

Business Bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 21st March 2023

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

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p data-bbox="188 331 496 412">Convener: Councillor Cammy Day</p> 	<p data-bbox="639 322 1150 1200">Councillor Cammy Day (Convener) Councillor Alan Beal Councillor Marco Biagi Councillor Kate Campbell Councillor Sanne Dijkstra-Downie Councillor Phil Doggart Councillor Joan Griffiths Councillor Kevin Lang Councillor Lesley Macinnes Councillor Adam McVey Councillor Jane Meagher Councillor Alys Mumford Councillor Ben Parker Councillor Danny Aston Councillor Alex Staniforth Councillor Mandy Watt Councillor Iain Whyte</p>	<p data-bbox="1230 322 1394 479">Louise P Williamson, Committee Officer</p>

Recent News

Background

Net Zero and Food Growing Budget

There was a budget variance in the Net Zero budget of £387,000 from this year's revenue allocation. The total £500,000 was allocated from 2022/23 financial budget as a contribution to Net Zero projects.

A budget of approximately £214,300 has been allocated for spend on existing climate projects across the council family to be delivered by the end of March 2023. The spend will include key projects such as:

- continuation of the Net Zero Communities Pilot
- support EVOC in delivering the community climate forum
- development of low carbon heat options for West Edinburgh development areas
- replacement of small machinery with electrical alternatives

Accrual of approximately £165,000 of this budget has been approved to enable delivery of key studies such as the undertaking of an economic assessment of the cost of adapting the city vs business as usual city as requested by a motion by Councillor Parker at Policy and Sustainability Committee on 17 November 2022.

There is budget variance in the allocated food growing budget. A total budget of £130,000 was allocated to implement Edinburgh's Food Growing Strategy and to support the Edible Edinburgh Partnership.

A total of almost £50,000 has been allocated from this budget. The remainder will support the continued employment of Edible Edinburgh's Sustainable Food Co-ordinator, along with key projects such as the development of community food growing facilities and programmes at Inch Nursery.

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2030 Climate Strategy – SEA Post Adoption Statement

In Scotland, public bodies and private companies operating in a public character are required to assess, consult on, and monitor the likely impacts their plans, programmes and strategies will have on the environment. This process is known as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

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A SEA was undertaken for the 2030 Climate Strategy after a live version of the strategy was agreed by city partners in December 2021. Through the SEA process, an environmental assessment has been undertaken and findings are set out in an environmental report (ER) which was consulted on between August and October 2022 to specifically seek views from the relevant statutory consultation authorities (Scottish Environmental Protection Authority (SEPA), Historic Scotland (HS), and Scottish National Heritage (SNH)).

A Post Adoption Statement (PAS) is required under part 3, Section 18 of the 2005 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (Scotland) Act. The PAS presents how the ER and the consultation have been considered in the final Strategy, as well as the measures taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the strategy. The PAS for the 2030 Climate Strategy has now been completed and published on the [SEA Gateway](#), on the [Council's website](#) and [consultation hub](#).

Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan

Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy placed a renewed focus on adaptation. The Edinburgh Adapts Partnership, of which the Council is a lead member, is developing a Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan for Consultation, which will be taken to August's Committee for approval.

The Plan is informed by actions developed through the 2030 Climate Strategy, the outcomes of a citywide climate change risk assessment recently completed, work being undertaken, or planned by the Council and its partners, and new actions being identified by the Council, the partnership, and key stakeholders across the city.

Edinburgh's updated risk assessment has shown a number of key risks and impacts for the city, including flooding and overheating identified. As such, action to alleviate these risks and impacts are prioritised in the draft Plan.

The draft Plan will prioritise action in the following areas:

- Strengthening governance and investment around adaptation
- Delivering climate resilient development, buildings, and infrastructure

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- Developing a long-term and sustainable approach to water management across the city, including the coast
- Incorporating adaptation into future transport planning and development
- Safeguarding and enhancing our natural environment
- Working with communities, health providers, businesses and major event providers
- Building understanding to inform and update decision-making on climate change adaptation.

If approved at August's Committee, a 12-week citywide consultation will be held on the plan. During this period, a number of high level engagement exercises and workshops with key stakeholders will be held. A final version of the Plan will then be brought to Committee following completion of the consultation and engagement activities.

Edinburgh Union Canal Update

While the Union Canal is managed by Scottish Canals, the Edinburgh stretch is supported through a partnership between City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Canals. A Development Officer has now been appointed to focus on supporting Union Canal projects.

In addition, a refresh of the 2011 Union Canal Strategy is planned. This will include updating the content to reflect the Council's net zero ambitions and actions which have been taken canal side. It will also include consulting the wider community on opportunities surround canal development. Other work will include exploring funding opportunities and continued community engagement.

Contact:

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Development Officer,
Place

Wards Affected

1 – Almond
2 – Pentland Hills
9 –
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart
11 – City Centre

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)

Work is ongoing to develop an LHEES for Edinburgh. The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 requires the Council to publish an LHEES, along with a Delivery Plan, by 31 December 2023.

The purpose of the LHEES is to “underpin an area-based approach to heat and energy efficiency planning and delivery” and “set out the long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving their energy efficiency across an entire local authority area”. It pertains to the Scotland-wide targets of achieving net zero carbon status by 2045 and eradicating fuel poverty by 2040. It is also relevant

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Wards Affected: All

for the Council's target of making Edinburgh a net zero city by 2030, and the related Climate Strategy. The LHEES will set out the changes needed to each segment of Edinburgh's building stock to achieve decarbonisation; identify "strategic zones" for heat decarbonisation and the principal measures required within each zone; and identify priority areas for delivery. It will also identify areas of Edinburgh assessed as being particularly suitable for the construction and operation of a heat network, in line with the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021. The Delivery Plan will set out how the LHEES is to be implemented, focusing on actions over the first five years of the LHEES.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 ('RIPSA')

Background

Local authorities in Scotland are included in the list of public bodies which may utilise the relevant provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000. That Act provides a framework for carrying out covert surveillance activity to ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Update

Officers have submitted the annual statutory return with respect to RIPSA, confirming that in the past year no authorisations have been made under RIPSA. 211 operational staff have completed a training module providing support for officers who might have cause to use covert surveillance in the course of their duties. A second Authorising Officer was appointed to replace a member of staff who had moved on. Key staff including the Senior Responsible Officer attended a full day's refresher training on 22 December 2022.

Transient Visitor Levy (TVL)

The Local Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill is expected in the Scottish Parliament by Spring 2023. This would give Local Authorities in Scotland the power to introduce a local visitor levy for overnight stays in paid accommodation. This Bill could take up to 18 months to pass through Parliament.

While details will not be confirmed until the Bill is published, revised revenue estimates show that between £11 million and £36 million could be raised depending on whether it is a

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Wards Affected: All

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fixed rate or a percentage of the room cost. For the estimates above, the level of charge varies from 2% of the room cost to £5 per room per night, if applied to all hotels, self-catering apartments, B&B / Guest house, short-term lets and hostels in Edinburgh.

Council officers are continuing to draft spending proposals as well as working with stakeholders to inform how Edinburgh could efficiently manage and operate a local visitor levy and encompass any obligations from the Bill.

A Progress update report will be prepared for Policy and Sustainability Committee by Autumn 2023.

City of Edinburgh Council: Gender Recognition Reform

Entry in leader's report from 9 Feb Council – "Earlier this week, I marked the start of LGBT+ History Month, which celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and non-binary history annually. It's important to reflect on the past but just as important to acknowledge how the LGBT+ community continues to re-write the history books.

I'm proud that Edinburgh is a diverse, welcoming city that embraces all sections of society and celebrates difference. While social acceptance of those who identify as LGBT+ has, thankfully, increased over recent decades, discrimination is sadly all too common. Any kind of attack on anyone because of their sexual orientation or transgender identity, or their race, religion or disability, is abhorrent, and, on behalf of the whole Council, I repeat my call for tolerance, understanding and respect right across our city."

There was also a statement put on the [CEC twitter account](#) as well as a [video](#) shared as part of LGBT History Month.

Cllr Day has also written to the UK and Scottish Governments and is in the process of organising the roundtable event.

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Governance Officer,
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City of Edinburgh Council: Transgender Day of Remembrance

On 28 February, we published a [statement of support](#) on the front page of our website, where it remains, and on social media. The Council Leader marked the beginning of LGBT+ History Month on [social media](#) and included information on this in his [Leaders Report](#) to February's Council meeting.

We work in partnership with our STRIDE colleague network to promote LGBT+ awareness days throughout the year,

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Operations Managers,
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including International Transgender Day of Remembrance. We signposted to our [guidance](#) on how to support colleagues who have undergone, be in the process of, or about to undertake the process of transition, and will continue to do so.

In November, we will provide a report to Committee detailing what we have done throughout the year to promote the safety and wellbeing of our trans residents and colleagues. And, on Transgender Day of Remembrance itself, we will fly the flag above the City Chambers and promote widely across the Council's communications channels.

Accessibility and Inclusion for Edinburgh Citizens

On [1 November 2022](#), Committee considered a report on accessibility and inclusion for Edinburgh citizens in response to a motion by Councillor Cameron. Committee agreed that a further briefing would be provided to cover:

- Information on how the Council promotes its own work with partners, including information on how the Council supports all groups with protected characteristics; and
- Further information about how the Council engaged with disabled people's organisations and supports people with different types of disabilities and impairments.

Committee also requested a worked on the wider issues relating to accessibility and a briefing note on the Council's powers in relation to pavement parking.

On [2 March 2023](#), Transport and Environment Committee considered an update on the progress made through collaborative working with external partners on accessible streets, with a roundtable discussion with partners proposed to take place by Summer 2023 to help ensure that accessibility is at the heart of placemaking and transport in Edinburgh.

In addition, Transport and Environment Committee also considered an [update](#) on the Council's powers in respect of pavement parking.

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Head of Placemaking and Mobility,
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The Big Hoose Project

In [November 2022](#) Council agreed a motion from Councillor Arthur calling for council officers to engage with the Fife

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based Big Hoose Project to explore options for bringing this project to Edinburgh.

The Big Hoose Project is an anti-poverty programme launched in December 2021 by the Cottage Family Centre in Fife. The project operates a warehouse in Lochgelly which collects donations of surplus goods from Amazon, the Coop Scotmid and 12 other companies.

These goods – which include essentials such as clothing, crockery, children’s toys, cooking equipment, soft furnishings, decorations, personal hygiene items, nappies and other items for young families – are then distributed to individuals and households who are struggling to get by through a network of professional referrals.

In the first phase of the project’s development the Big Hoose supported 49,000 referrals in Fife and distributed over 320,000 surplus goods. They are working with 500 separate organisations - 66 local charities, 150 schools, local health centres, social work teams, and others - to receive referrals on behalf of their service users.

During December 2022 to March 2023 Council officers have facilitated discussions with the Big Hoose Project team and community sector partners in Edinburgh to establish an in-principle agreement for appropriate referral networks across Edinburgh, with access provided through local distribution and collection hubs in three areas of the city, as well as plans for regular transportation of goods to these hubs from the main project warehouse in Lochgelly.

As next steps, officers plan to continue to support community sector partners in their work to develop the project, including promotion of the project through internal and partner networks. A full briefing on the project will be provided for elected members when further details are available.

Forthcoming activities: