

**QUESTION NO 48**

**By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 27 October 2022**

Small local shops and customer-facing businesses are vital to Edinburgh, contributing monies and employment to our Gross Added Value. They are a cornerstone for our town centres and communities in the draft City Plan 2030.

In 2020, we saw more Edinburgh businesses close than open for the first time and now they're feeling the effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis. 3 out of the 5 independent cafes in Bonnington have closed in the last six months alone.

Can the convener please confirm;

**Question** (1) What steps are being taken by the Council to ensure our town centre businesses are being supported and can continue serving their communities?

**Answer** (1)

**Question** (2) What discussions has the Scottish Government's Minister for Businesses, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise had with the Council regarding support for small shopfront businesses and has the Minister offered any support?

**Answer** (2)

**Question** (3) Will the Policy and Sustainability Convener write an open letter to this month's Chancellor to underline the importance of a stable economy for Edinburgh and it's diverse culture and communities?

**Answer** (3)