

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 24 November 2022

Present:

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Robert Aldridge

COUNCILLORS

Scott Arthur
Danny Aston
Jule Bandel
Alan C Beal
Marco Biagi
Chas Booth
Graeme Bruce
Steve Burgess
Jack Caldwell
Lezley Marion Cameron
Kate Campbell
Christopher Cowdy
James Dalglish
Euan R Davidson
Cammy Day
Sanne Dijkstra-Downie
Denis C Dixon
Stuart Dobbin
Phil Duggan
Katrina Faccenda
Pauline Flannery
Catherine Fullerton
Neil Gardiner
Fiona Glasgow
Margaret A Graham
Joan Griffiths
Dan Heap
Euan Hyslop
Tim Jones
David Key
Simita Kumar

Kevin Lang
Lesley MacInnes
Martha Mattos Coelho
Finlay McFarlane
Ross McKenzie
Amy McNeese-Mechan
Adam McVey
Jane E Meagher
Claire Miller
Max Mitchell
Jo Mowat
Alys Mumford
Marie-Clair Munro
Vicky Nicolson
Kayleigh O'Neill
Hal Osler
Ben Parker
Tim Pogson
Susan Rae
Frank Ross
Neil J Ross
Jason Rust
Alex Staniforth
Edward J Thornley
Val Walker
Mandy H Watt
Iain Whyte
Norman J Work
Louise Young
Lewis J Younie

1 Order of Business – Suspension of Standing Order 24.1 – Voting

The Lord Provost ruled that Standing Order 24.1 be suspended for this meeting and that voting be taken by a show of hands and with a clear public audit trail from vote to Member.

2 Care Experienced Protected Characteristic - Motion by Councillor Kumar

a) Deputation – Care Leavers Offer

The deputation were in support of the motion by Councillor Kumar which they felt provided concrete practical steps that the Council could take to make a step in the right direction to provide better systemic support and identification, putting solutions in place to help care experienced people. They indicated that many care experienced people suffered years of trauma after leaving the care system.

The deputation stressed that more needed to be done to provide support for care experienced people and urged the Council to work together with the Scottish and UK Governments, businesses and 3rd party organisations towards this.

b) Motion by Councillor Kumar

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

“Council:

- 1) Recognises our collective responsibility as corporate parents and our commitment for the delivery of ‘The Promise’ that Scotland’s children and young people will grow up loved, safe, and respected.
- 2) Agrees the Council should add ‘Care Experienced’ as an additional protected characteristic in the Council’s Integrated Impact Assessments where Care Experienced people is used to describe anyone who is currently, or has been, in the care system. For example, kinship care, looked after at home, foster care, residential care, secure homes, and adoption.
- 3) Notes that the addition of this protected characteristic would formally recognise the impact of any policies and decision making might have on care experienced people.

- 4) Notes that councils in Manchester, Cumbria, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council; and Ashfield District Council in Nottinghamshire have made a similar move to include Care Experienced as a protected characteristic.
- 5) Requests a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in two cycles to scope the implementation of this additional protected characteristic.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Kumar.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor McFarlane

Amendment

- 1) To agree paragraph 1 of the motion by Councillor Kumar
- 2) To replace the remaining paragraphs of the motion with:
 - “2) Notes that councils in Manchester, Cumbria, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council; and Ashfield District Council in Nottinghamshire have made a policy decision to include ‘Care Experienced’ as a protected characteristic.
 - 3) Requests a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in two cycles to scope:
 - a) whether and how a definition of ‘Care Experienced’ is compatible with the legal framework of protected characteristics which specifically relate to discrimination as set out in the Equality Act 2010;
 - b) whether, and in what way, any such definition would change the Council’s Statutory Duties or commitments such as contained within ‘The Promise’ regarding Integrated Impact Assessments, policies and decision making that might affect care experienced people - where ‘Care Experienced’ people is used to describe anyone who is currently, or has been, in the care system (for example, kinship care, looked after at home, foster care, residential care, secure homes, and adoption);
 - c) what the cost implications, including opportunity costs, might be of adopting this definition;

- d) the steps and timeline required for the implementation of any such change.”

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	53 votes
For the amendment	-	9 votes

(For the motion: Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Aston, Bandel, Beal, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O’Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Frank Ross, Neil Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Work, Young and Younie.

For the amendment: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Rust and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Kumar.

3 Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Edinburgh - Motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

a) Deputation – Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC)

The deputation indicated that Edinburgh had welcomed many Ukrainian refugees into the city with the assistance of organisations who had not received any additional funding for this. They stressed that it was vital to ensure that the city’s response was sustainable and fully resourced and that the burden of longer term support for the Ukrainian community should not rest solely with the Council which was already overstretched. The deputation agreed that the Council took its responsibility seriously and asked them to increase their support of the community by challenging the Scottish Government as the country’s response developed.

The deputation acknowledged the outstanding partnership work the Council was taking across community planning to bring people in across the social enterprise sector, community and voluntary sector as well as 3rd sector and national partners. They urged the Council to work in partnership with the

Scottish Refugee Council to provide opportunities for integration and create future planning for future crisis.

b) Motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

The following motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally altered in terms of Standing Order 22.5:

“Council:

Notes a welcome was extended to families and individuals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine during the last administration.

Notes significant supports were put in place such as signage and translators at the airport and train stations, meaning arrivals were signposted to support in their native Ukrainian language.

Notes many households signed up to provide rooms for refugees and officials worked with citizens to ensure suitable provision was in place.

Notes a key part of the provision made by the Council was in providing educational placements as well as language support in schools.

Notes that many Ukrainian families are approaching their first winter in a foreign country, often separated from family and loved ones.

Council therefore requests that Edinburgh's welcome is expanded to include:

Extending an invitation to Ukrainian families and schoolchildren to all of our annual Christmas Tree lighting and Nativity Carol Concerts across the city, with the aim to include at least one Ukrainian carol.

Help raise awareness of the Lyceum Theatre's caring initiative to host a special performance of An Edinburgh Christmas Carol on Tue 13 Dec for displaced Ukrainian families across the city and to ask that those who are able consider donating the cost of a ticket to ensure that as many as possible will be able to enjoy the show. <https://lyceum.org.uk/support-us/ukrainian-christmas-performance-fund/>

Further asks that the city observe Ukrainian Christmas on the 7th of January in an appropriate way, whether in the City Chambers or in schools, such as telling the story of the 12-dish meatless Christmas Eve supper served on the 6th of January in both Ukrainian and Polish families.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

- moved by Councillor McNeese-Mechan, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

Amendment

In paragraph 1 of the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan;

delete “was” and insert “continues to be”.

delete “during the last administration” and insert “by people across Edinburgh”.

Add after ‘and Polish families’ new point:

“Requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Scottish and UK Government to reiterate and demand the funding City of Edinburgh Council need to continue providing a warm welcome to Ukrainian refugees”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra Downie

In accordance with standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan:

- 1) To note a welcome continued to be extended to families and individuals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine by people across Edinburgh.
- 2) To note significant supports were put in place such as signage and translators at the airport and train stations, meaning arrivals were signposted to support in their native Ukrainian language.
- 3) To note many households signed up to provide rooms for refugees and officials worked with citizens to ensure suitable provision was in place.
- 4) To note a key part of the provision made by the Council was in providing educational placements as well as language support in schools.
- 5) To note that many Ukrainian families were approaching their first winter in a foreign country, often separated from family and loved ones.

To therefore request that Edinburgh's welcome was expanded to include:

- 6) Extending an invitation to Ukrainian families and schoolchildren to all of the annual Christmas Tree lighting and Nativity Carol Concerts across the city, with the aim to include at least one Ukrainian carol.
- 7) To help raise awareness of the Lyceum Theatre's caring initiative to host a special performance of An Edinburgh Christmas Carol on Tue 13 Dec for displaced Ukrainian families across the city and to ask that those who were able consider donating the cost of a ticket to ensure that as many as possible

would be able to enjoy the show. <https://lyceum.org.uk/support-us/ukrainian-christmas-performance-fund/>

- 8) To further ask that the city observe Ukrainian Christmas on the 7th of January in an appropriate way, whether in the City Chambers or in schools, such as telling the story of the 12-dish meatless Christmas Eve supper served on the 6th of January in both Ukrainian and Polish families.
- 9) To request that the Leader of the Council write to the Scottish and UK Governments to reiterate and demand the funding City of Edinburgh Council needed to continue providing a warm welcome to Ukrainian refugees.

4 Tollcross Clock - Motion by Councillor McFarlane

a) Deputation – Tollcross Parent Council

The deputation spoke in regard to the review of the programme of regeneration within the Tollcross junction and the review of the safety status of the junction. They raised concerns at the crossing signals at the junction and the narrow traffic island that pedestrians had to use to cross the road.

The deputation asked the Council to look at synchronising the pedestrian crossing signals to enable people to fully transit without having to wait on the island.

b) Motion by Councillor McFarlane

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

“Council:

- 1) Congratulates officers on the successful restoration and re-siting of the Elm Row Clock and notes that Edinburgh’s Civic Clocks are important placemaking landmarks and a special part of our built heritage.
- 2) Notes the importance of the Tollcross Clock, built by James Ritchie and Sons in 1901 to the local community and that on its removal due to building works in 1974, the clock was reinstated at a slightly different location due to public outcry at the time recognising the significant strength of public feeling about the loss to the area.
- 3) Understands that the Tollcross Clock has yet again been removed, this time for restoration and is currently situated in the Murrayburn Warehouse with public feeling echoing that of the Tollcross community in 1974.

- 4) Understands that the City Centre Transformation plan highlights Tollcross as a catalyst area and outlines the desperately needed public realm and safety improvements to improve the Tollcross Junction and its surrounds, but these plans are at an early stage and it may be years before implementation.
- 5) Requests a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in three cycles detailing:
 - An update and general projected delivery timeframe for the short, medium and future term plans contained within the City Centre Transformation Strategy
 - Consideration of any short-term wins that can be easily implemented within the next 12 months ahead of the wider works to provide an interim improvement to the pedestrian, active travel and public transport experience around Tollcross Junction inclusive of a temporary re-siting post restoration of the clock in advance of any future works.
 - The projected cost for the restoration of the clock and the status of any current CEC funding applications for its restoration.
 - The estimated timeline for completion of restoration work.
 - Exploration of locations in Tollcross to re-site the clock ahead of any future long term transformation works.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor McFarlane.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Amendment

To add at the end of the motion by Councillor McFarlane:

“Requests officers meet Tollcross Primary School Parent Council to discuss their recently published Travel Survey and officers include in the report, options for road safety improvements for children travelling to said School.”

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Arthur

In terms of Standing Order 21(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McFarlane:

- 1) To congratulate officers on the successful restoration and re-siting of the Elm Row Clock and note that Edinburgh's Civic Clocks were important placemaking landmarks and a special part of our built heritage.
- 2) To note the importance of the Tollcross Clock, built by James Ritchie and Sons in 1901 to the local community and that on its removal due to building works in 1974, the clock was reinstated at a slightly different location due to public outcry at the time recognising the significant strength of public feeling about the loss to the area.
- 3) To understand that the Tollcross Clock had yet again been removed, this time for restoration and was currently situated in the Murrayburn Warehouse with public feeling echoing that of the Tollcross community in 1974.
- 4) To understand that the City Centre Transformation plan highlighted Tollcross as a catalyst area and outlined the desperately needed public realm and safety improvements to improve the Tollcross Junction and its surrounds, but these plans were at an early stage and it might be years before implementation.
- 5) To request a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in three cycles detailing:
 - An update and general projected delivery timeframe for the short, medium and future term plans contained within the City Centre Transformation Strategy
 - Consideration of any short-term wins that could be easily implemented within the next 12 months ahead of the wider works to provide an interim improvement to the pedestrian, active travel and public transport experience around Tollcross Junction inclusive of a temporary re-siting post restoration of the clock in advance of any future works.
 - The projected cost for the restoration of the clock and the status of any current CEC funding applications for its restoration.
 - The estimated timeline for completion of restoration work.
 - Exploration of locations in Tollcross to re-site the clock ahead of any future long term transformation works.

- 6) To request officers meet Tollcross Primary School Parent Council to discuss their recently published Travel Survey and officers include in the report, options for road safety improvements for children travelling to said School.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor McKenzie made a transparency statement as the parent of young people who attended Tollcross Primary School.

5 Homelessness Crisis - Motion by Councillor Meagher

a) Deputation – Cyrenians/Simon Community Scotland

The deputation indicated that there had been a huge amount of progress made during the pandemic on homelessness and in particular with regards to rough sleeping where there had been an incredible multi-agency response which had resulted in a reduction in rough sleepers. However, they stated that they were now seeing a change and increase in people presenting out of hours in need of emergency accommodation, an increase in rough sleeping and a slowdown in access to mainstream housing which was a challenge to those providing support.

The deputation indicated that the main challenges facing them were:

- the lack of suitable accommodation at the point of need;
- the lack of opportunities for women who may need specific types of accommodation;
- the lack of places for people with pets.

The deputation felt that the system also created its own issues and raised concerns at reaching people earlier and the need to have an effective response particularly during the cost of living and energy crisis.

b) Motion by Councillor Meagher

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

“Council notes with grave concern the homelessness crisis in Scotland’s capital city as follows:

At the end of September 2022, there were 4778 households in temporary accommodation, a 34% increase in just over 2 years.

Around 70% of available Council homes are let to homeless households, with the remainder of homes let to people with gold or other priority need.

Currently there is an average of 180 to 190 bids being received for each home advertised through Edindex as available to let.

Council further notes the multiplicity of actions taken to mitigate the crisis and the work taking place in partnership with key third sector organisations as well as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the private rented sector.

However, homelessness presentations are likely to increase due to a number of factors, including the imminent removal of the Local Connection requirement.

Council agrees:

- that the Council Leader and the Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work will request an urgent meeting with the cabinet secretary to outline the crisis and agree a joint approach to resolving it.
- that the Council Leader and the Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work will reinstate regular meetings with RSLs to produce a partnership statement and to agree a common basis on which to approach the Scottish and UK governments.
- to consider a further preventative measure by asking officers to explore the possibility of a hardship fund to support those tenants who are least able to afford any future rent increases and to report back to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in March 2023.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Meagher.

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To add a new first bullet point after ‘council agrees’ in the motion by Councillor Meagher:
 - That HHFW committee members will receive a briefing on the current funding settlement through the TMDF, and an analysis of the benefits and risks of a move to join the SHIF including officers’ views on how the funding formulas could be reviewed.
- 2) To add to the (now) second bullet point in the motion:

“including a discussion with the Scottish Government and COSLA about how data collected for Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans could be better used to inform grant funding allocations.”

- 3) To add a third bullet point in the motion:

“That the Council Leader and the Convener of the HHFW committee write to the COSLA president to request a meeting to discuss the process by which the funding formula for the SHIF could be reviewed, and the appetite within COSLA to review in line with the data in RRTPS.”

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Dobbin

Amendment 2

- 1) Inserts at the end of the “Council notes...” section in the motion by Councillor Meagher:

“The recommendations from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s 2020 report which includes the need for focussed, collaborative work between agencies and greater funding for Edinburgh;

“The city cannot end poverty by itself – achieving the goals we have set out will need active and committed partnership with the Scottish and UK Governments. Scotland’s poverty challenge is Edinburgh’s poverty challenge: the Scottish Government cannot meet its own ambitious goals on child poverty, on housing, on homelessness, and on a fairer Scotland without action in Edinburgh, and without a funding settlement and regulatory support that meets the needs and challenges of our capital city”.

- 2) Inserts at end of “Council agrees...” section of the motion:

“There is significant financial pressure on both the Council Budget and Housing Revenue Account, and as the report will be published after the 2023/24 Budget is agreed, the report must identify possible sources of funding, whether external or within the parameters of any passed budget.”

- moved by Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Flannery

Amendment 3

Adds, as **highlighted** to the motion by Councillor Meagher:

“Council notes with grave concern the homelessness crisis in Scotland’s capital city as follows:

- At the end of September 2022, there were 4778 households in temporary accommodation, a 34% increase in just over 2 years.
- Around 70% of available Council homes are let to homeless households, with the remainder of homes let to people with gold or other priority need.
- Currently there is an average of 180 to 190 bids being received for each home advertised through Edindex as available to let.

Further, Council:

- Notes the multiplicity of actions taken to mitigate the crisis and the work taking place in partnership with key third sector organisations as well as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the private rented sector.
- **Notes that a significant proportion of social lets made to applicants with a gold priority go to disabled households and that, therefore, the strategy of letting high numbers of social lets to homeless households can have a disproportionate, negative impact on disabled people**

Additionally, Council:

Recognises that homelessness presentations are likely to increase due to a number of factors, including the imminent removal of the Local Connection requirement and effects of the cost-of-living crisis which disproportionately affect disabled people, and other marginalised groups

- **Recognises the numerous ways in which an individual can be considered homeless, beyond rough sleeping, and that significant numbers of disabled people in Scotland may constitute the “hidden” homeless, living in homes which are inaccessible and therefore with a legitimate right to present as homeless, but who choose not to do so given the fear that this may lead to more distress if temporary or permanent accommodation offered is less suitable than their current home**
- **Recognises that housing is a system wherein interventions in one part of the housing landscape will impact on others, thus meaning that a cross-tenure approach is required to tackle the crisis, and that a clear equalities-proofing and intersectional analysis of any proposed intervention should be considered to ensure that there are no unintended, negative consequences for different demographics because of this**

Therefore, Council agrees:

- That the Council Leader and the Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work will request an urgent meeting with the cabinet secretary to outline the crisis and agree a joint approach to resolving it, **including specific consideration of the relationship between, and overlap with, housing demand amongst homeless households and disabled households in the city, and report back to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee about the result of this meeting**
- That the Council Leader and the Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work will reinstate regular meetings with RSLs to produce a partnership statement **about how they can work together to tackle housing demand amongst all different households, and to report back to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee about this partnership agreement**, and to agree **with committee** a common basis on which to approach the Scottish and UK governments **to help tackle the crisis.**

To consider a further preventative measure **to tackle the wider housing crisis** by asking officers to explore the possibility of a hardship fund to support those tenants who are least able to afford any future rent increases and to report back to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in March 2023, **or as soon as possible.**

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In terms of Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1, 2 and 3 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Meagher:

- 1) To note with grave concern the homelessness crisis in Scotland's capital city as follows:

At the end of September 2022, there were 4778 households in temporary accommodation, a 34% increase in just over 2 years.

Around 70% of available Council homes were let to homeless households, with the remainder of homes let to people with gold or other priority need.

Currently there was an average of 180 to 190 bids being received for each home advertised through Edindex as available to let.

- 2) To further note the multiplicity of actions taken to mitigate the crisis and the work taking place in partnership with key third sector organisations as well as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the private rented sector.
- 3) To further note that a significant proportion of social lets made to applicants with a gold priority went to disabled households and that, therefore, the strategy of letting high numbers of social lets to homeless households could have a disproportionate, negative impact on disabled people.
- 4) Additionally to recognise that homelessness presentations were likely to increase due to a number of factors, including the imminent removal of the Local Connection requirement and effects of the cost-of-living crisis which disproportionately affect disabled people, and other marginalised groups.
- 5) To recognise the numerous ways in which an individual could be considered homeless, beyond rough sleeping, and that significant numbers of disabled people in Scotland might constitute the “hidden” homeless, living in homes which were inaccessible and therefore with a legitimate right to present as homeless, but who chose not to do so given the fear that this might lead to more distress if temporary or permanent accommodation offered was less suitable than their current home.
- 6) To recognise that housing was a system wherein interventions in one part of the housing landscape would impact on others, thus meaning that a cross-tenure approach was required to tackle the crisis, and that a clear equalities-proofing and intersectional analysis of any proposed intervention should be considered to ensure that there were no unintended, negative consequences for different demographics because of this.
- 7) To note recommendations from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s 2020 report which included the need for focussed, collaborative work between agencies and greater funding for Edinburgh;

“The city cannot end poverty by itself – achieving the goals we have set out will need active and committed partnership with the Scottish and UK Governments. Scotland’s poverty challenge is Edinburgh’s poverty challenge: the Scottish Government cannot meet its own ambitious goals on child poverty, on housing, on homelessness, and on a fairer Scotland without action in Edinburgh, and without a funding settlement and regulatory support that meets the needs and challenges of our capital city”.

- 8) To agree that Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee members would receive a briefing on the current funding settlement through the TMDF, and an analysis of the benefits and risks of a move to join the SHIF including officers’ views on how the funding formulas could be reviewed.

- 9) To agree that the Council Leader and the Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work would request an urgent meeting with the cabinet secretary to outline the crisis and agree a joint approach to resolving it including a discussion with the Scottish Government and COSLA about how data collected for Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTP) could be better used to inform grant funding allocations and. including specific consideration of the relationship between, and overlap with, housing demand amongst homeless households and disabled households in the city, and report back to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee about the result of this meeting.
- 10) To agree that the Council Leader and the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee write to the COSLA president to request a meeting to discuss the process by which the funding formula for the SHIF could be reviewed, and the appetite within COSLA to review in line with the data in RRTPS.
- 11) To agree that the Council Leader and the Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work would reinstate regular meetings with RSLs to produce a partnership statement about how they can work together to tackle housing demand amongst all different households, and to report back to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee about this partnership agreement, and to agree with committee a common basis on which to approach the Scottish and UK governments to help tackle the crisis.
- 12) To agree to consider a further preventative measure to tackle the wider housing crisis by asking officers to explore the possibility of a hardship fund to support those tenants who were least able to afford any future rent increases and to report back to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in March 2023 or as soon as possible.
- 13) To agree there was significant financial pressure on both the Council Budget and Housing Revenue Account, and as the report would be published after the 2023/24 Budget was agreed, the report must identify possible sources of funding, whether external or within the parameters of any passed budget.

6 Bike Buses - Motion by Councillor Bandel

a) Deputation – Blackford Safe Routes

The deputation supported the motion by Councillor Bandel that all schools throughout Edinburgh should benefit from a safe infrastructure primarily but also from the ability to share in this happy and beneficial community process. They thanked the Council from the support they had received for the bike bus

in their area which had given many the confidence to walk or cycle to school which was beneficial both socially and from a community perspective.

b) Motion by Councillor Bandel

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes that bike buses offer pupils a safe way to cycle to school as part of a group, promote cycling as an enjoyable activity, increase young people’s confidence to cycle on the road, and reduce emissions and congestion around schools.
- 2) Recognises that pupils should not need to rely on bike buses to safely cycle to school and reaffirms the Council’s commitment to create safer streets for cyclists of all ages and abilities.
- 3) Notes that Edinburgh currently has 6 active bike buses and thanks all volunteers involved in setting up and running bike buses across the city. Further thanks officers for their work to date on supporting bike buses since Councillor Miller’s ‘Bike Buses’ motion to Transport and Environment Committee in February 2020.
- 4) Commends volunteers at Sciennes Primary School and Blackford Safe Routes for creating a guide to running a bike bus which has been enabling more schools to offer a bike bus.
- 5) Recognises that more schools might be interested in setting up bike buses but may not be aware of the support and expertise that is available to them.
- 6) Requests road safety officers to write to all primary schools in Edinburgh to encourage them to set up a bike bus and disseminate relevant guidance and support prepared by experienced bike bus organisers.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Bandel.

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor Miller

Amendment 1

- 1) To insert between points 4 and 5 in the motion by Councillor Bandel:

“Also notes that Walking Buses, a group of children walking to school with one or more adults, can also reduce “school run” traffic and keep children active. Further notes that the Bonaly Primary School Walking Bus has been successful for many years.”

- 2) In the remainder of the motion replace “Bike Bus” with “Walking and Bike Buses”

- moved by Councillor Arthur, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 2

To add at the end of the motion by Councillor Bandel:

- “7) Notes that existing bike buses have been set up to serve schools with relatively low levels of deprivation in their catchment areas.
- 8) Requests a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in three cycles examining what further support to set up bike buses can be provided to schools with high levels of SIMD decile 1-4 datazones in their catchments.
- 9) Further requests that report also covers what could be done to encourage younger secondary school pupils with an emphasis on preventing the well documented drop off in female participation in exercise that occurs in the early teenage years.”

- moved by Councillor Aston, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Amendment 3

- 1) To add at the end of 6) in the motion by Councillor Bandel;

“and that opportunities to start and expand bike buses are included as part of the reviews of school travel plans.”

- 2) To add to the motion:

“7) agrees that officers should update members in 12 months with the up to date number of active school bike buses in Edinburgh.”

- moved by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie, seconded by Councillor Lang

Motion for Adjournment

Councillor Booth moved in terms of Standing Order 21 that the meeting be adjourned to allow further discussions to take place.

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Parker

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For an adjournment	-	34 votes
Against an adjournment	-	25 votes
Abstentions	-	1

(For an adjournment: Councillors Arthur, Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dalgleish, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Frank Ross, Staniforth, Walker, Watt and Work.

Against an adjournment: Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bruce, Caldwell, Cameron, Cowdy, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jones, Lang, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Rae, Neil Ross, Thornley, Whyte, Young and Younie.

Abstention: Councillor Faccenda

Adjournment

At this point in the proceedings the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow further discussions on the proposals to take place.

Resumption

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and approved as addendums to the motion and Amendment 3 was accepted in full as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Bandel:

- 1) To note that bike buses offered pupils a safe way to cycle to school as part of a group, promote cycling as an enjoyable activity, increase young people's confidence to cycle on the road, and reduce emissions and congestion around schools.

- 2) To recognise that pupils should not need to rely on bike buses to safely cycle to school and reaffirm the Council's commitment to create safer streets for cyclists of all ages and abilities.
- 3) To note that Edinburgh currently had 6 active bike buses and thank all volunteers involved in setting up and running bike buses across the city. To further thank officers for their work to date on supporting bike buses since Councillor Miller's 'Bike Buses' motion to Transport and Environment Committee in February 2020.
- 4) To commend volunteers at Sciennes Primary School and Blackford Safe Routes for creating a guide to running a bike bus which had been enabling more schools to offer a bike bus.
- 5) To also note that Walking Buses, a group of children walking to school with one or more adults, could also reduce "school run" traffic and keep children active. To further note that the Bonaly Primary School Walking Bus had been successful for many years.
- 6) To recognise that more schools might be interested in setting up walking and bike buses but may not be aware of the support and expertise that was available to them.
- 7) To request road safety officers to write to all primary schools in Edinburgh to encourage them to set up walking and bike buses and disseminate relevant guidance and support prepared by experienced bike bus organisers and that opportunities to start and expand bike buses be included as part of the reviews of school travel plans.
- 8) To agree that officers should update members in 12 months with the up to date number of active school bike buses in Edinburgh.
- 9) To note that existing bike buses had been set up to serve schools with relatively low levels of deprivation in their catchment areas.
- 10) To agree that the next road safety action plan update would give additional consideration to barriers in all schools such as poverty and also cover what could be done to encourage younger secondary school pupils with an emphasis on using Bike and Walking Buses to prevent the well documented drop off in female participation in exercise that occurs in the early teenage years.

7 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 27 October 2022 as a correct record.

8 Leader's Report

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

- LGBT+ Communities in Colorado Springs and Qatar
- Teachers strike
- Unique Assembly – Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations
- Meadowbank re-opening
- Castlebrae Community Campus – New school
- Councillor Key – London Marathon
- Councillor Booth – Kielder Marathon
- Councillor Biagi – Yorkshire Marathon
- Living Wage Action Group

The following questions/comments were made:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Councillor McVey | - | LGBT+ Communities in Colorado Springs and Qatar |
| | - | Green Freeports bid – Leader's letter of support |
| Councillor Lang | - | Teachers strike |
| Councillor Mumford | - | LGBT+ Community – Transgender Day of Remembrance Support for Trans and gender non-conforming people |
| Councillor Whyte | - | Teachers strike |
| Councillor Watt | - | 16 days of action to end violence against women and girls |
| Councillor McFarlane | - | Edinburgh's Christmas Contract |
| Councillor Younie | - | Government funding for rehousing Ukrainian refugees |
| Councillor Parker | - | Reduction of carbon emissions – rapid transformation of societies |
| Councillor Jones | - | Supreme Court judgement – Scotland is not an oppressed nation |

Councillor Faccenda	-	Final decision on the Freeport on the Forth
Councillor Dobbin	-	Tory Party – comments by Scottish Labour Leader
Councillor Caldwell	-	Increase in numbers of deaths of homeless people
Councillor Staniforth	-	Condemnation of Keir Starmer’s statement on the number of immigrants in health services
Councillor Munro	-	Charities and organisations – volunteering by staff – paid leave
Councillor Dalglish	-	Cityplan 2030 -approval
Councillor Mattos Coelho	-	Shortage of staff in social care, Lothian buses and a range of other key services in Edinburgh – due to Brexit
Councillor Key	-	Funding for Ukrainian refugees - Scottish Government and UK Government
Councillor Griffiths	-	Carers Rights Day
Councillor Heap		Parking on double yellow lines outside schools – parking enforcement measures

9 Appointment of Parent Representative to the Education, Children and Families Committees

The Council had agreed changes to the membership of the Education, Children and Families Committee to retain the parent representative position on the Committee but in a non-voting capacity, while noting the need to significantly strengthen engagement with teachers, pupils and parents through the decision-making process. Only members of the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCWP), duly appointed from schools and parent councils, were eligible to be nominated as the parent representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee.

Details were provided on the nomination for the position of the parent representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee with a term of office of 18 months and a nomination process to be undertaken towards the end of that term to ensure continuity of representation to the end of the current political administration term.

Decision

- 1) To confirm the appointment of Alexander Ramage as the parent representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee, term of office to run from 24 November 2022 for a period of 18 months to 24 May 2024.
- 2) To note that the appointment was conditional upon confirmation that the appointee would comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct and membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.
- 3) To note the term of office for the parent representative would be 18 months and a nomination process would be undertaken towards the end of that term to ensure continuity of representation on the Committee to the end of the current political administration term.
- 4) To note the recommendation from the Consultative Committee with Parents that an additional parent representative position should be created on the Education, Children and Families Committee and to request the Council to consider this proposal as part of its consideration of its political management arrangements report scheduled to be submitted in December 2022.

(Reference – Act of Council No 2 of 22 June 2017; report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10 Appointments to Committees etc

Motion

- 1) To note two Conservative Councillors were given salaried roles in the Administration that did not exist in the previous term, highlighting that these roles are unnecessary to the function of Council business.
- 2) To therefore, agree to remove Councillor Mowat as Convener of the Licensing Sub-Committee, withdrawing the associated Senior Responsibility allowance with those duties being covered by the Regulatory Committee Convener as is standard practice.
- 3) To further agree to withdraw the Senior Responsibility Allowance from Councillor Rust as Vice-Convener of the Licensing Board, recommending the Board remove the position of Vice-Convener.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Amendment

To take no action on the motion by Councillor McVey.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	29 votes
For the amendment	-	31 votes
Abstentions	-	2

(For the motion: Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Frank Ross, Staniforth and Work.

For the amendment: Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Beal, Bruce, Caldwell, Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Neil Ross, Rust, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

Abstentions: Councillor Faccenda and McKenzie.)

Decision

To take no action on the motion by Councillor McVey.

11 West Edinburgh Link Compulsory Purchase Order

Details were provided on the West Edinburgh Link (WEL) project which aimed to transform the quality of walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, public spaces and accessibility for all within and around one of Scotland's key business parks, along a 10km route in the west of Edinburgh.

Approval was sought to promote the Compulsory Purchase Order respect of plots of privately-owned land, detailed in Appendix 2 to the report by the Executive Director of Place that were required to enable the construction of the project. While promoting the CPO, the Council would continue to pursue the acquisition of all required land by voluntary agreement.

Decision

- 1) To note the decision of the Transport and Environment Committee on 27 January 2022 regarding this matter.

- 2) To agree to promote a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the land purchases and servitude rights noted in Appendix 2 to the report and instruct the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance to commence proceedings.
- 3) To approve the draft CPO at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 4) To note that the Council would continue to seek negotiated land purchases and servitudes in parallel with the CPO process.

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

12 Young People's Assembly

Details were provided on how an effective forum for a wide range of young people's voices to be heard on a wide range of Council/city topics could be developed.

Motion

To approve the proposal to develop a young people's assembly which would enable the voices of young people to be heard both in their own communities and citywide, as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, and instruct officers to proceed with its development in partnership with young people.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the proposal to develop a young people's assembly which would enable the voices of young people to be heard both in their own communities and citywide, as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, and instruct officers to proceed with its development in partnership with young people.
- 2) Welcomes the description, delivered in this report, of how the Young Person's Assembly (or newly-titled initiative) would work as an inclusive model of joint working between young people with many different life experiences and Council officers and elected members.
- 3) To add to that blueprint, requests that officers of each directorate provide lists of potential topics, policies, programmes and ideas, which could form early submissions to this young person's forum, to the next meeting of their respective executive committees. Agrees that these proposed topics are discussed, agreed and subsequently collated into a short report for the next available Full Council.

- 4) Recognises that this list should not be definitive or restricted but should be illustrative of the usefulness and relevance that this young person's assembly can have to effective decision-making within the Council.
- 5) Welcomes the speedy development and implementation timescale outlined in the report.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor McFarlane

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the proposal to develop a young people's assembly which would enable the voices of young people to be heard both in their own communities and citywide, as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, and instruct officers to proceed with its development in partnership with young people.
- 2) Commends the work done so far to engage young people in this process. In order to further the youth leadership component of this work invites Edinburgh's MSYPs to sit on the steering group for implementation.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

Amendment 3

- 1) To approve the proposal to develop a young people's assembly which would enable the voices of young people to be heard both in their own communities and citywide, as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, and instruct officers to proceed with its development in partnership with young people.
- 2) Recognises that engagement processes will reproduce structural inequalities if these are not carefully managed.
- 3) Agrees, therefore, that work to ensure diversity and inclusion needs to include practices that ensure equality of voice at the table (e.g. facilitation support) in addition to targeted outreach and support to bring young people to the table.
- 4) Agrees that the membership structure of the Assembly and local forums should be open and flexible to allow young people to contribute their views as and when they require or wish and on topics that are of interest to them.
- 5) Agrees that the membership of the steering group should include young people.

- 6) Recommends that the Assembly's age range should be decided by the steering group.

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor O'Neill

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 2 and 3 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 2 and 3 were accepted as addendums to Amendment 1

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	43 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	19 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Bandel, Beal, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Caldwell, Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Jones, Lang, McKenzie, Meagher, Miller, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumford, Munro, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Neil Ross, Rust, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Nicolson, Frank Ross and Work.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To approve the proposal to develop a young people's assembly which would enable the voices of young people to be heard both in their own communities and citywide, as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, and instruct officers to proceed with its development in partnership with young people.
- 2) To commend the work done so far to engage young people in this process. In order to further the youth leadership component of this work invite Edinburgh's MSYPs to sit on the steering group for implementation.
- 3) To recognise that engagement processes would reproduce structural inequalities if these were not carefully managed.

- 4) To agree, therefore, that work to ensure diversity and inclusion needed to include practices that ensured equality of voice at the table (e.g. facilitation support) in addition to targeted outreach and support to bring young people to the table.
- 5) To agree that the membership structure of the Assembly and local forums should be open and flexible to allow young people to contribute their views as and when they required or wished and on topics that were of interest to them.
- 6) To agree that the membership of the steering group should include young people.
- 7) To recommend that the Assembly's age range should be decided by the steering group.

(Reference – Act of Council No 9 of 22 September 2022; report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

13 City of Edinburgh Council – 2021/22 Annual Audit Report to the Council and the Controller of Audit – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the City of Edinburgh Council - 2021/22 Annual Audit Report to the Council and the Controller of Audit to the Council for noting.

Decision

To note the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 10 November 2022 (item 5); referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

14 Monitoring Officer Report - Adults with Incapacity

Details were provided on a Quality Assurance review which had highlighted that during the period 1 March 2020 – 4 August 2021 approximately 83 out of 268 instances of discharge of a person who lacked capacity from a hospital to a care home was carried out unlawfully. This review had been undertaken in response to a national report on Authority to Discharge undertaken by the Mental Welfare Commission which found instances of unlawful practices in several areas of Scotland, including Edinburgh.

The legal and practical implications of this were yet to be fully understood and a further investigation was being instructed by the Chief Executive to establish all

relevant facts and understand and inform next steps in relation to the issues identified. The Care Inspectorate were currently undertaking an inspection into social work and social care practice, and this was expected to report in March 2023.

Motion

- 1) To note that a Quality Assurance report which was commissioned on behalf of the Policy and Sustainability Committee had highlighted unlawful practice in the discharge of some patients affected by incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer reported this matter to Council on the B agenda in October 2022 as some of those affected by the subject matter of the report had not yet been contacted.
- 3) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer considered that there was sufficient evidence of unlawful practice to require him to report this matter to Council.
- 4) To note that a further investigation was being instructed by the Chief Executive to establish all relevant facts and understand and inform next steps in relation to the issues identified. This was in addition to a review which was currently being undertaken by the Care Inspectorate.
- 5) To note that the Council had also engaged with the Mental Welfare Commission in relation to this matter.
- 6) To note that a further detailed report would be submitted by the Chief Executive to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on completion of the fact-finding investigation.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Pogson

Amendment 1

- 1) To note that a Quality Assurance report which was commissioned on behalf of the Policy and Sustainability Committee had highlighted unlawful practice in the discharge of some patients affected by incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer reported this matter to Council on the B agenda in October 2022 as some of those affected by the subject matter of the report had not yet been contacted.
- 3) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer considered that there was sufficient evidence of unlawful practice to require him to report this matter to Council.

- 4) To note that a further investigation was being instructed by the Chief Executive to establish all relevant facts and understand and inform next steps in relation to the issues identified. This was in addition to a review which was currently being undertaken by the Care Inspectorate.
- 5) To note that the Council had also engaged with the Mental Welfare Commission in relation to this matter.
- 6) To note that a further detailed report would be submitted by the Chief Executive to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on completion of the fact-finding investigation. This report should consider ongoing issues related to delayed discharge to give assurance as to no repeat of these incidents due to ongoing pressures with a particular focus on:
 - a) The impact of court delays in obtaining appropriate orders.
 - b) Assurance around the legal status of interim/step down beds.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Flannery

Amendment 2

- 1) To note that a Quality Assurance report which was commissioned on behalf of the Policy and Sustainability Committee had highlighted unlawful practice in the discharge of some patients affected by incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer reported this matter to Council on the B agenda in October 2022 as some of those affected by the subject matter of the report had not yet been contacted.
- 3) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer considered that there was sufficient evidence of unlawful practice to require him to report this matter to Council.
- 4) To note that a further investigation was being instructed by the Chief Executive to establish all relevant facts and understand and inform next steps in relation to the issues identified. This was in addition to a review which was currently being undertaken by the Care Inspectorate.
- 5) To note that the Council had also engaged with the Mental Welfare Commission in relation to this matter.
- 6) To note that a further detailed report would be submitted by the Chief Executive to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on completion of the fact-finding investigation, and thereafter referred to the following meeting of full council.

- 7) Thanks everyone who has and continues to work to investigate and review the discharge of adults with incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the pandemic
- 8) Expresses sorrow to all those affected by the discharge practices which took place at this time, and resolves for officers to work with families affected throughout.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Parker

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note that a Quality Assurance report which was commissioned on behalf of the Policy and Sustainability Committee had highlighted unlawful practice in the discharge of some patients affected by incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer reported this matter to Council on the B agenda in October 2022 as some of those affected by the subject matter of the report had not yet been contacted.
- 3) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer considered that there was sufficient evidence of unlawful practice to require him to report this matter to Council.
- 4) To note that a further investigation was being instructed by the Chief Executive to establish all relevant facts and understand and inform next steps in relation to the issues identified. This was in addition to a review which was currently being undertaken by the Care Inspectorate.
- 5) To note that the Council had also engaged with the Mental Welfare Commission in relation to this matter.
- 6) To note that a further detailed report would be submitted by the Chief Executive to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on completion of the fact-finding investigation. This report should consider ongoing issues related to delayed discharge to give assurance as to no repeat of these incidents due to ongoing pressures with a particular focus on:
 - a) The impact of court delays in obtaining appropriate orders.
 - b) Assurance around the legal status of interim/step down beds.

and thereafter referred to the following meeting of full council.

- 7) To thank everyone who had and continued to work to investigate and review the discharge of adults with incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the pandemic.
- 8) To express sorrow to all those affected by the discharge practices which took place at this time, and resolve for officers to work with families affected throughout.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee 5 October 2021 (item 20); Act of Council No 3 of 27 October 2022; report by the Monitoring Officer, submitted.)

15 Monitoring Officer Report

The Council in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3 and 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Information was provided on the Quality Assurance report which had been commissioned in relation to the findings published by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

Decision

- 1) To note that a Quality Assurance report which was commissioned on behalf of the Policy and Sustainability Committee had highlighted unlawful practice in the discharge of patients affected by incapacity from hospitals to care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer was required, under s.5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to report to Council if they considered that in the course of the discharge of the Council's functions any proposal, decision or omission had resulted in maladministration, illegality or injustice.
- 3) To note that the Council's Monitoring Officer considered that there was sufficient evidence of unlawful practice to require him to report this to Council.
- 4) To note that a further investigation was being instructed by the Chief Executive to establish all relevant facts and understand and inform next steps in relation to the issues identified in keeping with the timescales set out within the report by the Monitoring Officer report.

- 5) To note that the Council has commenced engagement with the Mental Welfare Commission in relation to this matter.
- 6) To note that a further detailed report would be submitted by the Chief Executive to Policy and Sustainability Committee on completion of this fact-finding investigation.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee 5 October 2021 (item 20); Act of Council No 3 of 27 October 2022; report by the Monitoring Officer, submitted.)

16 Council Led Enforcement of Speed Limits - Motion by Councillor Lang

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

“Council;

- 1) recognises the ongoing work to improve road safety by reducing vehicle speeds across the city, including an upcoming consultation on extending 20mph speed limits.
- 2) notes the decision of the Transport and Environment Committee on 18 August 2022 which acknowledged the ongoing concern over current levels of enforcement by Police Scotland and the Convener’s letter to the Area Commander raising this concern.
- 3) notes that Wandsworth Council has now been granted an experimental order to commence a pilot scheme, allowing it to issue its own fines for excessive speeding within residential 20mph zones, separate from police enforcement, with all monies raised reinvested into road safety initiatives.
- 4) believes any similar initiative in Edinburgh could allow the Council to better respond to residents’ concerns over speeding within residential areas.
- 5) therefore agrees that the Convener of Transport and Environment should write to the Scottish Government to request that Edinburgh Council be allowed to undertake a similar pilot study in Scotland.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Lang

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

Amendment

- 1) To insert an additional paragraph at point 5 and renumber subsequent paragraph accordingly:

“5) Notes police forces across England & Wales accept and successfully use video evidence submitted online by citizens, but Police Scotland does not yet have a portal to upload footage from dashcams, and the project announced this year which would introduce a National Dashcam Safety Portal is now at risk”
- 2) To add the following additional wording (highlighted) to the final paragraph:
 - 6) therefore agrees that the Convener of Transport & Environment should write to the Scottish Government to request that Edinburgh Council be allowed to undertake a similar pilot study in Scotland **“and to urge the Government to commit to the National Dashcam Safety Portal**

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Bandel

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Lang:

- 1) To recognise the ongoing work to improve road safety by reducing vehicle speeds across the city, including an upcoming consultation on extending 20mph speed limits.
- 2) To note the decision of the Transport and Environment Committee on 18 August 2022 which acknowledged the ongoing concern over current levels of enforcement by Police Scotland and the Convener’s letter to the Area Commander raising this concern.
- 3) To note that Wandsworth Council had now been granted an experimental order to commence a pilot scheme, allowing it to issue its own fines for excessive speeding within residential 20mph zones, separate from police enforcement, with all monies raised reinvested into road safety initiatives.
- 4) To believe any similar initiative in Edinburgh could allow the Council to better respond to residents’ concerns over speeding within residential areas.
- 5) To note that police forces across England and Wales accepted and successfully used video evidence submitted online by citizens, but Police Scotland did not yet have a portal to upload footage from dashcams, and the

project announced this year which would introduce a National Dashcam Safety Portal was now at risk.

- 6) To therefore agrees that the Convener of Transport and Environment should write to the Scottish Government to request that Edinburgh Council be allowed to undertake a similar pilot study in Scotland and to urge the Government to commit to the National Dashcam Safety Portal.

17 Adopting Definition of Islamophobia - Motion by Councillor Kumar

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

“Council:

- 1) Recognises that Edinburgh is home to a significant Muslim population for generations and that our Muslim citizens are an integral part of all aspects of city life.
- 2) Unequivocally condemns prejudice and intolerance in all forms and recognises that Islamophobia is rooted in racism.
- 3) Therefore welcomes, endorses, and adopts the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, including examples of holding Muslims to double standards, asking Muslims to account for actions of others based on nothing more than being of the same religion and making dehumanising, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims- painting Muslims as a threat.
- 4) Agrees to continue to tackle hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership with communities, Police Scotland and other stakeholders.
- 5) Further agrees as a first step to support Islamophobia Awareness Month in November 2022 to use Council communication channels to bring understanding and attention to the scourge of Islamophobia and encourage better reporting of incidents to the police.
- 6) Also requests a report within 3 cycles to the Policy and Sustainability Committee detailing how the APPG definition can be embedded across Council work and consider how Council can raise awareness of crime motivated by prejudice on the grounds of actual or perceived religion.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Kumar

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor O'Neill

Amendment

To add to the motion by Councillor Kumar:

“7) agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Police Scotland Divisional Commander of Edinburgh with the details of this motion and to request an update on work to tackle religious motivated crime at the next quarterly police update to the Policy and Sustainability Committee.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Beal

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Kumar:

- 1) To recognise that Edinburgh was home to a significant Muslim population for generations and that our Muslim citizens were an integral part of all aspects of city life.
- 2) To unequivocally condemn prejudice and intolerance in all forms and recognise that Islamophobia is rooted in racism.
- 3) To therefore welcome, endorse, and adopt the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, including examples of holding Muslims to double standards, asking Muslims to account for actions of others based on nothing more than being of the same religion and making dehumanising, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims- painting Muslims as a threat.
- 4) To agree to continue to tackle hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership with communities, Police Scotland and other stakeholders.
- 5) To further agree as a first step to support Islamophobia Awareness Month in November 2022 to use Council communication channels to bring understanding and attention to the scourge of Islamophobia and encourage better reporting of incidents to the police.

- 6) To also request a report within 3 cycles to the Policy and Sustainability Committee detailing how the APPG definition could be embedded across Council work and consider how Council could raise awareness of crime motivated by prejudice on the grounds of actual or perceived religion.
- 7) To agree that the Leader of the Council should write to the Police Scotland Divisional Commander of Edinburgh with the details of this motion and to request an update on work to tackle religious motivated crime at the next quarterly police update to the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

18 Bonfire Night - Motion by Councillor Campbell

The following motions by Councillors Campbell was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council:

- 1) Condemns the horrendous scenes across the city, primarily in Niddrie, West Pilton and Sighthill of fireworks related disorder.
- 2) Recognises the terrible impact this has on residents and communities, many of whom were instructed by police not to leave their homes while this disorder was ongoing.
- 3) Further recognises and commends the work of our brave emergency services who responded to these events, putting themselves in harms way to try to restore order and make our communities safe again.
- 4) Further notes that fireworks related disorder happens annually, and despite legislative change around fireworks, has continued- particularly affecting areas of SIMD 1 and 2.
- 5) Recognises that this is a symptom of policy failure across a number of areas and that we must, as policy makers consider how we can create better lives for young people who have lost faith and trust in the system, power structures and authority. 6) Redoubles our commitment to tackling poverty as a key council priority.
- 6) Commits to prioritising investment in youth work and ensuring that our community centres are resourced as part of service plans and reaffirms the City’s 2030 commitments to tackle poverty.
- 7) Agrees to work with the police and criminal justice to ensure that a preventative approach using restorative justice is the approach taken to reengage these young people with their communities and their own futures, and the community safety partnership considers how to facilitate this.

- 8) Agrees to convene a meeting of stakeholders including key organisations working with young people in areas of SIMD 1 and 2, affected young people who can share their lived experienced, police, council, social work, youth workers, criminal justice and educators to set a strategy for how we create the conditions for young people to feel trust in authority, invested in their communities, to understand the impacts of their actions and feel respected and cared for enough to choose to act differently.”

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Dobbin

Amendment

To remove points 6, 7 and 8 in the motion by Councillor Campbell and replace with:

- “6) Notes that Council will consider agenda item 7.2 Young People’s Assembly, and that both the objectives of the Assembly laid out in the report, and the suggestions from Edinburgh’s MSYPs concerning the participation of young people are particularly relevant to these challenges.
- 7) Recognises that these challenges are not restricted to Bonfire Night, are not necessarily fixed to specific locations, can be felt across the whole city, and frequently move between communities as well as within them.
- 8) Further recognises the importance of community centres, while acknowledging their absence from large areas of the city.
- 9) Agrees to convene a meeting of stakeholders, including but not limited to; police, schools, social work, and the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs to discuss options for establishing a city-wide anti-social behaviour strategy.
- 10) Agrees that a report following this meeting will come to Culture and Communities Committee within three cycles, outlining the Council’s options for pursuing such a strategy.”

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted)	-	29 votes
For the amendment	-	29 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Frank Ross, Staniforth and Work.

For the amendment: Lord Provost, Councillors. Arthur, Beal, Bruce, Caldwell, Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Griffiths, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Neil Ross, Rust, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.)

In the division, 29 members having voted for the motion and 29 members for the amendment the Lord Provost gave his casting vote for the amendment.

Decision

To approve the following amendment by Councillor Thornley:

- 1) To condemn the horrendous scenes across the city, primarily in Niddrie, West Pilton and Sighthill of fireworks related disorder.
- 2) To recognise the terrible impact this had on residents and communities, many of whom were instructed by police not to leave their homes while this disorder was ongoing.
- 3) To further recognise and commend the work of our brave emergency services who responded to these events, putting themselves in harms way to try to restore order and make our communities safe again.
- 4) To further note that fireworks related disorder happened annually, and despite legislative change around fireworks, had continued- particularly affecting areas of SIMD 1 and 2.
- 5) To recognise that this was a symptom of policy failure across a number of areas and that we must, as policy makers consider how we could create better lives for young people who had lost faith and trust in the system, power structures and authority.
- 6) To note that Council would consider agenda item 7.2 Young People's Assembly, and that both the objectives of the Assembly laid out in the report, and the suggestions from Edinburgh's MSYPs concerning the participation of young people were particularly relevant to these challenges.
- 7) To recognise that these challenges were not restricted to Bonfire Night, were not necessarily fixed to specific locations, could be felt across the whole city, and frequently moved between communities as well as within them.

- 8) To further recognise the importance of community centres, while acknowledging their absence from large areas of the city.
- 9) To agree to convene a meeting of stakeholders, including but not limited to; police, schools, social work, and the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs to discuss options for establishing a city-wide anti-social behaviour strategy.
- 10) To agree that a report following this meeting would come to Culture and Communities Committee within three cycles, outlining the Council's options for pursuing such a strategy.

19 Fireworks - Motion by Councillor Day

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes with great concern the recent incident in Niddrie, and North Edinburgh where Emergency Service workers were targeted with fireworks, and condemns these actions which resulted in injury to police officers, emergency service vehicles and the substantial damage caused to property in east Edinburgh as a result of disgraceful behaviours.
- 2) Notes that across the city emergency services were inundated with calls regarding dangerous fireworks and anti-social behaviour, requiring emergency service attendance.
- 3) Commends those working in Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and other agencies for their commitment, bravery and professionalism in seeking to protect our local communities from harm, encouraging organised and licensed community firework and bonfire events.
- 4) Notes that the Scottish Government passed the Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 on Wednesday 29 June 2022, and an update report will be presented to Culture and Communities Committee on 13 December 2022.
- 5) Notes that further legislation on any licensing system will be established, likely in early 2023 by the Scottish Government.
- 6) Agrees that the Council should promote community organised events, and seek to ban the public sale of fireworks, and include that as an option in any licensing regulations.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Day

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment

To replace 6) in the motion by Councillor Day with:

“Agrees the Council should promote licensed community organised events and seek to restrict the general sale of fireworks to members of the public and include that as an option in any licensing regulation.”

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note with great concern the recent incident in Niddrie, and North Edinburgh where Emergency Service workers were targeted with fireworks, and condemn these actions which resulted in injury to police officers, emergency service vehicles and the substantial damage caused to property in east Edinburgh as a result of disgraceful behaviours.
- 2) To note that across the city emergency services were inundated with calls regarding dangerous fireworks and anti-social behaviour, requiring emergency service attendance.
- 3) To commend those working in Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other agencies for their commitment, bravery and professionalism in seeking to protect our local communities from harm, encouraging organised and licensed community firework and bonfire events.
- 4) To note that the Scottish Government passed the Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 on Wednesday 29 June 2022, and an update report would be presented to Culture and Communities Committee on 13 December 2022.
- 5) To note that further legislation on any licensing system would be established, likely in early 2023 by the Scottish Government.

- 6) To agree the Council should promote licensed community organised events and seek to restrict the general sale of fireworks to members of the public and include that as an option in any licensing regulation.

20 Pension Fund Divestment - Motion by Councillor Nicolson

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

“Council notes:

COP27 in Egypt this November brings with it a focus on Local Government Pension Scheme investments in fossil fuels.

Lothian Pension Fund retains shares invested in companies whose primary operation is fossil fuel extraction, production or sale.

The United Nations Paris Agreement, reaffirmed at the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit, commits our governments to keep the global temperature increase to under 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees. Carbon budgets produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations and the International Energy Agency show that preventing two degrees of warming relies on not burning the vast majority of all proven fossil fuels.

The UN International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that global oil demand will significantly fall by 2030 in the effort to reach netzero, leading their Executive Director to refer to oil and gas companies as potential ‘junk investments.’ Action by governments to limit carbon emissions will ultimately leave fossil fuel reserves unburnable. It’s been estimated that this asset bubble, known as the ‘carbon bubble’, may be over €1 trillion in Europe alone.

Pension funds have a fiduciary duty to consider the material risks of continued investment in fossil fuels. Fiduciary duty is defined by the Law Commission as “ensuring that pensions can be paid, ensuring that this is undertaken at the best possible value”.

Pension funds have a legal duty to treat members “fairly as between them”. That means taking seriously the longer-term interests of younger members who may be affected more by the climate transition.

Council agrees to:

Reviewing its Investment Strategy and developing and implementing a Responsible Investment Policy which rules out any support or direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies.

Write to Lothian Pension Fund to request they further meet their fiduciary duty to younger members of the scheme and accelerate the process of their ethical investment policy to divest from fossil fuel companies that are not shifting their investment and operation portfolios towards green energy production.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Nicolson

- moved by Councillor Biagi, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment 1

1) At start of penultimate paragraph of the motion by Councillor Nicolson, replaces “its” with “Edinburgh Council’s”

2) Insert at beginning of final paragraph of the motion:

“Ask the Council Leader to”

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Amendment 2

To delete paragraphs 4 to the end of the motion by Councillor Nicolson and replace with

“The International Energy Agency (IEA) presents three scenarios for oil demand in its World Energy Outlook 2022 report: “Our scenarios provide different perspectives on the strength of these shifts and their implications.” And “In the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario, faster global action to cut emissions means oil demand never returns to its 2019 level and falls to 75 mb/d by 2030.”

Whether oil and gas companies could be seen as potential ‘junk investments’ will clearly depend on how and whether they reinvest their cash flow.

Pension Funds have a fiduciary duty to consider the material risks of all their investments, including in companies with fossil fuel operations. Pension Funds are obliged to give precedence to the fiduciary duty owed to members and employers to ensure that sufficient funding is available in the long term so that pensions can be paid when they fall due.

Pension funds have a legal duty to treat members fairly. That means taking seriously the longer-term interests of all members equally.

The investment policy of the Lothian Pension Fund is the responsibility of its Pensions Committee.

Council agrees to review the Council's investment strategy and develop and implement a Responsible Investment Policy that will not provide new financing to companies or projects that are incompatible with the aims of the Paris Agreement if in future the Council has sufficient unallocated surplus capital and decides to invest in listed or unlisted shares or securities, as it has none at present.

Council, in its role as the largest employer of members, agrees that the Council Leader writes to Lothian Pension Fund to request that they consider over a reasonable timescale

- i) divestment from any companies, including fossil fuel companies, that are not aligned, or are not making sufficient progress towards aligning, with the UN Paris Agreement; and in their place
- ii) investment in companies that are aligned, or are making sufficient progress towards aligning, with the UN Paris Agreement."

- moved by Councillor Younie, seconded by Councillor Caldwell

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	37 votes
For Amendment 2	-	17 votes

For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Arthur, Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Day, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, O'Neill, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Frank Ross, Staniforth, Walker and Work

For Amendment 2: Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bruce, Caldwell, Cowdy, Dijkstra-Downie, Jones, Lang, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Rust, Thornley, Whyte, Young and Younie.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Nicolson:

- 1) To note that COP27 in Egypt this November brought with it a focus on Local Government Pension Scheme investments in fossil fuels.

- 2) To note that Lothian Pension Fund retained shares invested in companies whose primary operation was fossil fuel extraction, production or sale.
- 3) To note the United Nations Paris Agreement, reaffirmed at the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit, committed our governments to keep the global temperature increase to under 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees. Carbon budgets produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations and the International Energy Agency showed that preventing two degrees of warming relied on not burning the vast majority of all proven fossil fuels.
- 4) To note the UN International Energy Agency (IEA) predicted that global oil demand would significantly fall by 2030 in the effort to reach netzero, leading their Executive Director to refer to oil and gas companies as potential 'junk investments.' Action by governments to limit carbon emissions would ultimately leave fossil fuel reserves unburnable. It had been estimated that this asset bubble, known as the 'carbon bubble', might be over €1 trillion in Europe alone.
- 5) To note that pension funds had a fiduciary duty to consider the material risks of continued investment in fossil fuels. Fiduciary duty was defined by the Law Commission as "ensuring that pensions can be paid, ensuring that this is undertaken at the best possible value".
- 6) To note that pension funds had a legal duty to treat members "fairly as between them". That meant taking seriously the longer-term interests of younger members who might be affected more by the climate transition.
- 7) To agree to reviewing Edinburgh Council's Investment Strategy and developing and implementing a Responsible Investment Policy which ruled out any support or direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies.
- 8) To ask the Council Leader to write to Lothian Pension Fund to request they further meet their fiduciary duty to younger members of the scheme and accelerate the process of their ethical investment policy to divest from fossil fuel companies that were not shifting their investment and operation portfolios towards green energy production.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Burgess, Doggart, Nicolson and Neil Ross declared a non-financial interest as members of the Pensions Committee and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

Councillor Watt declared a non-financial interest as Convener of the Pensions Committee and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

Councillor Davidson declared a financial interest as his partner worked for an energy company and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

Councillor Mumford made a transparency statement as her partner worked for Friends of the Earth Scotland running the pensions divestment campaign.

21 Bringing the Big Hoose Project to Edinburgh - Motion by Councillor Arthur

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

“Notes the success of the “Big Hoose Project” in Fife in distributing over 240,000 items to 36,000 families there since December 2021.

Notes that the project works in partnership with dozens of charities, 150 schools, foodbanks, Women's Aid, social workers, health centres, nurseries and companies to identify need and meet that need.

Notes that Amazon and others supply pallets of returns and items third party retailers don't want to a warehouse in Lochgelly. There they are sorted by staff and volunteers to enable easy access to items needed by those most in need. To identify those most in need a Low-Income Family Tracker has been developed by the Council using information from many sources, including the DWP. A simple referral sheet is used by all partners and the items are put together ready for collection by the organisation representing the families.

Notes that the type of products supplied to families includes food, bedding, kitchen items, towels, toilet roll, nappies, toiletries, rugs, clothing, footwear, baby items, sanitary products and other household furnishings and goods. Some items of high value are sold online to generate funds.

Notes that the capacity of the companies involved mean that there is potential for Edinburgh to become part of the scheme if the correct third-sector partners can be found.

Agrees that Council Officers should engage with the Big Hoose Project and issue a briefing to Councillors before then end of 2023, with a view to bringing a report to the next Policy and Sustainability Committee.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Arthur

- moved by Councillor Arthur, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment

To delete “2023” and insert “2022” in the motion by Councillor Arthur.

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Arthur:

- 1) To note the success of the “Big Hoose Project” in Fife in distributing over 240,000 items to 36,000 families there since December 2021.
- 2) To note that the project worked in partnership with dozens of charities, 150 schools, foodbanks, Women’s Aid, social workers, health centres, nurseries and companies to identify need and meet that need.
- 3) To note that Amazon and others supplied pallets of returns and items third party retailers didn’t want to a warehouse in Lochgelly. There they were sorted by staff and volunteers to enable easy access to items needed by those most in need. To identify those most in need a Low-Income Family Tracker had been developed by the Council using information from many sources, including the DWP. A simple referral sheet was used by all partners and the items were put together ready for collection by the organisation representing the families.
- 4) To note that the type of products supplied to families included food, bedding, kitchen items, towels, toilet roll, nappies, toiletries, rugs, clothing, footwear, baby items, sanitary products and other household furnishings and goods. Some items of high value were sold online to generate funds.
- 5) To note that the capacity of the companies involved meant that there was potential for Edinburgh to become part of the scheme if the correct third-sector partners could be found.
- 6) To agree that Council Officers should engage with the Big Hoose Project and issue a briefing to Councillors before then end of 2022, with a view to bringing a report to the next Policy and Sustainability Committee.

22 World Aids Day - 1st December - Fast Track Cities - Motion by Councillor Day

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

“Council notes:

- Scotland is on its way to becoming one of the first countries in the world to achieve zero HIV transmissions by 2030. Cities play a significant role in working to achieve this target
- Cities have a higher risk of contracting HIV due to urban dynamics such as migration, social inequality, population size and unemployment. As hubs of innovation and education, cities are well-equipped to respond to complex health problems such as HIV/AIDS.
- The Fast Track City Initiative provides an opportunity for the city to commit to ending new transmissions of HIV and HIV related stigma which is seen as a key barrier to testing and case finding

Council agrees:

- 1) To the city of Edinburgh's continued participation in the initiative and a positive sign of our commitment to the control of HIV.
- 2) To sign up to the Paris Declaration alongside our sister cities of Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow to generate opportunities for coordinated action and sharing of experience between those cities and their health boards.
- 3) And to ask Partners in NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and other partners, to sign up with The City of Edinburgh Councils commitment to the Paris Declaration.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Pogson

Amendment 1

To add two bullet points in the ‘Council Notes’ section of the motion by Councillor Day:

- That with treatment, HIV is a survivable condition with HIV-positive people expecting to live long and happy lives. Despite effective treatment meaning

HIV cannot be passed on to sexual partners there is still a stigma that hasn't kept up with this medical progress.

- That Scotland was one of the first countries in the world to provide Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) which can reduce your chance of getting HIV from sex or injection drug use free via NHS Scotland.”

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

Amendment 2

- 1) In “Council Notes” in the motion by Councillor Day, add:

“The importance of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in reducing HIV transmissions. An FOI request in June revealed that there are currently waits of up to 260 days for access to PrEP in the NHS Lothian region.”

- 2) In “Council agrees” in the motion, add

“4) Further asks partners in NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and other partners what steps they are taking to increase uptake and availability of PrEP treatment.”

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 3

At the beginning of the motion by Councillor Day:

“Council;

- Commemorates those who have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses;
- Mourns the impact of what has been one of the most destructive pandemics in history – one that disproportionately affected, and still affects queer people and people of colour;
- Welcomes the move away from ‘tombstone’ public health campaigns and towards better awareness that fights the fear and stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS.”

- moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Miller

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1, 2 and 3 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To commemorate those who have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses.
- 2) To mourn the impact of what has been one of the most destructive pandemics in history – one that disproportionately affected, and still affected queer people and people of colour.
- 3) To welcome the move away from ‘tombstone’ public health campaigns and towards better awareness that fights the fear and stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS.
- 4) To note Scotland was on its way to becoming one of the first countries in the world to achieve zero HIV transmissions by 2030. Cities played a significant role in working to achieve this target.
- 5) To note cities had a higher risk of contracting HIV due to urban dynamics such as migration, social inequality, population size and unemployment. As hubs of innovation and education, cities were well-equipped to respond to complex health problems such as HIV/AIDS.
- 6) To note the Fast Track City Initiative provided an opportunity for the city to commit to ending new transmissions of HIV and HIV related stigma which was seen as a key barrier to testing and case finding.
- 7) To note that with treatment, HIV was a survivable condition with HIV-positive people expecting to live long and happy lives. Despite effective treatment meaning HIV could be passed on to sexual partners there was still a stigma that hadn't kept up with this medical progress.
- 8) To note that Scotland was one of the first countries in the world to provide Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) which could reduce your chance of getting HIV from sex or injection drug use free via NHS Scotland.
- 9) To note the importance of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in reducing HIV transmissions. An FOI request in June revealed that there were currently waits of up to 260 days for access to PrEP in the NHS Lothian region.
- 10) To agree to the city of Edinburgh's continued participation in the initiative and a positive sign of our commitment to the control of HIV.
- 11) To agree to sign up to the Paris Declaration alongside our sister cities of Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow to generate opportunities for coordinated action and sharing of experience between those cities and their health boards.

- 12) To agree to ask Partners in NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and other partners, to sign up with The City of Edinburgh Councils commitment to the Paris Declaration.
- 13) To further ask partners in NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and other partners what steps they were taking to increase uptake and availability of PrEP treatment.

23 Social Security Take-Up Strategy - Motion by Councillor Heap

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes with regret that many residents who are entitled to social security payments are not currently taking them-up, with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimating that there were £70-80m of unclaimed income related benefits in the city in 2019.
- 2) Further notes the 2022 figure for unclaimed income-related and non-income related social security entitlements in the city likely now to be considerably in excess of this.
- 3) Believes this has considerable negative consequences in terms of poverty and inequality.
- 4) Notes the excellent work done by Council staff and the staff of partner organisations to support people to claim, and progress made as a result of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission recommendations.
- 5) Believes that, given the cost-of-living-crisis, an ongoing social security take-up strategy with Councillor and stakeholder input is necessary.
- 6) Therefore resolves that the City of Edinburgh Council should publish an Edinburgh Social Security take-up Strategy (“the Strategy”) every year, starting in 2023.
- 7) Asks that each Strategy should include:
 - a) The Council’s best estimate of the level of unclaimed social security entitlements in the Council area;
 - b) What the Council did over the previous year; and
 - c) What it plans to do over the next year to assist Edinburgh residents to claim social security entitlements from:

- (i) The City of Edinburgh Council;
 - (ii) The Scottish Government;
 - (iii) The UK Government.
- 8) Requests the Council Leader or a relevant Committee convenor convenes at least two meetings annually of a Social Security Uptake Strategy Working Group, formed of the Leader or Convenor and one nominee per party, to scrutinise implementation of the previous year's strategy and be consulted on the production of the next year's strategy.
- 9) Asks that relevant stakeholders should be consulted in the course of the production of each Strategy."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Heap.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor O'Neill

Amendment 1

To delete paragraphs 6 to 9 in the motion by Councillor Heap and replaces with:

"Notes the extensive work underway from the Council and Edinburgh Partnership, and the End Poverty Edinburgh group.

Requests an update report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on the current work underway, including the welfare advice services review, to ensure benefit advice and benefit take up is progressing and consider the next steps required."

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 2

1) To delete 8) in the motion by Councillor Heap and insert:

- "8) agrees to a bi-annual update to the Policy & Sustainability Committee so members can scrutinise the implementation of the previous year's strategy and feed into the production of the next year's strategy.

2) To add at the end of the motion:

“10) agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Scottish and UK Governments to ask what work they will each undertake to improve the take-up of social security benefits.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and accepted as amendments to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Heap:

- 1) To note with regret that many residents who were entitled to social security payments were not currently taking them-up, with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimating that there were £70-80m of unclaimed income related benefits in the city in 2019.
- 2) To further note the 2022 figure for unclaimed income-related and non-income related social security entitlements in the city likely now to be considerably in excess of this.
- 3) To believe this had considerable negative consequences in terms of poverty and inequality.
- 4) To note the excellent work done by Council staff and the staff of partner organisations to support people to claim, and progress made as a result of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission recommendations.
- 5) To believe that, given the cost-of-living-crisis, an ongoing social security take-up strategy with Councillor and stakeholder input was necessary.
- 6) To note the extensive work underway from the Council and Edinburgh Partnership, and the End Poverty Edinburgh group.
- 7) To request an update report to the next Policy and Sustainability Committee on the current work underway, including the welfare advice services review, to ensure benefit advice and benefit take up was progressing and consider the next steps required.
- 8) To agree that the Leader of the Council should write to the Scottish and UK Governments to ask what work they would each undertake to improve the take-up of social security benefits.

24 Night Time Coordinator - Motion by Councillor Staniforth

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

“Council notes:

That last term council agreed for the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership to investigate the appointment and funding of a night time coordinator, working with local night time businesses.

That the above never happened owing to COVID changing the priorities of the Community Safety partnership.

That a night time coordinator should be about more than just safety and would also facilitate the night-time economy so as to better serve its businesses, employees and customers.

Council therefore:

Resolves that officers should consult with local night time businesses, services, service users and workers to broach the idea of a night time coordinator and discuss both its remit and funding.

Resolves that the role should also support the aims of the Get Me Home Safely campaign as well as how licensing and transport can be best utilised to improve the safety and resilience of the night time economy.

Resolves that a report on a potential night time coordinator, describing potential remit and funding for such a post, come to Policy and Sustainability committee within three cycles.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Staniforth.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Heap

Amendment

Council

Changes fifth paragraph of the motion by Councillor Staniforth to read:

“Agrees that officers should consult with local night time businesses, services, service users, workers and the voluntary support sector including (but not exclusive

too), Street Assist to discuss the idea of a night time coordinator, its remit and funding.”

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was adjusted to read “Changes fourth paragraph” and accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Staniforth:

- 1) To note that last term council agreed for the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership to investigate the appointment and funding of a night time coordinator, working with local night time businesses.
- 2) To note that the above never happened owing to COVID changing the priorities of the Community Safety partnership.
- 3) To note that a night time coordinator should be about more than just safety and would also facilitate the night-time economy so as to better serve its businesses, employees and customers.
- 4) To agree that officers should consult with local night time businesses, services, service users, workers and the voluntary support sector including (but not exclusive too), Street Assist to discuss the idea of a night time coordinator, its remit and funding.
- 5) To agree that the role should also support the aims of the Get Me Home Safely campaign as well as how licensing and transport could be best utilised to improve the safety and resilience of the night time economy.
- 6) To agree that a report on a potential night time coordinator, describing potential remit and funding for such a post, come to Policy and Sustainability Committee within three cycles.

25 On-Street and In-Park Recycling Bins - Motion by Councillor Caldwell

The following motion by Councillor Caldwell was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22.5:

“Council

Notes;

- 1) That 5.5 billion plastic bottles are sent to landfill every year in the UK further exacerbating the Climate Crisis (source: parliament.uk, 2017).
- 2) That the majority of litter bins in Edinburgh’s town centres and parks are refuse-only and do not offer the ability to recycle plastic bottles or cans.
- 3) That Edinburgh Council worked alongside environmental charities Hubbub and Changeworks in previous years to trial on-street recycling bins, baked into double-capacity litter bins called “#InTheLoop”. This resulted in an impact report from Hubbub.

Believes;

- 4) That all residents and visitors walking or wheeling in our streets and parks should have the opportunity to conveniently recycle plastic bottles and cans while acknowledging the extreme financial pressures of all departments.
- 5) That communal recycling bins are intended for residential use, and thus not suitable recycling points for people walking and wheeling in town centres and parks.
- 6) Having half of a double-capacity litter bin be dedicated to mixed recycling is a cost-effective way of expanding our plastic and aluminium recycling provision, as they can be internally fitted with a green wheelie bin, the same used for individual household mixed-recycling.

Calls for;

- 7) An item on the March 2023 Cleansing Update that outlines the feasibility and costs of:
 - a) upgrading a substantial number of litter bins in Edinburgh's City Centre and eight town centres to double-capacity litter and recycling bins.
 - b) upgrading a substantial number of litter bins in Council-owned parks and green spaces to double-capacity litter and recycling bins, both at

sites where litter bins are currently present and at sites from which litter bins have been removed over the past five years. Parks should include but not be limited to premier parks such as the Meadows, Inverleith Park and Leith Links.

- c) identifying suitable sites in order to implement A) and B) where doing so would increase recycling rates while remaining cost-effective (ie sites that are nearby an existing residential mixed recycling route).
- d) Learning from the previous “Edinburgh #InTheLoop” trial.”

- moved by Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

Amendment

To add at 7 in the motion by Councillor Caldwell:

“e) information about how these plans might work in tandem with the forthcoming Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), including learning from other countries such as Germany and Norway where bins are “DRS-ready” and designed to allow bottles to be separated easily from other recyclables for this purpose.”

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Mumford

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Caldwell:

- 1) To note that 5.5 billion plastic bottles were sent to landfill every year in the UK further exacerbating the Climate Crisis (source: parliament.uk, 2017).
- 2) To note that the majority of litter bins in Edinburgh’s town centres and parks were refuse-only and did not offer the ability to recycle plastic bottles or cans.
- 3) To note that Edinburgh Council worked alongside environmental charities Hubbub and Changeworks in previous years to trial on-street recycling bins, baked into double-capacity litter bins called “#InTheLoop”. This resulted in an impact report from Hubbub.
- 4) To believe that all residents and visitors walking or wheeling in our streets and parks should have the opportunity to conveniently recycle plastic bottles and cans while acknowledging the extreme financial pressures of all departments.

- 5) To believe that communal recycling bins were intended for residential use, and thus not suitable recycling points for people walking and wheeling in town centres and parks.
- 6) To believe that having half of a double-capacity litter bin being dedicated to mixed recycling was a cost-effective way of expanding our plastic and aluminium recycling provision, as they could be internally fitted with a green wheelie bin, the same used for individual household mixed-recycling.

Calls for;

- 7) To call for an item on the March 2023 Cleansing Update that outlined the feasibility and costs of:
 - a) upgrading a substantial number of litter bins in Edinburgh's City Centre and eight town centres to double-capacity litter and recycling bins.
 - b) upgrading a substantial number of litter bins in Council-owned parks and green spaces to double-capacity litter and recycling bins, both at sites where litter bins were currently present and at sites from which litter bins had been removed over the past five years. Parks should include but not be limited to premier parks such as the Meadows, Inverleith Park and Leith Links.
 - c) identifying suitable sites in order to implement a) and b) where doing so would increase recycling rates while remaining cost-effective (ie sites that were nearby an existing residential mixed recycling route).
 - d) Learning from the previous “Edinburgh #InTheLoop” trial.
 - e) information about how these plans might work in tandem with the forthcoming Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), including learning from other countries such as Germany and Norway where bins are “DRS-ready” and designed to allow bottles to be separated easily from other recyclables for this purpose.

26 Edinburgh's Cultural and Events Sector - Motion by Councillor Walker

The following motion by Councillor Walker was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22.5:

“Council notes:

- 1) The success and impact of the 11 Edinburgh International festivals returning to the city at a remarkable scale in 2022 just 6 months after winter lockdown -

achieving an estimated 80% of creative content on pre- covid levels and approximately 3m attendances.

- 2) The value of the festivals to Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK illustrated by the mix of local, national and global audiences: around 40% of audiences were from Edinburgh, 20% from Scotland, 30% UK and 10% overseas.
- 3) The economic value of the festivals. An estimated 4,000 additional jobs were directly attributable to the 2022 festivals and 44,000 wider city jobs and livelihoods supported in arts, hospitality and recreation.
- 4) An existential threat now hangs over the cultural sector – runaway cost increases; skills gaps, accommodation and supply chain shortages; suppressed audience disposable income; continuing Covid risks; pressures on funders and sponsors; deglobalisation; and climate adaptation imperatives.

Council recognises the work of officers in supporting cultural organisations throughout the year.

Council agrees that:

- 1) The council should convene a meeting of funders to explore how they can work together to support the resilience of the Edinburgh's cultural organisations at this difficult time.
- 2) The Council Leader writes to key partners asking them to take part in ensuring the future of the country's festivals.
- 3) Officers will work with funders/stakeholders to explore possible mitigations against the risks faced by the cultural organisations including lighter touch, more flexible monitoring regimes that better align across funders.
- 4) The Council Leader and the Convener of Culture and Communities will continue to meet weekly with representatives of Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government.
- 5) The Festivals and Events APOG will meet fortnightly to update elected members and to share information.
- 6) To call for a report to the Culture and Communities Committee at the start of 2023 on the costs of the Loony Dook."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Walker.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To delete paragraphs 1 and 2 in the “council agrees” section of the motion by Councillor Walker and replace with:
 - “1) Notes that following a call made by Councillor McVey for a Culture Summit in October, the Scottish Government has agreed to an upcoming meeting of local stakeholders, funders, cultural delivery partners, including Council and UK Government confirming attendance - convened by the Minister.
 - 2) Agrees that officers will commit to liaising with the Scottish Government to help facilitate this meeting and supply any additional contacts beyond the current attendance confirmations.”
- 2) To add at the end of the motion:
 - “6) Council notes with concern the recent announcement that South Queensferry’s world famous and long-running Loony Dook will not receive public safety support as it is no longer on the official Hogmanay programme.
 - 7) Council notes that the success of the Loony Dook has brought international recognition to South Queensferry and a significant boost to the local economy there over the course of more than three decades.
 - 8) Council notes that images of the Loony Dook are still featured on many high profile tourism websites and that there remains a high possibility of large numbers of visitors arriving in South Queensferry to participate in the Loony Dook despite the cancellation of the official event - meaning basic safety and sanitary measures are not currently in place resulting in risks to residents and visitors.
 - 9) Council requests safety and sanitary measures to be put in place to a standard that satisfies community safety issues, these should acknowledge the likelihood of people attending and these measures should be enabling, not blocking in nature to ensure the safety of residents and the wider public.
 - 10) Council further calls for a return of the Loony Dook in the 2023/24 Hogmanay events programme.”

- moved by Councillor Work, seconded by Councillor Aston

Amendment 2

To add to the motion by Councillor Walker:

“Council

- 1) Notes that the closing date for the sale of the former Filmhouse is set for the 7th of December.
- 2) Notes the potential adverse effects on the Edinburgh Film Guild (EFG) as it was housed within the building.
- 3) Agrees a briefing will come to the next Festivals and Events APOG outlining what offers of support by the Council and Partners have been extended to EFG and what further actions are being considered to ensure that Edinburgh’s historic film culture continues to thrive.”

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the Amendments 2 and 3 were accepted as addendums to the motion and Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the success and impact of the 11 Edinburgh International festivals returning to the city at a remarkable scale in 2022 just 6 months after winter lockdown - achieving an estimated 80% of creative content on pre- covid levels and approximately 3m attendances.
- 2) To note the value of the festivals to Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK illustrated by the mix of local, national and global audiences: around 40% of audiences were from Edinburgh, 20% from Scotland, 30% UK and 10% overseas.
- 3) To note the economic value of the festivals. An estimated 4,000 additional jobs were directly attributable to the 2022 festivals and 44,000 wider city jobs and livelihoods supported in arts, hospitality and recreation.
- 4) To note an existential threat now hung over the cultural sector – runaway cost increases; skills gaps, accommodation and supply chain shortages; suppressed audience disposable income; continuing Covid risks; pressures on funders and sponsors; deglobalisation; and climate adaptation imperatives.
- 5) To recognise the work of officers in supporting cultural organisations throughout the year.

- 6) To agree the council should convene a meeting of funders to explore how they could work together to support the resilience of the Edinburgh's cultural organisations at this difficult time.
- 7) To agree the Council Leader write to key partners asking them to take part in ensuring the future of the country's festivals.
- 8) To agree officers would work with funders/stakeholders to explore possible mitigations against the risks faced by the cultural organisations including lighter touch, more flexible monitoring regimes that better align across funders.
- 9) To agree the Council Leader and the Convener of Culture and Communities would continue to meet weekly with representatives of Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government.
- 10) To agree the Festivals and Events APOG would meet fortnightly to update elected members and to share information.
- 11) To note that the closing date for the sale of the former Filmhouse was set for the 7th of December.
- 12) To note the potential adverse effects on the Edinburgh Film Guild (EFG) as it was housed within the building.
- 13) To agree a briefing would come to the next Festivals and Events APOG outlining what offers of support by the Council and Partners had been extended to EFG and what further actions were being considered to ensure that Edinburgh's historic film culture continued to thrive.
- 14) To note with concern the recent announcement that South Queensferry's world famous and long-running Loony Dook would not receive public safety support as it is no longer on the official Hogmanay programme.
- 15) To note that the success of the Loony Dook had brought international recognition to South Queensferry and a significant boost to the local economy there over the course of more than three decades.
- 16) To note that images of the Loony Dook were still featured on many high profile tourism websites and that there remained a high possibility of large numbers of visitors arriving in South Queensferry to participate in the Loony Dook despite the cancellation of the official event - meaning basic safety and sanitary measures were not currently in place resulting in risks to residents and visitors.
- 17) To request safety and sanitary measures to be put in place to a standard that satisfied community safety issues, these should acknowledge the likelihood of

people attending and these measures should be enabling, not blocking in nature to ensure the safety of residents and the wider public.

- 18) To call for a report to the Culture and Communities Committee at the start of 2023 on the costs of the Loony Dook.
- 19) To further calls for a return of the Loony Dook in the 2023/24 Hogmanay events programme.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Rust made a transparency statement as the Chair and Director of Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

27 Transgender Day of Remembrance - Motion by Councillor Heap

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes that Transgender Day of Remembrance was held on November 20, and welcomes the continued flying of the trans flag from the city chambers on that day.
- 2) Understands that the Day of Remembrance, a memorial for the trans people who have died as a result of transphobia, has been held every November 20 since 1999, when it was started to memorialise the murder of Rita Hester in Massachusetts. It serves both as a memorial for those we have lost, and as a way to highlight the ongoing violence and discrimination faced by trans people around the world.
- 3) Notes with deep regret and condemns ongoing transphobia faced by many transgender people in Edinburgh, and particularly the increase in hate crimes targeting trans people along with other members of the LGBTQ community.
- 4) Believes that Edinburgh should be a welcoming and safe place for trans people, where they are able to access employment, education, housing and healthcare, and live their lives free from discrimination and fear.
- 5) Resolves that the City of Edinburgh Council should mark every Transgender Day of Remembrance by making an annual public statement on or close to the 20th November hence forth detailing what it has done in the previous year to promote the safety and wellbeing of our trans residents.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Heap.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Munford

Amendment

To add to the motion by Councillor Heap:

“6) This public statement should also be provided as a business bulletin update to Policy and Sustainability Committee to ensure proper scrutiny of the Council’s support for our transgender community.”

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Thornley

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Heap:

- 1) To note that Transgender Day of Remembrance was held on November 20, and welcome the continued flying of the trans flag from the city chambers on that day.
- 2) To understand that the Day of Remembrance, a memorial for the trans people who had died as a result of transphobia, had been held every November 20 since 1999, when it was started to memorialise the murder of Rita Hester in Massachusetts. It served both as a memorial for those we had lost, and as a way to highlight the ongoing violence and discrimination faced by trans people around the world.
- 3) To note with deep regret and condemn ongoing transphobia faced by many transgender people in Edinburgh, and particularly the increase in hate crimes targeting trans people along with other members of the LGBTQ community.
- 4) To believe that Edinburgh should be a welcoming and safe place for trans people, where they were able to access employment, education, housing and healthcare, and live their lives free from discrimination and fear.
- 5) To resolve that the City of Edinburgh Council should mark every Transgender Day of Remembrance by making an annual public statement on or close to the 20th November hence forth detailing what it had done in the previous year to promote the safety and wellbeing of our trans residents.

- 6) This public statement should also be provided as a business bulletin update to Policy and Sustainability Committee to ensure proper scrutiny of the Council's support for our transgender community.

28 Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults at Risk - Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

The following motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council has statutory responsibilities as a public body in respect of the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.

Council is committed:

- To creating an organisational culture which prioritises and promotes the importance of safeguarding and the welfare of all children and adults at risk;
- To protecting children, young people and adults at risk from abuse;
- To ensuring all Council policies and procedures pertinent to statutory safeguarding responsibilities are designed, implemented, monitored and audited in an open, transparent, democratically accountable way.

Council notes:

- The remit and focus of The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, established by the Scottish Government, is on historic abuse and specific to children in care;
- The Children's and Young People's Commissioner of Scotland Annual Report to the Scottish Parliament, Page 29, "Child Protection and Safeguarding" ([CYPCS-AR-2022.pdf](#));

Council:

- Supports the calls for the strengthening of accountability, oversight and public scrutiny of the systems for reporting disclosures to public bodies in Scotland, and how such disclosures are handled, investigated, reported and recommendations from report findings are implemented;
- Welcomes the recent call for the next phase of the SCAI which will look into residential and secure services and commits to giving the enquiry its full support.

Council notes the submission of Petition PE1979 to the Scottish Parliament, which closed for signatures on 3 November 2022, "*To urge the Scottish Government to establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies*".

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

- moved by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 1

To delete the last 2 paragraphs of the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron and replace with:

“Council:

- Supports measures to strengthen accountability, oversight and public scrutiny of the systems for reporting disclosures to public bodies in Scotland. Commits to implementing any measures to improve how such disclosures are handled, investigated and reported, as well as how effectively recommendations from report findings are implemented;
- Welcomes the next phase of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (phase 8) which will begin in the second half of 2023, holding public hearings about abuse of children in residential and secure accommodation:
- Commits to fully to engage with the process and requests officers in the children and families Directorate give the enquiry their full support.”

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment 2

To add to the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron:

“Council notes that CYPCS Annual Report highlights the ongoing extent of inappropriate restraint/physical intervention as a potential safeguarding concern.

Council calls for a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee within two cycles detailing what steps are being taken in CEC settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.

Council requests that the Integrated Joint Board consider commissioning a similar report into adult settings.”

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the motion and Amendment 2 was accepted in full as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron:

- 1) To note that the Council had statutory responsibilities as a public body in respect of the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.
- 2) To note that the Council was committed to creating an organisational culture which prioritised and promoted the importance of safeguarding and the welfare of all children and adults at risk.
- 3) To note that the Council was committed to protecting children, young people and adults at risk from abuse
- 4) To note that the Council was committed to ensuring all Council policies and procedures pertinent to statutory safeguarding responsibilities were designed, implemented, monitored and audited in an open, transparent, democratically accountable way.
- 5) To note the remit and focus of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, established by the Scottish Government, was on historic abuse and specific to children in care.
- 6) To note the Children's and Young People's Commissioner of Scotland Annual Report to the Scottish Parliament, Page 29, "Child Protection and Safeguarding" ([CYPCS-AR-2022.pdf](#)).
- 7) To support the calls for the strengthening of accountability, oversight and public scrutiny of the systems for reporting disclosures to public bodies in Scotland, and how such disclosures were handled, investigated, reported and recommendations from report findings are implemented.
- 8) To welcome the next phase of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (phase 8) which would begin in the second half of 2023, holding public hearings about abuse of children in residential and secure accommodation.
- 9) To note the submission of Petition PE1979 to the Scottish Parliament, which closed for signatures on 3 November 2022, "*To urge the Scottish Government to establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies*".
- 10) To commit to fully to engage with the process and request officers in the children and families Directorate give the enquiry their full support.
- 11) To note that CYPCS Annual Report highlighted the ongoing extent of inappropriate restraint/physical intervention as a potential safeguarding concern.

- 12) To call for a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee within two cycles detailing what steps were being taken in CEC settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.
- 13) To request that the Integrated Joint Board consider commissioning a similar report into adult settings.

29 War Memorial - City Chambers - Motion by Councillor Whyte

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

“Council condemns the arson attack on the War Memorial at the City Chambers at some point on 13 November after Scotland’s Annual Service of Remembrance was concluded.

Council welcomes the statement by the Lord Provost condemning the attack and the actions of those who showed such disrespect.

Council commends the Police, the Fire Service, the Council Officers and representatives from Poppy Scotland who took swift action to restore the memorial and poppy wreaths which remained in place as swiftly as possible.

Council notes that concerns have been raised in the past about disrespectful treatment of the War Memorial during busy periods on the High Street and about the use of temporary Mills barriers to provide some limited protection. This being raised in a motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron in November 2019 and by former Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross as part of his then role.

Council considers that these attempts to improve security and respectful treatment of the War Memorial have yet to have the success desired given the events on 13 November.

Council therefore agrees that there should be a review of security at the War Memorial to ensure it is treated respectfully all year round and agrees to receive a report on the actions to be taken to improve security at the Finance and Resources Committee within two cycles.”

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Whyte.

30 Employee Volunteering Policy - Motion by Councillor Bandel

The following motion by Councillor Bandel was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22.5:

“Council:

- 1) Recognises the many positive differences that volunteering has on local communities as well as on the wellbeing and professional development of the volunteer.
- 2) Notes that several Scottish local authorities, including Glasgow City Council and Scottish Borders Council, have developed Employee Volunteering policies that allow their employees to take a certain amount of paid leave to volunteer in their local community.
- 3) Further notes that while the City of Edinburgh Council allows employees to take leave for voluntary work as part of its Special Leave Policy, this leave is currently unpaid and thus not as effective at encouraging volunteering.
- 4) Welcomes the proposal of an action in the Annual Progress Report on the Council Emissions Reduction Plan to explore the possibility of developing an Employee Volunteer Policy which would grant employees paid time off to volunteer but notes the completion date of this is currently set for December 2025.
- 5) Requests officers to develop a proposal for an Employee Volunteering Policy that would give staff paid leave to volunteer with local organisations and initiatives, and report back to Policy and Sustainability Committee by September 2023.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Bandel.

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor Mumford

Amendment 1

To add at the end of Paragraph 5) of the motion by Councillor Bandel:

“including an assessment of any operational and financial impact on the delivery of council services.”

- moved by Councillor Beal, seconded by Councillor Lang

Amendment 2

- 1) In paragraph 4 of the motion by Councillor Bandel, to replace the word “but” with “and”.
- 2) To remove paragraph 5 of the motion.

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Munro

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	50 votes
For Amendment 2	-	9 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Aston, Bandel, Beal, Biagi, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, McVey, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, O’Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Frank Ross, Neil Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Work, Young and Younie.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Rust and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Bandel:

- 1) To recognise the many positive differences that volunteering had on local communities as well as on the wellbeing and professional development of the volunteer.
- 2) To note that several Scottish local authorities, including Glasgow City Council and Scottish Borders Council, had developed Employee Volunteering policies that allowed their employees to take a certain amount of paid leave to volunteer in their local community.
- 3) To further note that while the City of Edinburgh Council allowed employees to take leave for voluntary work as part of its Special Leave Policy, this leave was currently unpaid and thus not as effective at encouraging volunteering.

- 4) To welcome the proposal of an action in the Annual Progress Report on the Council Emissions Reduction Plan to explore the possibility of developing an Employee Volunteer Policy which would grant employees paid time off to volunteer but note the completion date of this was currently set for December 2025.
- 5) To request officers to develop a proposal for an Employee Volunteering Policy that would give staff paid leave to volunteer with local organisations and initiatives, and report back to Policy and Sustainability Committee by September 2023 including an assessment of any operational and financial impact on the delivery of council services.

31 Portobello Heat Fair - Motion by Councillor Mumford

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

“Council:

Recognises and congratulates Porty Community Energy for their success in running the Portobello Heat Fair, a community event looking at how we reduce consumption in a fair way;

Notes that empowering communities to take action on climate change is a key part of the council’s targets on emissions reduction, as well as helping people save money on energy use;

and

Welcomes the continued innovation and dedication of community groups working for climate justice.”

- moved by the Lord Provost, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mumford.

32 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 32 of 24 November 2022)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Question (1) Following the conclusion of the ETRO processes, is it his expectation that a standard TRO consultation process will be undertaken for making any of the 'travelling safely' schemes permanent?

Answer (1) Under the regulations which were introduced in November 2021, there is no requirement for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process to make the measures permanent.

Under these new regulations, the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) can be made permanent if approved by the appropriate Committee.

The transition from the ETRO could be as per the original ETRO scheme or with amendments in response to the findings during the ETRO monitoring period.

However, it is possible there are ETROs and TROs in place across the city (not limited to those relating to Travelling Safely) which may need to be reconciled in to one overarching TRO. In these circumstances, the overarching TRO would need to follow the normal statutory process for such orders.

Question (2) What communications plan is proposed in order to alert residents to the need to submit comments to the 'travelling safely' ETROs within the first six months?

Answer

- (2) Notification, with an accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) has been sent to all statutory consultees, Councillors and Community Councils. In addition, the Council website has been updated, providing a link to the ETRO documents, a press release has been issued and social media communications have been used to communicate more widely.

STV News carried a report on the consultation - <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/controversial-temporary-spaces-for-people-covid-scheme-to-be-retained-for-18-months-in-edinburgh>

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Fullerton for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

The Convener will recall that the SNP/LABOUR Coalition budget was agreed by Council this year. It allocated £1.072m for deep cleaning of the city, graffiti removal, street cleaning, a City Centre programme of works and work across every Ward in the City as well as hot washing equipment for city centre closes.

Question (1) Can the Convener confirm that a minimum of £50,000 will be spent in each of the wards if required, and more where required, with the balance going further towards the City Centre programme of works?

Answer (1) When I inherited the Convener'ship in May 2023, Officers Confirmed to me that street-cleansing in Edinburgh was underfunded in our Capital. I was left in no doubt that a single payment of circa £1m would do little to meet the aspirations of residents. We have a duty to be honest about this, and I am committed working with all of Edinburgh's political parties to secure the funding this service needs.

Although there was no spend commitment for individual Wards, £750,000 has been allocated to a street care team and this team has been working across the city since May and will have covered all wards by the end of March 2023. The team started in the East of the city and are moving West. Further information on this programme of work is available from the Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services. It is not possible to breakdown the cost by ward.

In addition, £250,000 has been allocated to a City Centre deep clean and this has been tendered and is in the process of being evaluated and awarded. A further £72k was allocated to purchasing a hot wash machine by the end of 2022/23.

Question (2) Can the Convener give details of when the work on the Wards will begin?

Answer (2) As per above, work outside of the City Centre area has already started.

- Question** (3) Can the Convener confirm if the 0.25m to set up a Neighbourhood Action Team, to tackle hot spot areas of unkempt land, areas with dumping, vegetation and other issues to improve the look and feel of areas in need of additional attention has been set up and when it was?
- Answer** (3) This initiative has not yet commenced. However, Councillors will shortly be contacted to seek their views on priority areas within their ward which require additional attention. This information will be collated, and a programme of work created.
- Question** (4) Can the Convener give details of a) what has been carried out so far by the Action Team; b) give ward details; and c) supply a timetable and list of work scheduled to be carried out to achieve “the look and feel of areas in need of additional attention”?
- Answer** (4) See answer 3.
- Question** (5) Can the Convener confirm that local Ward Members will be consulted on work to be carried out?
- Answer** (5) Yes.
- Supplementary Question** Thanks to officers for their answer. After several attempts the attached information on each ward was sent – a list, not saying what was done, when, why and no figures for spend in each ward. Can the Convener now please supply this information and spend for each ward, not an estimate. Elected Members expect to be furnished with proper financial information which is a fundamental part of financial record keeping?
- Supplementary Answer** As noted in the above answer and in the supplementary briefing provided, officers have not collated the information on expenditure for the deep clean activities by ward.
- The costs associated with this (including staff, vehicle and equipment costs) have been spent on a city wide basis to reflect the overall budget. The activities have been targeted at the areas of most need, and the work undertaken

includes scraping and cleaning streets to a high standard. Progress is dependent on the level of work required at each location and can be affected by other factors, such as car parking.

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Work for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

I asked the Council Leader to apologise to McCrae's Battalion Trust in September Council and again in October Council and I've been informed by the Trust that as of November 9th no apology has been forthcoming.

This is an important ceremony of commemoration for those who lost their lives from our City and it means a great deal to communities in Edinburgh, not least with the supporters of Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian Football Clubs, respectively.

- Question** (1) When will the Council Leader finally apologise for his Administration's failure to attend? And will he attach the apology letter sent (with the date) to McCrae's Battalion Trust in the answer?
- Answer** (1) A letter has been sent by the Lord Provost and a copy is attached. I have offered to meet McCrae's Battalion Trust.
- Question** (2) Will the Labour Group repay the public purse for travel and accommodation that was booked and failed to be used by Labour's last-minute non-attendance?
- Answer** (2) This was a Council Civic event funded from the appropriate Council budget.
- Question** (3) Will the Council Leader commit to this never happening again? And ensure that a civic leader for the City, Lord Provost, Depute Provost or Bailie attend next year's commemoration?
- Answer** (3) Yes, absolutely.

Robert Aldridge
The Rt Hon Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh

John Dagleish
Secretary
McCrae's Battalion Trust
17 Juniper Avenue
Juniper Green
EDINBURGH
EH14 5EG

16 November 2022

Dear John

CONTALMAISON 2022

I write in relation to the planned visit to Contalmaison in June 2022 by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, the Depute Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Council.

I wanted firstly to apologise to you for Councillor Cameron being unable to attend the event. This led to the City of Edinburgh not having representation at Contalmaison, where we have proudly taken part for many years, supporting the McCrae's Battalion Trust.

Due to a number of reasons, including attempting to re arrange alternative travel around a busy Council meeting, Councillor Cameron found it impossible to arrange this in time.

Please accept my sincere apologies for this and my assurances that I have spoken to Councillor Cameron.

I will be honoured if requested to ensure representation on any other involvement with Contalmaison and the McCrae's Battalion Trust.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT ALDRIDGE
LORD PROVOST

Cc Councillor Cammy Day, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 24 November 2022**

What is the current timetable for the resurfacing of Station Road in Queensferry?

Question

Pursuant to the supplementary answer given to question 12.7 on 27 October 2022 and, given the decision was taken not to carry out the works in the 2022 school holidays and to defer to the 2023 school holidays, why was the resurfacing listed as a project for delivery in the 2022/23 operating year?

Answer

The capital investment report includes schemes which have been selected using the prioritisation system within the capital investment strategy. It is always intended that the schemes will be delivered within the financial year reported. However, when this is reported to Committee, detailed work plans for delivering each scheme are not always fully developed.

In the case of Station Road, once the detailed design was developed and the traffic impact of the scheme was fully understood, it was decided that the most effective time to carry out this scheme was during the school summer holidays due to the conflict with three schools.

Station Road will be carried forward and works will take place in summer 2023.

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Campbell for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 24 November 2022**

Can the Convener provide:

Question (1) The number of void properties on the 31 October 2019, 2020 and 2021 (or nearest snapshot data available).

Answer (1) The following figures are the number of rent loss voids as at the 31 March each year based on the Scottish Housing Regulator technical guidance for voids.

Rent loss void figures exclude new build homes awaiting final handover, homes in the disposal process, those that are pre-allocated following advertising or being used as decant accommodation.

2019 = 664

2020 = 864

2021 = 823

Question (2) The number of properties that are currently void.

Answer (2) As of 31 October 2022, there were 722 rent loss voids. Improvements are currently being made to the categorisation, tracking and reporting on status of empty homes on the IT system from the date they become vacant, through the repair, advertising and letting process.

Question (3) The average void length for 2019, 2020, 2021 and this year so far, and the longest current void length.

Answer (3) The average void length (time taken to let) as reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) in the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC):

2019/20 – 29 days

2020/21 – 64 days

2021/22 – 76 days

2022/23 (to end of October 22) – 97 days

- Question** (4) A breakdown of all void properties including address, number of bedrooms and current length of time void compiled by ward.
- Answer** (4) Void property data is not currently monitored or reported by Ward.
- Question** (5) A breakdown of annual rent loss due to void properties for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and a projected rent loss for 22/23.
- Answer** (5) Figures are provided on the void rent loss for the period homes are empty as a percentage of the total rent due and the cash value. These figures are reported to the to SHR as part of ARC):
- 2019/20 – 0.71% (£712,854)
- 2020/21 – 0.93% (£944,521)
- 2021/22 – 2.0% (£2,044,656)
- 2022/23 – estimated based on forecasted debit/void rent loss to end of October 2022 – 1.4% (£1,544,487)

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

To ask the Housing Convener:

Question (1) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for homelessness seeking a four bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?

Answer (1) Under the Choice based letting system, operated by Council and the majority of Housing Associations in Edinburgh, the waiting time to be housed or to get a move to another home is dependent on how actively applicants bid for available homes, the areas/property types they are prepared or can consider and how often homes become available that meet households needs.

Households with a silver priority for homelessness are expected to bid for three homes a week if there are homes that meet their household needs. Applicants with an overcrowding priority are not required to actively bid each week but the priority waiting time that can accrue is capped at 365 days.

The figures on the average waiting time in days are for lets during 2021/22 as applicable.

The waiting time for households with silver priority for homelessness to get a four bedroom home was 1,222 days.

Question (2) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for overcrowding seeking a four bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?

Answer (2) No four bedroom homes were let to households with Overcrowding priority during 2021/22.

Question (3) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for homelessness seeking a five bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?

Answer (3) The waiting time for households with silver priority for homelessness to get a five bedroom home was 1,640 days.

- Question** (4) What is average waiting time for households with Silver priority for overcrowding seeking a five bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?
- Answer** (4) No five bedroom homes were let to households with Overcrowding priority during 2021/22.
- Question** (5) What is average waiting time for households with Gold priority seeking a four bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?
- Answer** (5) The waiting time for households with Gold priority to get a four bedroom home was 243 days.
- Question** (6) What is average waiting time for households with Gold priority seeking a five bedroom property through Edindex/Key to Choice?
- Answer** (6) No five bedroom homes were let to households with Overcrowding priority during 2021/22.
- Question** (7) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of households with Silver for homelessness are seeking a four bedroom property?
- Answer** (7) As of 14 November 2022, there were 4,958 applications on Edinburgh's common housing register (EdIndex) with a silver priority status due to homelessness. 242 (4.8%) were nominally eligible for a four-bedroom home.
- Question** (8) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of households with Silver for homelessness are seeking a five bedroom property?
- Answer** (8) As of 14 November 2022, there were 4,958 applications on Edinburgh's common housing register (EdIndex) with a silver priority status due to homelessness. 76 (1.5%) were nominally eligible for a five-bedroom home.
- Question** (9) How many (raw figure) four bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council's programme and that of RSL partners?

- Answer** (9) The Council and RSL affordable housebuilding pipeline is submitted to Scottish Government each year as the “Strategic Housing Investment Programme” (SHIP), which covers the next five years. Details of property sizes do not feature within the SHIP because the majority of projects will still be subject to planning consent, and the number, mix and proposed sizes of properties can change during the planning process.
- Scottish Government’s planning regulations require that a Local Development Plan is submitted by the Council and approved by Scottish Government. Part of the supporting documentation for the LDP is The Council’s “Edinburgh Design Guidance”, which requires that 20% of homes in new planning applications are for family housing, with three bedrooms or more.
- Of those affordable homes currently under construction in the city, there are 12 with four bedrooms. 6 being developed by the Council and 6 being developed by RSLs.
- Question** (10) How many (raw figure) five bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and that of RSL partners?
- Answer** (10) Please see answer to Q9. There are currently no 5 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city.
- Question** (11) What proportion of properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and that of RSL partners are four bedroom?
- Answer** (11) Of those affordable homes currently under construction in the city 1% are four bedrooms.
- Question** (12) What proportion of properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council’s programme and that of RSL partners are five bedroom?
- Answer** (12) There are currently no 5 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city.

Question (13) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of four bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council's programme and of RSL partners are wheelchair accessible?

Answer (13) The Housing Service commissioned a study into accessible housing to increase understanding of accessible and wheelchair housing in the city and to inform future need. An indicative cross tenure wheelchair housing target, informed by the Accessible Housing Study, is included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023/24-2027/28, which will be presented to Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 1 December 2022.

The City of Edinburgh Council was one of the first local authorities to have a Wheelchair Accessible Homes target; with 10% of all Council social rented homes being wheelchair accessible. A 10% wheelchair accessible target has also been in place across the grant funded element of the affordable housing programme.

There are currently no wheelchair accessible 4 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city

Question (14) How many (raw figure) and what proportion of five bedroom properties are currently in the housebuilding pipeline across the Council's programme and of RSL partners are wheelchair accessible?

Answer (14) There are currently no wheelchair accessible 5 bedroom affordable homes under construction in the city.

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Following the closure of the Edinburgh Cycle Hire Scheme in September 2021 the City has been without a bikeshare scheme despite the previous popularity of the scheme during its operation.

The Energy Savings Trust manages Transport Scotland funding which enable the eBike Grant Fund for 2022/23 which under **Category B** offers up to £200,000 per application towards large-scale fleets of pool bikes or public bikeshare/hire schemes and promoting large scale uptake of ebikes.

These funds were available to local authorities and applications closed on 18 November 2022.

Question

Has the Council applied to the fund to help enable the reinstatement of a Bikeshare scheme and, if not, why not?

Answer

The Council has not applied to the fund for the following reasons:

- 1) The fund is solely for e-bikes, adapted bikes, and trailers and is not available for general (non e-bike) bikeshare schemes.
- 2) The fund covers capital expenditure. Unfortunately the main issue with re-establishing a bikeshare scheme is not capital funding, but ongoing revenue support. Such support is even more necessary for e-bikes with their higher maintenance and operating costs.
- 3) The fund provides up to 50% funding. The Council's Active Travel budget is fully committed and additional match funding at the necessary scale is not available.

**Supplementary
Question**

The wording in the preamble to my question describing Category B of the scheme is a direct lift from the Energy Savings Trust website which indicates that category B includes bikeshare AND large-scale e-bike schemes.

Why did he answer part 1 by indicating this was not the case?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The information provided in the answer above is based on the details of the scheme provided on the Energy Savings Trust website and clarification from Council officers that the information provided on the website makes clear that funding was available for **eBikes** of various categories.

Council officers have, however, contacted the Energy Savings Trust to seek clarification on the questions raised by Councillor Whyte and the response will be shared with Councillors when received.

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Question

Residents in the New Town who have been working on the alternatives to communal bins and how to increase recycling found a visit to the Biffa recycling centre most informative in shaping their proposals which are currently being trialled. They were concerned to hear that officers and councillors had not visited this recycling plant and I have committed to visit the plant to learn more about recycling. Will the Convener join me and encourage officers to join us on a trip to see the Biffa recycling plant?

Answer

I would be delighted to tour the recycling centre with you.

Elected Members and officers have visited the facility in the past and officers continue to do so as part of the contract monitoring arrangements which are in place with Biffa. If any Elected Member wishes to visit the facility, please contact the Place Directorate mailbox (place.directorate@edinburgh.gov.uk) and a visit will be arranged.

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Question **(1) Report 7.6 Cleaning Up Edinburgh – Motion by Councillor Whyte – Committee Meeting 6 October 2022**

Can the Convener confirm whether the actions described in the above report as:

“operational changes being made by officers within the existing approved budget in order to deliver improvements in the performance of the cleansing service”

have been implemented by the service?

Answer **(1)** I recognise the importance of dealing with Edinburgh’s street cleanliness problem so I am happy to confirm that Officers within the Neighbourhood Environment service are working on delivering these actions as a priority.

The first step in separating core cleansing from more specialist services is to merge the three separate depots in the east of the city into a single location. It is hoped that this will be completed by mid-December.

In addition:

- The recruit of an Improvement Manager will shortly commence;
- Residential sweeping routes have been developed and will be introduced on a phased basis;
- Specialist rapid response vehicles have been sourced and are expected to be delivered in February 2023;
- A Cleanliness Improvement Board has been established. This will meet monthly;

- Technical support has been identified to progress activities such as organising Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) to allow more efficient cleaning in areas with on-street parking; and
- City Centre barrow beat routes are being re-designed to better reflect service demand.

Question	(2) For any action that has not yet been implemented please provide a date when it is expected that implementation will take place?
Answer	(2) Updates will be provided to Committee via the Cleanliness update. Remaining dates for implementation will be included in this update
Question	(3) Overall, what difference have these actions made to date on street cleanliness?
Answer	(3) The latest LEAMS audit result has not yet been received. Once this is available, the results will be reported to Committee as part of the Cleanliness update reports requested by Committee.
Supplementary Question	The information provided is welcome. Can the Convener give an indication when he expects all the actions described in parts 1 and 2 will be complete?
Supplementary Answer	As noted in the answer provided, it is expected that the single depot for the east of the city will be operational by mid-December 2022. Many of the remaining actions do not have finite time periods for completion (e.g. the Cleanliness Improvement Board will meet monthly and technical support to progress activities such as TTROs will be long term changes to improve cleanliness on an on-going basis). It is anticipated that the remaining actions will be completed within the first six months of 2023.

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for
answer by the Convener of the
Transport and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 24 November 2022**

Question

Further to the supplementary answer given to question 12.8 on 27 October 2022, can the Convener confirm what that maximum time will be?

Answer

I indicated in my answer to Council in October that details of the scheme will be communicated no later than 9 December 2022, and I am happy to confirm that Officers are still on track to meet that target.

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor O'Neill for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

- Question** (1) How many applications has the Edinburgh Access Panel looked at and/or commented on in the past 5 years?
- Answer** (1) Each month an architect member of the Panel reviews applications received. From these, the Panel consider around 5 or 6 proposals each month. Over the five-year period it is estimated the Panel will have looked at approximately 300 proposals. Where the Panel wishes to comment, it feeds back on Planning applications
- Question** (2) Has the Edinburgh Access Panel given any feedback on the process for disabled people engaging with planning consultations?
- Answer** (2) The Access Panel has not recently advised the Planning service on any of the service's consultations and the process for disabled people engaging with them.
- Question** (3) A report to Planning Committee on 3 February 2021, "Accessibility of New Buildings" states 'The Edinburgh Access Panel is supported by Council officers.' What exactly does this support entail?
- Answer** (3) The Panel is supported by one planning officer and one building standards officer, as well as representation from the Placemaking and Mobility team. In addition, other Council officers are invited to discuss specific issues with the Panel. The Council also supports the Access Panel by providing a room in Waverley Court for their meetings.

QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Davidson for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 24
November 2022**

As at the end of October there were also 302 Ukrainian children in temporary accommodation attending CEC schools for which there is no agreed funding stream:

Question (1) Can the Convener advise what levers the Council has to move these children to settled status?

Answer (1) To avoid confusion with temporary accommodation funded by the Council for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, accommodation for Ukrainian arrivals who have not yet moved on to settled accommodation will be referred to as bridging accommodation.

Bridging accommodation, predominantly sourced and funded by the Scottish Government, is provided to all Ukrainian arrivals who need it. There is now a combined Council and Scottish Government team to coordinate matching Ukrainian arrivals to accommodation across Edinburgh, neighbouring local authorities, and other areas across Scotland. Options available are hosted accommodation, private sector leasing and a very limited amount of social housing.

We are currently able to claim one off funding for the provision of education for settled Ukrainian children i.e. those who have moved on from bridging accommodation. We are required to submit these returns quarterly, which we have, but we are still awaiting confirmation of the funding attached to these returns

The Council is in dialogue with both COSLA and the Scottish Government and are seeking agreement that the education tariff be drawn down from point of arrival to fund education placements for young people in both settled and bridging accommodation. This recognises that education

provision commences as soon as possible on arrival, irrelevant of accommodation type, unlike the resettlement tariff which is intended to support the longer term integration.

It is proposed that COSLA officers should seek agreement for the process of accessing this funding from UKG/SG as soon as possible. COSLA officers should also continue to work with SG to get reimbursement of the additional costs for providing education as part of the Super Sponsor Scheme which would not be part of the education tariff (e.g., transport from ships to schools) as part of that ongoing process.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Question | (2) If the answer to 1) is none what steps has the administration taken to push the UK and Scottish Governments to provide funding for the Education of these children whilst they achieve settled status? |
| Answer | (2) N/A |

QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Davidson for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 24
November 2022**

At the October meeting of Full Council, an amended motion was passed requiring reinstatement of restricted YouTube access for S4 – S6 pupils on 8th November if no solution had been found to the issues experienced before the half term break.

Can the Convener please confirm the following:

Question (1) Was a solution found by 8th November?

Answer (1) Yes, a solution to provide safe and appropriate access to YouTube from Empowered Learning 1to1 iPads was found by 8th November.

Question (2) If the answer to (1) is **yes**, when was access reinstated and if over a period of rollout please provide details of what year groups / schools were reinstated on each date that followed?

Answer (2) Following positive feedback from small groups of user testers on 8th November, the rollout began at Wester Hailes High School on the 9th November. CGI support staff were deployed to the school to actively monitor and ensure a smooth rollout. Following a positive experience at WHHS, the rollout moved to James Gillespie's High School, Clovenstone Primary School and Woodlands Special School on the 10th November. CGI support staff were deployed to these locations to further monitor.

Following positive experiences at these locations, the configuration was made available to all year groups and all devices with 1to1 Empowered Learning iPads on the evening of the 10th November. Staff and Students using 1to1 Empowered Learning iPads all have the new configuration available to them. Staff and Students must turn on their iPad, connect to WiFi and then restart their device in order for the configuration to take effect.

- Question** (3) If the answer to (1) is **no**, that restricted access (as per motion) provided to all senior pupils?
- Answer** (3) N/A
- Question** (4) As of the date that this question is answered, what percentage of pupils still do not have access reinstated and if greater than 0%, please provide a timeline of how these will be resolved.
- Answer** (4) As of 15th November, the solution has been rolled out to 100% of all 1to1 Empowered Learning iPads with 91% (28456) having successfully engaged the new configuration. The remaining 9% will get the solution when the iPad is turned on, connected to WiFi and restarted it will engage the new configuration. The need to do this has been communicated to all schools.
- Question** (5) Considering the motion at full council raised concern about the lack of communication with members, why have there not been regular updates issued to either all elected members or at least all members of the Education Committee?
- Answer** (5) Full communication on the rollout and relevant instructions were distributed to all schools. We acknowledge that Members could have been included in this communication and apologise for this omission.

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Like other councillors the Convener will be aware of public concern about street cleanliness in Edinburgh and the views of members of the public that the Council does not adhere to its own requirements regarding street cleaning.

As an example, from my ward, I understand that the Council's cleansing regime for Willowbrae Road and London Road at Jock's Lodge stipulates a daily cleanse with the adjacent side streets being cleansed on a weekly basis.

Can the Convener confirm:

Question (1) That this is the Council's agreed schedule for street cleaning in this area?

Answer (1) Like other Councillors you will be aware of public concern about the resources available to the Council and how this means that many teams are not as resilient as we may wish.

This is the schedule the service aims to work to. However, as reported to Transport and Environment Committee on [6 October 2022](#), officers have identified the lack of resilience in the service for planned and unplanned staff absence and how this influences prioritisation of tasks and ability to deliver the schedule.

Question (2) Whether and how often in the last three years this schedule has been met?

Answer (2) This information over the period of three years is, regrettably, not available. However, I have asked officers to provide an overview of the past few months performance and for this to be shared directly with Ward members when available.

Question (3) Whether he believes the Council has provided appropriate resource to the service to meet its own standards as set out in statute?

Answer (3) This was addressed in the Cleaning Up Edinburgh report which was presented to Transport and Environment Committee on 6 October 2022.

Personally I feel that many teams right across the Council do not have the resources needed to meet the reasonable expectations of the public. Street cleanliness is no exception to that.

Question (4) What actions he believes can and should be taken to improve management and resourcing of the service to ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations in regard to its own street cleansing schedule at this and other locations throughout the City?

Answer (4) The actions to improve cleanliness in the city were included in the October report. The actions which can be contained within the existing service budget are currently being progressed. The level of funding required to deliver a fully effective street cleansing service was also outlined in this report, and I am keen to work with other parties to ensure this level of investment is found.

QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Jones for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 24 November 2022**

Question

Please could the Convener provide the traffic monitoring data used for the Brunstane Road ETRO from December 2021 to the current period.

Answer

Yes, all relevant data will be included in a report on the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Brunstane Road which is being prepared for Transport and Environment Committee on 8 December 2022.

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

- Question** (1) How many outstanding housing repairs are there?
- Answer** (1) There were 3,829 outstanding housing repairs as at 16 November 2022. This includes repairs where appointments are scheduled to take place over the next 4 weeks.
- Question** (2) Of the total identified at (1), please provide a breakdown of how long they have been logged (grouped into <1mth, 1-3mths, 3-6mths, 6-9mths, 9-12mths and > 1 year?)
- Answer** (2)
- Jobs raised in November 2022 – 1,405.
 - Jobs raised between August and October 2022 – 1,486
 - Jobs raised between May and July 2022 - 507
 - Jobs raised between Feb and April 2022 – 350
 - Jobs raised between Dec 2021 and Jan 2022 - 81
- Question** (3) Of the total identified at (1), how many of these relate to heating, hot water, cooking facilities, mould prevention or other repairs that affect a safe, healthy and warm home, and which may be resulting in increased cost-of-living costs for families awaiting repairs?

- Answer** (3) There are 780 in total.
- Window Repairs- 375.
 - Dampness – 177
 - Heating – 0
 - Glazing – 217
 - Sheet roofing – 11
 - Cooking facilities – The Council does not repair cooking facilities
- Question** (4) Of those identified at (1) which are greater than 1 month and which affect 'cost of living' pressures, please provide details of how this backlog is being addressed.
- Answer** (4) The actions being progressed include:
- Recruitment for additional in-house Craft resources are ongoing.
 - Flexible use of Craft resources within work types and areas.
 - Additional working hours are available to volunteers.
 - Support with resources from procured subcontractors
- Question** (5) For outstanding housing repairs, not impacting 'cost of living' pressures, and are greater than 3mths, please provide details of how this backlog is being addressed.
- Answer** (5) See answer 4.

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Question (1) How many outstanding street lighting repairs are there?

Answer (1) Of the 65,121 streetlighting in the City of Edinburgh, 413 are currently faulty. This equates to 0.63% of the streetlights in the city, and is a significant improvement on previous performance.

Question (2) Of the total identified at (1), please provide a breakdown of how long they have been logged (grouped into <1mth, 1-3mths, 3-6mths, 6-9mths, 9-12mths and > 1 year?

Answer (2) The table below shows the number of faults by the time periods requested:

Age	Faults
< 1 Month	126
1 - 3 Months	106
3 - 6 Months	43
6 - 9 Months	42
9 - 12 Months	41
> 12 Months	55

Question (3) Of those which are greater than 3 months, please provide a total per ward.

Answer

- (3) The table below shows the number of outstanding faults (older than 3 months) by ward:

	Street Lights	Faults	% of faults
Ward 1	6,257	9	0.14%
Ward 2	4,448	8	0.18%
Ward 3	4,375	8	0.18%
Ward 4	4,052	12	0.30%
Ward 5	3,898	7	0.18%
Ward 6	3,329	5	0.15%
Ward 7	4,550	10	0.22%
Ward 8	3,894	4	0.10%
Ward 9	2,382	8	0.34%
Ward 10	2,630	7	0.27%
Ward 11	4,572	44	0.96%
Ward 12	2,025	3	0.15%
Ward 13	2,371	14	0.59%
Ward 14	3,109	17	0.55%
Ward 15	3,074	6	0.20%
Ward 16	5,690	6	0.11%
Ward 17	4,465	13	0.29%
Total	65,121	181	0.28%

Question

- (4) Of those which are greater than 3 months please provide details of how this backlog is being addressed as we get into darker evenings and the impact this has on safe travel.

Answer

- (4)** As there are various reasons for these faults, work is on-going with various parties to them. This includes working with Scottish Power (to resolve historic power failures) and Edinburgh Trams (to fix faults along the Tram Route).

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Flannery for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Schools have always been able to advertise posts, however recruitment remains exceptionally busy - since the school term started on 16th August 2022, 632 adverts have been posted on Myjobscotland for 1,152 positions (just for schools).'

Question (1) How many of these were EAL or TESOL posts?

Answer (1) **EAL Teacher:** 9 posts

Bilingual Support Assistant (Arabic, Farsi/Dari, Polish, Romanian, Ukrainian-Russian - in the EAL team): 10 posts

ESOL Teacher: 1 post

Question (2) How many of these were for Secondary Schools?

Answer (2) **EAL Teacher:** 5 posts

ESOL Teacher: 1 post

Question (3) How many of these were for Primary Schools?

Answer (3) **EAL teacher posts:** 4

NB: Bilingual Support Assistants work across primary and secondary schools.

EAL (English as an Additional Language) teachers advise and support schools on all aspects of meeting the needs of developing bilingual learners: learning teaching and assessment; personalised support; transitions; ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teachers deliver this subject / qualification as part of the school curriculum in some schools. Pupils can also study ESOL under the Schools College Partnership.

Bilingual Support Assistants provide targeted support to developing bilingual learners in the early stages of English language acquisition. They support development of English language skills using the home language and English; support access to the curriculum; advise on cultural issues.

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Beal for answer by the
Leader of the Council at a meeting of
the Council on 24 November 2022**

Question (1) To ask the Leader of the Council what actions the Council is currently taking to restore the operation of the Edinburgh Filmhouse?

Answer (1) The Edinburgh Filmhouse was the primary asset of CMI (Centre for the Moving Image). As CMI is now in administration, the building that housed the Filmhouse at 88 Lothian Road is now on the market.

The Council continues to liaise closely on the matter, the Leader and the Convener of Culture and Communities are meeting weekly with Scottish Government and Creative Scotland/Scottish Screen colleagues to consider what might be possible depending on the outcome of the sale.

Common areas of concern/collaboration among these partners are:

- The future provision of cultural cinema for the residents of Edinburgh;
- The continuation of 75 years of Edinburgh's International Film Festival; and
- The continuation of the Filmhouse' education programme.

Question (2) To ask the Leader of the Council if he knows what actions the Scottish Government is taking to restore the operation of the Edinburgh Filmhouse and the Edinburgh Film Festival?

Answer (2) As noted above, the Leader and the Convener of Culture and Communities continue to meet weekly with Scottish Government colleagues.

The Leader has also written to the Chief Executive of Creative Scotland as well as the relevant Cabinet Secretary and MSP to reiterate commitment to working in partnership towards a positive future.

QUESTION NO 20**By Councillor Beal for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022**

Question (1) To ask the Leader of the Council how many FTE employees are working on improving the efficiencies of processes in the Council?

Answer (1) We actively encourage all colleagues to identify and implement improvements to the way they work, these can vary in size from small incremental changes within teams to large scale service changes which require a formal organisational review. For the most part these changes do not involve additional FTE and are regarded as “part of the role”. Specifically in relation to roles whose primary focus is on change and quality improvements (by job title), there are approximately 86 FTE colleagues.

Question (2) To ask the Leader to give an indication of the number of these employees by department and indicative job titles?

Answer (2)

Service Area/ Job Title	FTE
Education and Children Services	
Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager	1
Quality Assurance Officer	4
Quality Improvement Education Officer	11.6
Quality Improvement Education Officer - Pre 5	8
Quality Improvement Manager	5
Quality Improvement Manager - Special Schools	0.972222222
Quality Improvement Officer	2
HOS Quality, Governance & Regulation & Depute Chief SWO	1

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership	
EADP Change and Delivery Officer	1
Head Of Quality Improvement (NHS)	0
Strategy, Planning and Quality Manager	1
Place	
AMIS & Data Quality Support Officer	1
Systems, Quality and Performance Assistant	5
Systems, Quality and Performance Manager	1
Systems, Quality and Performance Officer	4.666666667
Corporate Services	
Change & Delivery Officer	10
Change and Delivery Manager	6
Head of Strategic Change and Delivery	1
ICT Lead (Change)	1
Lead Officer - Change and Delivery	1
Senior Change and Delivery Officer	18.72222222
Senior Planning and Quality Manager	1

QUESTION NO 21

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Leader of the Council at a
meeting of the Council on 24
November 2022**

Question

Further to his supplementary answer to my question at full council of 27 October 2022, can I repeat the question he has yet again failed to answer: what were the reasons behind his changes to the Licensing Board, as agreed by full council on 26 May 2022?

Answer

As noted above, the report which detailed the appointment of members to the Licensing Board was agreed at Council on 26 May 2022.

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

Question

The meeting of full council in October 2020 agreed that officers would consult with stakeholders to develop a draft maintenance plan for the Council's footpaths, off-road paths and on-street cycle lanes. What is the progress of that plan, and when will it be presented to Transport and Environment Committee for a decision?

Answer

An update on the Council's approach to the maintenance of footpaths, off-road paths and on-street cycle lanes is being prepared for Transport and Environment Committee on 8 December 2022.

QUESTION NO 23

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Leader of the Council at a
meeting of the Council on 24
November 2022**

Question

Did the council respond to the Scottish Government's recent consultation on Gaelic and Scots and Scottish Languages Bill? If so, what engagement with the Gaelic community took place before the response was submitted, and where is the response published?

Answer

The Council did not provide a response to this consultation.

This was not a consultation on a live Bill, but a prequel to a potential bill. It sought feedback on a series of commitments, including:

- to establish a new strategic approach to GME
- to explore the creation of a Gàidhealtachd
- to review the structure and functions of Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG)
- and to take action on the Scots language

The consultation document noted that “where primary legislation is needed for these, the commitment to a Scottish Languages Bill could serve as the legislative vehicle that will enable progress to be made with these commitments”.

Officers will aim to respond to a consultation on any future Bill. Members of the Gaelic Implementation Group will be offered to opportunity to contribute to the response, which would be considered by the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

QUESTION NO 24

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

The signage for the tram extension to Newhaven has been installed in English only, despite a previous commitment (council questions, November 2021) to consider bilingual Gaelic/English signage, and despite council policy (Edinburgh Council Gaelic Plan) that bilingual signage should be considered when new signage is installed.

Question (1) What was the additional cost of installing bilingual signage along the tram extension route?

Answer (1) The cost of the translation of the place names into Gaelic was £210 and this work was undertaken in 2021.

The cost of additional signs on the new tram stops is not known at this time.

Question (2) Why was this ruled out?

Answer (2) The new tram stops are designed to be the same as the stops on the existing line, so that when the new section is open it feels like one line. Currently Edinburgh Trams have signs in Gaelic on their website but only in English on the tram stops. This has been carried forward to the new design.

Question (3) When was the decision made to install monolingual signage?

Answer

- (3)** The decision not to install Gaelic signage on the existing line was taken at a meeting of the Gaelic Implementation Group on 8 September 2021.

The signage on the Trams to Newhaven line has been installed to ensure consistency with the existing line. If Gaelic signage was installed on the line to Newhaven the Operator is likely to request that additional signage is installed on the existing line to ensure consistency, which would come at additional cost to the Council. I would be happy to discuss this with you as part of the 2023/24 budget discussions.

QUESTION NO 25

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 November 2022

- Question** (1) What is the estimated cost of installing street lighting along the sections of path in Leith Links which are currently unlit?
- Answer** (1) The estimated cost of installing street lighting along the sections of path in Leith Links which are currently unlit is between £60,000 and £70,000. There will also be additional costs associated with the energy which each light consumes but it is not possible to estimate these costs until a detailed design is completed and a suitable lantern identified.
- Question** (2) Does the council have any existing budget for such street lighting installation works?
- Answer** (2) Yes, there is a budget of £150,000 in 2022/23 for lighting in parks. Given the costs outlined in answer 1, it is clear that this budget will not allow for lighting in many parks.
- Therefore, to enable requests for lighting in parks to be considered consistently, officers are preparing Guidance for Park Lighting which will establish assessment criteria and other areas that need to be considered. As part of the preparation of the guidance, officers will evaluate existing requests and scope future park lighting installations.
- Question** (3) Does the council undertake any assessment of the brightness of existing street lighting? If so, has any such assessment been undertaken in Leith Links?
- Answer** (3) When the new lanterns were installed in Leith Links (as part of the Energy Efficient Street Lighting Programme), the lighting design was undertaken in line with current standards. New lanterns were installed in Leith Links in February 2021.
- Question** (4) Does the council have a standard for the maximum distance between street lighting columns, and does Leith Links meet this standard?

Answer (4) The distance between lights is dictated by the height of the column and the LED optic in the lantern and there is therefore no maximum distance between columns.

Question (5) What work is undertaken to ensure that vegetation does not obscure street lighting, and when was this last undertaken in Leith Links?

Answer (5) Following a site visit, if action is required, the Forestry Service will prune branches if they affect the zone of illumination.

When the Council puts in new public lighting or wishes to move a public lighting column, consideration is made of the impact on existing trees. Similarly, when new trees are being planted, these are to be placed so they do not cause problems to existing public lights.

Pruning work in Leith Links was carried out ahead of the installation of the new lights. In addition, the parks service will undertake an assessment of the park to determine any further vegetation is required to be removed.