

Business Bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 05 October 2021

Virtual - via Microsoft Teams

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Adam McVey</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Cammy Day</p> 	<p>Councillor Adam McVey (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Cammy Day (Vice-Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Robert Aldridge</p> <p>Councillor Kate Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Jim Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Nick Cook</p> <p>Councillor Neil Gardiner</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Gloyer</p> <p>Councillor Graham Hutchison</p> <p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes</p> <p>Councillor Claire Miller</p> <p>Councillor John McLellan</p> <p>Councillor Rob Munn</p> <p>Councillor Ian Perry</p> <p>Councillor Steve Burgess</p> <p>Councillor Iain Whyte</p> <p>Councillor Donald Wilson</p>	<p>Jamie Macrae, Committee Officer</p> <p>Louise Williamson, Assistant Committee Officer</p>

Recent news

Carbon Impact of City of Edinburgh Council International Travel

At the City of Edinburgh Council meeting in November 2019, it was recommended under item 1.5 – “To agree that that the overall carbon impact of the Council’s International travel is reported annually to the Policy and Sustainability Committee.”

Due to the global Covid 19 pandemic all international travel was suspended in early 2020. The impact on international travel will clearly see a reduction on the council’s carbon footprint but this will affect year-on-year comparisons on baseline emissions.

In October 2020 the Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed that a report would be produced in Autumn 2021 to reflect the impact of Covid-19 on the Council’s International travel and related carbon emissions. In the light of continued restriction and continued limited travel by Council staff during 2021 it is recommended that this report is postponed to Spring 2022 when a more meaningful assessment of pre and post lockdown patterns is likely to be available.

Police Scotland Gaelic Language Plan

Consultation Overview

The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) invited the Council to provide views on its draft Gaelic Language Plan 2021-26 through a questionnaire.

The deadline for the response was outwith the Committee cycle, and so the response was submitted with approval by the Executive Director of Corporate Services. The Council’s responses are informed by the Council’s own Gaelic Language Plan and by the requirements that the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 places on public bodies.

The Council’s response to the Survey is reproduced below:



Police Scotland GLP
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Background

Contact: [Paula McLeay](#)

Head of Policy and Insight, Policy and Insight Team, Corporate Services Directorate

Contact: [Eleanor Cunningham](#)

Lead Policy and Insight Officer, Policy and Insight Team, Corporate Services Directorate

Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review

The third meeting of the independent Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Review Group took place 1 June 2021.

Discussion focussed on the draft shortlist of items associated with the legacy of slavery and colonialism in Edinburgh's public realm which a working party of Review and Advisory Group members had worked up following previous group discussions. Each feature is listed, with a brief description, together with the wider societal theme which it is linked with. This selection is not intended to be comprehensive, but to be both representative and illustrative of the ways in which slavery and colonialism has permeated many aspects of city life and culture. The Group agreed that all current businesses or organisations associated with the features in scope should be contacted in advance of the public consultation phase to ensure their awareness and to encourage their support for the Review. The Group also heard a brief report on how other cities in the UK are approaching similar reviews, focussing in particular on the aims, process and experience of the statues review in Leeds which took place last year.

The Group also discussed the outline plan that had been drafted for the online consultation phase of the Review which is due to take place over the autumn. Its objectives include raising public awareness of Edinburgh's slavery and colonialism legacy, encouraging community and interest groups across Edinburgh to actively participate, engaging schools in discussions about past and modern-day racial inequality and ensuring safe and accessible online participation. Group members will contribute ideas on key questions to pose, mindful of the purpose of the Review to produce a set of short term and long-term recommendations for action for the Council to consider. The Council's Strategy and Insight team who manage the Consultation Hub have been contacted for an initial discussion about this process to make sure it aligns with the new Consultation Framework, and Communications colleagues are planning a dedicated campaign.

Contact: [Gillian Findlay](#)
Acting Museums and
Galleries Manager

Ventilation in Council Estate Properties

In Autumn 2020 in response to guidance from the Scottish Government on CO2 levels in the internal environment during COVID-19, the Council engaged with Edinburgh Napier University to carry out a period of monitoring in representative building archetypes/uses across the Council's school estate.

The purpose of this approach was to:

- provide oversight of ventilation performance;
- identify potential areas of risk/concern;
- provide feedback on the ventilation approaches/strategies and associated guidance provided by the Council;
- identify areas for improvement, provide assurance to building users/managers on ventilation levels; and
- learn from Edinburgh Napier's experience in the monitoring of environmental conditions in the built environment.

Based on recommendations from the initial survey work, the Council subsequently provided portable battery powered indoor air quality monitors (CO2, relative humidity and temperature) to all schools (1 per primary/nursery/special school and 3 per high school) in April 2021. By providing portable devices, schools were able to move the monitors to any location within the school to assess ventilation levels. This approach was aimed at providing assurance on ventilation strategies and identifying areas of risk. The monitors are Bluetooth enabled and CO2 levels can be logged and recorded so school health safety teams could distribute the monitors to chosen locations and collate data for review. Data can also be shared directly with FM teams to allow more detailed review.

Guidance and training were provided to schools on the use of the monitors and how to identify any areas of poor ventilation. Trade Unions were included in discussions and findings shared.

In addition to the monitoring in schools, the Council is deploying CO2 monitors to support the reopening of community centres.

The current [Scottish Government guidance \(16 August\)](#) indicates that the most recent scientific advice and research is that an upper level of 1500 ppm should be used to identify

Contact: [Murdo Macleod](#)
Technical Operations
Manager, Operational
Services, Place Directorate

and prioritise multi-occupancy, regularly used areas for improvement.

This scientific advice and research also indicates that indoor spaces where there is likely to be an enhanced aerosol generation rate (e.g. loud singing/drama, indoor PE) should aim to ensure ventilation is sufficient to maintain CO2 concentrations at lower levels (a figure of 800ppm is provided).

On 3 August 2021, the Scottish Government additionally advised that:

- All schools and day care services for children must have access to CO2 monitoring, through either fixed or mobile devices, and that these should be used to assess the quality of ventilation in schools and childcare settings and identify any necessary improvements.
- Assessments and necessary improvements to be identified by the October half term.
- Making available to local authorities an additional £10 million to support this work.

The Council is currently working towards the above requirements and it is anticipated that the findings and proposals will be reported to this Committee on 30 November 2021. It should be noted that following the distribution of loggers in April 2021, all schools in the Council estate already have access to CO2 monitors (albeit in limited numbers per property). While schools are the Council's most occupied and used buildings, the ongoing works are also informing actions in other Council owned properties.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2020 (RIPSA or the Act) – Update

The Council is required to have policies and procedures in place to manage activity under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA or the Act). The codes of practice require that elected members are given updates on any activity undertaken under the Act. As previously reported, the Council has previously received a positive inspection report from the regulator, the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office.

The Council has robust policies in place to manage and control risks associated with surveillance activity regulated by the Act. Staff must be aware of these policies and procedures.

Contact: [Andrew Mitchell](#),
Regulatory Services
Senior Manager,
Sustainable Development,
Place Directorate

Following a recommendation arising from the inspection by the regulator, the Council committed to provide refresher training for approximately 300 staff who undertake regulatory or enforcement roles and therefore are required to understand RIPSA. This web-based training package has now launched and has been undertaken by staff principally within the Place Directorate. The resource material remains available to staff for one year after completion of the course.

Use of surveillance covered by the Act by the Council remains low, with a very small number of applications for authorisation under RIPSA. From December 2019 to October 2020 there were three authorisations under RIPSA. Two of these involved surveillance related to licensing issues and the third was for surveillance relating to an antisocial behaviour investigation. There has been no authorisation since October 2020.

Forthcoming activities:
