 'typical' free-trade agreement (FTA) with the EU and a smooth transition to these new trading arrangements, OBR estimates the economic impact of the UK leaving the EU as a 4% loss of GDP over the long term compared with remaining in the EU.

This estimate is in line with the average of projections published by other institutions, with drivers of long-term output loss associated and driven by changes to trading arrangements, to supply chains, to tourism and investment flows, to cost and availability of labour, and consequent productivity changes.

In this context, it is reasonable to assume that, along with Covid-19 and the associated economic recession, Brexit represents a significant change in the economic environment within which the city operates, though the precise changes in activity and jobs directly associated with Brexit in the city remain challenging to estimate with confidence.

Although Edinburgh has strength and resilience through its diverse economy, that also means that there are many aspects of Brexit that could impact on different areas of the economy. Key risks are:

Exports

Recent analysis from the Fraser of Allander Institute does note that cities such as Edinburgh may be less likely than other parts of the UK to be severely affected by export and trading related disruptions. However, sectors in Edinburgh with the highest proportion of output supported by EU exports include:

- some forms of manufacturing such as those related to computer/electronic,
- food and beverage,
- services for transport and storage

These collectively accounted for around 50,000 Edinburgh jobs in 2019.

Scottish Enterprise's *Fortnightly Insights* report noted that:

28% of Scottish exporters trading were exporting less than normal this week.

Trade with Northern Ireland (NI) has become much more difficult with challenges concentrated in food and drink businesses.

Many businesses fear rising costs – e.g. freight container use costs have quadrupled in recent months due to COVID-19 and Brexit.

Some of these costs are making certain business models unviable:

- businesses whose model involves goods crossing two borders (e.g. importing from China before selling to Europe) may have insufficient profit margins to absorb the double payment of import duty now required.
- businesses exporting directly to EU consumers report losing as much as a third of their customer

base overnight as new regulations (e.g. imposition of VAT, import tariffs) makes their products/services uncompetitive.

Market access issues are being reported in the new trading environment:

- A few businesses are currently unable to deliver to the EU as some couriers are not shipping because of the additional bureaucracy. Some EU-based hauliers have also stopped carrying goods to and from the UK.
- Some sales agents in Europe have indicated they are unwilling to take on additional UK work as they are not paid any additional fees to cover the extra bureaucracy and only get paid once orders have been delivered and paid for. This is particularly a problem for smaller businesses.

Construction

The Construction Leadership Council estimates that around 22% of all materials, products and components are sourced from abroad by UK construction businesses. Provided that rules of origin are satisfied in relation to the goods there will be no tariffs under the TCA. However, customs declarations need to be made when importing or exporting goods which could result in supply chain delays.

In addition the TCA does not provide for mutual recognition of products or standards in the same way as existed while the UK was in the EU. From 2022 businesses must make sure that any products or components they use, imported from the EU, have a third party conformity assessment by an approved body.

The end of free movement also creates an increased likelihood of a skills shortage which could have an impact on delivery timescales for construction projects, increase costs and could make some projects unaffordable.

Inward Investment

Also noted in Scottish Enterprise's *Fortnightly Insights* report:

- Evidence is also emerging that inward investors have a less positive outlook on the Scottish economy than indigenous businesses as they had greater, and growing, concern over the end of the transition period with the EU.

Financial Services

In 2019 Financial Services and Insurance accounted for 10.5% of jobs in Edinburgh. Many firms anticipated the end of passporting and have adjusted to mitigate the impact. However, the TCA has very limited provision for financial services, instead a joint declaration sets out that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be agreed by March 2021 alongside a commitment to further dialogue. While it is hoped that this will give a greater degree of certainty over the future agreements that will be in place, there is currently no clarity on how this dialogue will proceed, and what impact it may have on the EU's current equivalence framework.

The EU is also expected to, but not guaranteed to, grant the UK data adequacy. Until this has been granted there is a risk to businesses that transfer personal data from the EU.

The exact nature and scale of the impact of Brexit on Edinburgh's economy will be difficult to estimate because of the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Analysis from the Fraser of Allander Institute identified the top three sectors where Scottish output fell the most due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The change in sector GDP between February and September 2020 was -31% for the accommodation and food industry, -20% for other services (e.g. repair services, hairdressing and other beauty treatments) and -14% for transport and storage. Edinburgh has a higher share of jobs in these sectors with 14.9% jobs in Edinburgh versus 14.1% jobs in Scotland as recorded in 2019.

While we do not have precise data on the scale of the impact of Brexit on Edinburgh, from the data that is available we can estimate the sectors that are likely to be most impacted, and the nature of the challenges that will arise.

An assessment of these issues and appropriate responses will be considered during development of the refreshed Edinburgh Economy Strategy planned for publication this year, with reports due for consideration by the Policy and Sustainability Committee in April and June 2021.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost. The answer to this question shows that although Council officers have worked very hard to make sure the direct effects of Brexit on the council are minimised, the direct effects on the city look pretty appalling and universally negative, not to mention that this question doesn't go into the effect some personal people, such as musicians who are going to find it prohibitively expensive to tour in the EU now. So with all this negativity does the Convener feel there is anything that could be done to mitigate it?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Just to thank Councillor Staniforth for his question. I think although we don't have any Edinburgh specific data yet, I think from the data we are getting across Scotland, we can see that there is some likely impacts on our economy, things like market access, impacts on export and advanced manufacturing, the loss of freedom of movement, the impact on workforce and skills, the subsequent impact of that on many industries not least construction. I think some of these have been masked by the pandemic so far but it's clear that there will be long term structural damage to our economy and the best estimates are around 4% of GDP and this underlines the need for us to continue long-term monitoring and get an understanding of where the issues are arising across our economy. I think the key things that we can do immediately are let our EU nationals know that they are welcome, that they're valued contributors to our city, our economy and our civic life, that we can invest in skills and I think through our economy strategy and working with partners such as the Chamber of Commerce and the FSB and many others to really understand those impacts as they happen and to look at the levers we have and make sure that we are using them and that will be key to part of our economy strategy alongside obviously building back from the pandemic. We also have to be clear about the levers that we don't have, and frankly if we can have a down to the

wire Brexit during the pandemic at the start of a second wave then I cannot see any rational reason why we shouldn't be, as part of this, making the case vociferously for granting the people of Edinburgh three quarters of whom voted to remain in the EU, that they should have their democratic right to choose independence for Scotland and return to the heart of Europe.

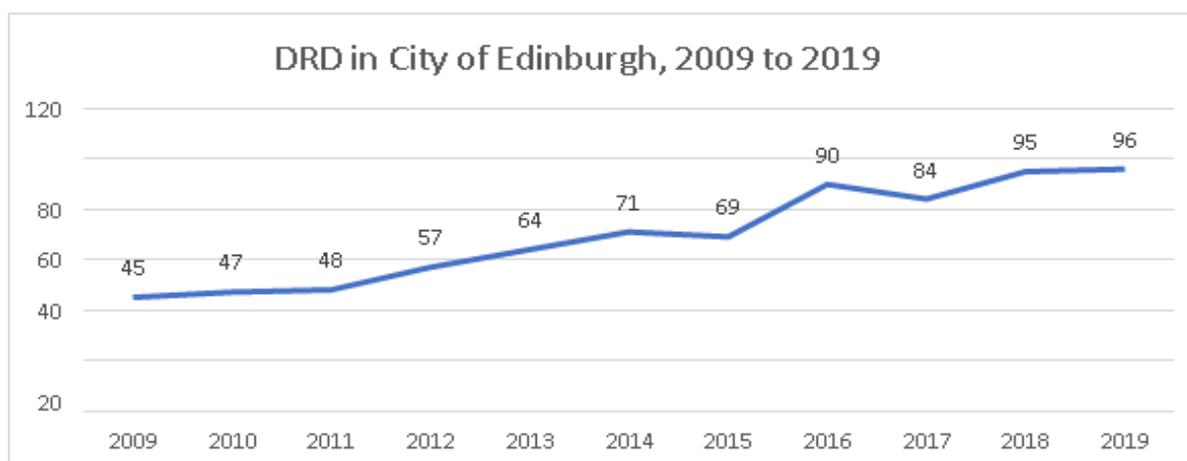
QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Main for answer by the Vice Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board at a meeting of the Council on 4 February 2021

The Scottish Government recently announced additional funding over a five year period to tackle Scotland's disgraceful record on drug deaths.

Question (1) How many drug deaths and drug related deaths have there been in Edinburgh and what is the known about the profile of those deaths over the last 10 years?

Answer (1) The graph below provides the figures for drug related deaths since 2009. Local analysis indicates several trends which may be contributing to the increase: Increasing proportions of those who died had taken cocaine or other stimulants, either alongside other drug types or on their own. This is a particular risk factor for older drug users or those who have had long periods of substance use. Similarly, benzodiazepines were involved in a greater proportion of the deaths. There are some other changes in age range and gender profile.



Question (2) Over the last 5 years what has been the total funding offered by the Scottish Government and what has been the actual spend by Edinburgh Council on support services on drug services?

Answer (2) The funding provided for drug and alcohol services by the Scottish Government is allocated in the first instance to NHS Lothian. This money, in turn, forms part of the budget delegated to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board who prioritise its application. As such it combines with other funding streams to give an overall budget for drug and alcohol services. Because of how the Council's element of this information is held in the financial ledger, further analysis is required to extract the overall spend on drug and alcohol services over the 5 year period requested

Question (3) What funding comparisons are available for those countries with lower drug deaths than Scotland?

Answer (3) The Partnership do not hold this information. Scottish Government have indicated they might be able to provide some information in relation to rehabilitation investment and further information is being sought.

Supplementary Question Thank you Lord Provost. Firstly Lord Provost, I note that the answers to the second and third question actually say that the information is not available and they're unable to answer those questions right now but it's being worked on, so I wonder Lord Provost how you would wish to take that forward and when the full answers are available how they will be put into the public domain?

Comments by the Lord Provost Is that your supplementary for the Vice-Chair because it sounds like it Councillor Main – it's not a question that I can answer but if you wish to ask that supplementary to the Vice-Chair I think it would be more appropriate

Supplementary Question continued I would prefer to ask a supplementary on the first question which is in fact answered, thank you Lord Provost.

Unlike some other parts of Scotland where the drug deaths have risen steeply, the table shows that in Edinburgh they've remained fairly stable, but I'm sure we'd all agree that one death is one death too many and in Edinburgh's case 97 deaths. For clarity Lord Provost, can I ask is it right that this trend is likely to be temporary, not least because of the covid effect on our health and wellbeing, reduction in the rehab capacity during covid and resulting significant rise in waiting lists?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Thanks Lord Provost and thanks to Councillor Main for her question. The trajectory of drug related deaths is a grim one and I think we will need to work with our partners to reduce the numbers of drug related deaths. I do welcome the increased focus across Scotland as a whole which I hope will lead to dealing with the increase in drug deaths so that we can prevent more tragedies in the future. In terms of the other question about circulating information, if that information becomes available to us relatively soon then I'm happy for that to be circulated as widely as possible, thank you.