


Business Bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 12th March 2024

Dean of Guild Courtroom, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener: Councillor Cammy Day</p> 	<p>Councillor Cammy Day (Convener) Councillor Danny Aston Councillor Alan Beal Councillor Fiona Bennett Councillor Marco Biagi Councillor Kate Campbell Councillor Sanne Dijkstra-Downie Councillor Phil Doggart Councillor Kevin Lang Councillor Lesley Macinnes Councillor Adam Nols-McVey Councillor Jane Meagher Councillor Claire Miller Councillor Alys Mumford Councillor Ben Parker Councillor Mandy Watt Councillor Iain Whyte</p>	<p>Jamie Macrae, Committee Officer</p> <p>Jacqueline Boyle, Assistant Committee Officer</p>

Corporate Debt Policy

The Corporate Debt Policy aims to strike a fair balance between the financial needs of the Council and the wellbeing of our customers. The policy is reviewed annually as part of the Council's assurance activities, with the latest update in January 2024 confirming minor updates relating to statutory court costs and fees, interest rate alignment, job title corrections and updated wording for the mixed tenure section. The policy remains fit for purpose.

Contact

[Nicola Harvey](#),
Service Director: Customer
and Digital Services

Gaelic Signage

This item responds to action 34 (4) from Policy and Sustainability 22 August 2023 by providing an action list of Gaelic signage in the city including place names, city transport infrastructure, schools and within and outside other Council buildings.

An overview of Gaelic signage installed to date is given at the end of this document. In summary:

The two Gaelic medium education sites have external signage; and there is internal signage at Taobh na Pàirce and Darroch Annexe, James Gillespie's High School

Bilingual external signs have been installed in 24 sites including 7 kirkyards and burial groups, Meadowbank Sports Centre, 15 education facilities and Willow Service (Women's Justice Centre); installation is pending at one other education site.

The installation of formal internal signage is pending for four sites (schools and early years)

The overview also gives information about signage installed as part of the Edinburgh Wayfinding Project, and about Gaelic translations available on Council websites.

As part of the ongoing work by officers to support Gaelic signage, guidelines for the use of Gaelic signage were developed and distributed to key service managers in November 2022, asking them to cascade to their teams. The Council's print unit, which produces signage, was also briefed about requirements and process for obtaining official Gaelic name translations.

The guidelines set out the following requirements:

The Gaelic name must be incorporated with new building projects and when existing signs are being replaced.

Gaelic translation from the official Gaelic language source, [Gaelic Place-names of Scotland](#); this has been stipulated by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

There is an expectation that, on new buildings, Gaelic must be used alongside English on internal signage. The Capital Gaelic Development Officer (CGDO) will take the lead on translations of directional signage or room functions e.g., toilets, store etc.

A Gaelic officers working group is now working with various teams in the Council that produce signage to set out an achievable phased approach to making sure Gaelic is incorporated appropriately.

Contact

[Eleanor Cunningham](#),
Lead Policy and Insight
Officer,
Corporate Services

In line with commitments in the Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2024-2029, the Council will review current guidance with a view to extend the scope and scale of implementation of Gaelic signage and to increase awareness of staff of their responsibilities to deliver this ambition.

Overview of Gaelic signage installed

1. Gaelic Medium Schools

- Taobh na Pàirce Primary and James Gillespie's High School: external Gaelic signage, which were erected during the initial school build.
- Taobh na Pàirce and Darroch Annexe, James Gillespie's High School : Internal signage

2. Other Council Properties

a) External signage

1. Greyfriars Kirkyard
2. St Cuthberts Kirkyard
3. Canongate Kirkyard
4. Old Calton Burial Ground
5. New Calton Burial Ground
6. South Queensferry Cemetery
7. Dalry Cemetery
8. Meadowbank Sports Centre
9. Castlebrae Community Campus
10. Trinity Academy Sports Campus
11. Bangholm Outdoor Centre
12. St Cuthberts Primary Early Learning and Childcare
13. Signhill Primary Early Learning and Childcare
14. Victoria Primary Early Learning and Childcare
15. Nether Currie Primary Early Learning and Childcare
16. St Marks Early Learning and Childcare Main Entrance
17. Granton Primary Early Learning and Childcare
18. Calder Glen Early Learning and Childcare Entrance
19. Queensferry Early Learning and Childcare
20. Canaan Lane Primary Early Learning and Childcare
21. Craigentenny Early Learning and Childcare
22. Frogston Primary Early Learning and Childcare
23. St John Vianney Primary Early Learning and Childcare
24. Willow Service: Women's Justice Centre, 2023

b) Informal, internal signage

School pupils have taken part in the development of internal signage for the Edinburgh and Scottish Collection section in Central library and of a welcome sign for the City Chambers and Waverley Court.

Central library: the Capital Gaelic Development Officer worked with S2 Gaelic, James Gillespie's High School to develop dual language signs which are on display in the Edinburgh and Scottish Collection.

City Chambers and Waverley Court: a bilingual welcome poster designed by pupil at Taobh na Pàirce in 2021 is on display in 3 places at the City Chambers.

3. Installation pending

- a) External signage: Kirkliston Primary School extension.
- b) Internal Signage:
 - 1. Ratho Early Years
 - 2. Maybury Primary School and HC
 - 3. Wester Hailes High School
 - 4. Kirkliston Primary Early Learning and Childcare

4. Websites

- 1. Edinburgh Tram's Website: <https://edinburghtrams.com/plan-journey/route-maps-stops>
- 2. Council Website, school term dates: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/14829/school-term-dates-202324>

5. Edinburgh Wayfinding Project

Transport for Edinburgh lead the Edinburgh Wayfinding Project and in 10 Aug 2018 agreed to direct that that Gaelic location place names should be on the new Wayfinding products e.g., Bus station/Princes Street/Shandwick Place. These are now in place across the city. Note that work is underway to ensure that the guidelines for production of signage, including the process for translation and approval, are applied to this project.

Good Food Nation national plan consultation

The Scottish Government published the draft national Good Food Nation plan on the 24th January 2024. Consultation on the draft plan is now live and will run until 22nd April 2024.

Officers are coordinating a response to the consultation across relevant services. Engagement sessions will be offered to members to input on the consultation response in March. Due to timings of committee and the consultation deadline, the final response will be submitted under delegated authority of the Corporate Leadership Team.

Contact

[Christine Downie](#),
Sustainability and Climate
Strategy Manager,
Policy and Insight Team,
Corporate Services

Edinburgh LHEES and Heat Networks

The Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Delivery Plan was [approved](#) by Policy and Sustainability Committee on 15 December 2023 and a public consultation is currently ongoing. Officers attended a LHEES Consultation workshop on 29 January 2024, hosted by the Clean Heat Edinburgh Forum. Officers carried out an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) on the Edinburgh LHEES in February 2024. The

Contact

[Hilary Blackman](#)
Energy Officer
Place

results of the consultation and community events, as well as the outcomes of the IIA and feedback from key stakeholders, will form the basis for revisions to the Edinburgh LHEES, with a new iteration to be presented to the Policy and Sustainability Committee at a future date.

On 18 January 2024, the Council received confirmation that a bid to the Heat Network Support Unit's Strategic Heat Network Fund was successful. This will enable the Council to progress a variety of projects including an options appraisal of delivery models for supporting the roll-out of heat networks in Edinburgh; a feasibility review of the prospective Heat Network Zones set out in the Edinburgh LHEES; and the development of a customer charter for heat network customers. The results of the options appraisal of delivery models for the roll-out of heat networks in Edinburgh will form the basis of a future report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee. The work to research and present the options for delivery models for heat networks will be informed by the ongoing public consultation on the Edinburgh LHEES which includes a question on support for deriving public benefit from heat networks through public-ownership or part public-ownership, as requested by the Committee in December 2023.

On 15 January 2024, a briefing note on the Green Heat Finance Taskforce Part 1 Report was circulated to the Policy and Sustainability Committee members, as requested by the Committee meeting in December 2023. A second briefing note will be provided to councillors once Part 2 of the report is published.

Throughout December 2023 and January 2024, officers read and reviewed the Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings Bill, which introduces new requirements and powers around the heating and energy efficiency of homes and non-domestic buildings, to prepare a response to the formal consultation. The consultation response was workshopped with colleagues throughout the Council. Representatives from the Scottish Government presented to Council officers and received their feedback. The proposed consultation response was presented at the Sustainability and Climate and Nature Emergencies All Party Oversight Group (APOG) on 29 January 2024. Councillors' views were heard, and the consultation response was updated accordingly before being formally submitted to Scottish Government under delegated authority. The full response can be shared on request.

In December, the Coal Authority submitted a final report on *Edinburgh Mine Water Heat Opportunities* which highlights areas that may be suitable for heat extraction or storage. Further reports will be necessary to determine the specific opportunities available.

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-27: Delivery update

Contact: [Caroline Peacock](#)
Planning (Biodiversity)

2023

The [Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-27](#) (EBAP) is delivered by the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership (EBP) (a group of more than 30 stakeholders led by the Council). The Partnership includes Council services, government agencies, research and conservation organisations, environmental trusts, charities and volunteer organisations. The EBAP 2022-27 is a wide-ranging programme of over 200 actions, which was first produced in 2000, and it meets the Council's statutory duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 for all public bodies to 'further the conservation of biodiversity' and supports the delivery of the [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy](#).

A [delivery update for 2023](#) has been prepared which summarises key activity across the Council and the Partnership.

Strategic activity in 2023 includes the declaration of a Nature Emergency and embedding outcomes for nature in the draft [Climate Ready Edinburgh](#) plan and Green Blue Strategy.

The success of the action plan is driven by the range of Council services and partners delivering positive activities for biodiversity. Delivery highlights include:

- [Historic Environment Scotland Ranger Service](#) and the Council Natural Heritage Service managing and improving Edinburgh's most important sites including Holyrood Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 8 Local Nature Reserves and Pentland Hills Regional Park. Activities include habitat management, habitat creation, priority species monitoring and conservation, community and volunteer engagement.
- The Council's Parks and Open Space service delivering project work to naturalise greenspace, including Million Tree City, Nature Networks.
- The Council's Planning service embedding the new [NPF4](#) policies for biodiversity in Planning decisions with training and [updated guidance](#).
- [Water of Leith Conservation Trust](#) delivering habitat improvements, invasive species control, maintaining the ecological health of the river through regular clean ups, monitoring species, all using volunteers across the whole river catchment.
- [Edinburgh Lothian Greenspace Trust](#) supporting communities to improve local parks for nature and delivering the city wide Tree Time project.

Officer
Planning and Building
Standards, Sustainable
Development, Place

- [Scottish Wildlife Trust](#) managing their nature reserves in the city and Pentland Hills, including reintroduction of rare plant species and insect monitoring.
- [RSPB](#) delivery of priority species conservation and specific projects such as the Nature Prescriptions project officer embedded in the Western General Hospital.
- [The Conservation Volunteers](#) have secured funding for a four-year Green Skills John Muir Way project, with City of Edinburgh Council as one of four Council partners. The project will deliver a work training program for 24 young people, supporting biodiversity improvements in Council parks.
- [The Wildlife Information Centre](#) promote and support wildlife recording and surveying and manage biodiversity data for City of Edinburgh.

The [University of Edinburgh](#) and [NHS Lothian](#) supporting biodiversity improvements through changes in estate management and other initiatives.

Heat in Buildings Bill – consultation response

On 28 November 2023, the Scottish Government began consultation on the Heat in Buildings Bill (HIBB). The deadline for responding to the consultation is 8 March 2024.

The HIBB is a wide-ranging bill which concerns the heating of, and the energy efficiency of, buildings in Scotland. The key elements are:

- Prohibitions on the use of polluting heating systems, and linking these to property purchases;
- Requirements for homes to meet minimum energy efficiency standards;

(The two above items are collectively described as the Heat in Buildings Standard);

- Providing the Scottish Government and local authorities with powers around heating within heat network zones;
- Compelling buildings with unused heat to supply this to heat networks;
- Proposals for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the Heat in Buildings Standard;
- Potential new duties on local authorities; and
- Amendments to the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021.

The Council's LHEES Office led on preparing a response to the HIBB consultation. An initial response was drafted and then refined

Contact: [Kyle Drummond](#), Programme Development Officer

Wards: All

through discussions with colleagues (from areas such as: Planning; Housing and Homelessness; Strategic Asset Planning; Sustainable Construction Delivery; and the Climate and Sustainability). The Transactions service was also consulted with regard to proposals around the potential use of council tax and non-domestic rates as part of the enforcement regime for the HIBB. Officers also met with the Scottish Government to discuss the proposals in the HIBB.

Due to the timing of the HIBB consultation, it was not possible to present a draft response to Committee for approval. Therefore, the proposed response was presented to the Sustainability and Climate and Nature Emergencies All Party Oversight Group (APOG) on 29 January 2024, and then shared with the members of the APOG for consideration. The finalised response, reflected feedback received, was then signed-off by the Executive Director of Place.

Key elements of the Council's response are:

- Strongly supporting the prohibition of polluting heating systems and minimum energy efficiency standards;
- Supporting a prohibition on the use of bioenergy in urban areas;
- Supporting a five-year grace period on ending the use of polluting heating systems following a property purchase;
- Supporting a flat cost cap on measures to end the use of polluting heating systems;
- Strongly supporting providing local authorities with new powers around heat networks;
- Supporting the use of market and financial product mechanisms such as mortgages or home/ building insurance, rather than extra council tax and non-domestic rates charges and/or civil penalties, to drive compliance with the Heat in Buildings Standard;
- Strongly supporting exemptions from the Heat in Buildings Standard for certain people/businesses/buildings;
- Opposing any new duties on public bodies; and
- Supporting amendments to the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 to reflect the significant *de facto* role of local authorities in delivering networks; recommending the removal of arbitrary targets around heat networks; and exempting local authorities from “necessary wayleave” provisions around heat networks.

The Council's full response to the HIBB consultation can be shared upon request; it is also viewable at the Scottish Government's consultation hub (<http://consult.gov.scot>)

The Scottish Government has advised that it aims to pass the HIBB into law by the end of the current term of the Scottish Parliament in May 2026, albeit the dates on which the provisions would come into effect have not been specified.

Public Awareness of the implementation of Photographic Voter ID at UK Parliamentary Elections

With respect to this council's Preparation for the implementation of Photographic Voter ID at UK Parliamentary Elections Policy and Sustainability Committee on 24 October 2023 agreed that the next iteration of the communication plan explicitly references which groups are being targeted with each activity and how equality will be mainstreamed throughout general communications, and that this plan is communicated to Committee.

Communications activity to raise public awareness of the need for photographic ID at polling for UK election has been initiated with a spectrum of targeted activities across the city, which will align with a national campaign to be delivered by the Electoral Commission.

The [communications plan](#) which is part of the Councillors' Public Awareness toolkit details the various channels of communication and the distinct audiences being targeted by each. These are in addition to the general communications that will be issued as part of every election including poll cards.

There has been particular targeting of ethnic communities, SIMD areas, groups that support vulnerable people, students and areas with traditionally low turnout. Our team remains keen to engage with Councillors' on any element of this campaign to target more effectively and to ensure as broader reach as possible.

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Elections and Member Services Manager &

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Communications Manager

Forthcoming activities:
