

## QUESTION NO 25

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by  
the Leader of the Council at a  
meeting of the Council on 4 May 2023**

### **Smart Bins**

The Leader recently issued a press release about his visit to Taiwan to promote Edinburgh as a 'Smart City'. It is important for the City's reputation that when we tell the world we are doing something it is actually happening. In the press release [How hi-tech is helping us plan the city's future – The City of Edinburgh Council](#) He said:

*“For instance, we’ve been busy installing Scotland’s first cloud-connected smart sensors in on-street bins so that we can better coordinate collections.*

*In recent months we’ve placed over 4000 sensors within street litter and communal waste bins across the city, putting us **on target** to hit an impressive 11,000 sensors as part of our citywide trial. They will proactively monitor and manage fluctuations in how full bins can get – think a hot summer’s day in the Meadows versus a rainy Monday in March.”*

As the Leader knows the initiative to install 11,000 sensors in bins across the City commenced in July 2022 and is planned to be completed by **June 2023**. I welcome the progress with installations of sensors which has increased from 2,800 in February (as reported by the Convenor of TEC in answer to my Council question on 9 February 2023) to the Leader's report of 4,000 by 5 April 2023. However more than half (7,000 or 63%) of the sensor installations still need to be undertaken in the next eight weeks for this project to complete 'on target' and this compares with actual delivery of only 1,200 being installed in the eight weeks between my question and the press release.

- Question** (1) Could the Leader provide us and the public with assurance that this project is indeed 'on track' to complete all 11,000 installations **by** June 2023 by providing the following:
- a. Confirmation of the total number of sensors installed at 4 April 2023
  - b. The number of sensors that have now been installed as at early May.
  - c. The number of installations of sensors that are scheduled to be completed in each week between 4 April 2023 and 30 June 2023.

**Answer** (1)

- Question** (2) Given that this project is part of a £6.4m of taxpayers' money (£2.5m coming from the European Regional Development Fund) can he please outline
- d. the project's full cost within that £6.4m funding
  - e. the success criteria for the project
  - f. What he expects to be delivered from the scheme given that previous attempts to use smart bin sensors in the City have produced no measurable impact and are no non-operational and the only justification the Convener of TEC could give for the spend in his answer on 9 February was that it "could contribute to street cleanliness".

**Answer** (2)