

Business Bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 23rd May 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 Fiona Bennet 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="1241 322 1402 479">Jamie Macrae, Committee Officer</p> <p data-bbox="1241 539 1402 741">Louise P Williamson Assistant Committee Officer</p>

Recent News

Background

Union Canal Update

The [2011 Edinburgh Union Canal Strategy](#) is being refreshed as part of partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Canals. The Council and Scottish Canals will be carrying out community engagement in summer 2023 focusing on people's outlooks towards the Union Canal and the key opportunities going forward. This engagement will involve stakeholder workshops, collecting information at the Edinburgh Union Canal Festival, and an online survey for individuals and organisations who visit and live near the Union Canal. The online survey will be live for six weeks and ask questions about what people think should be prioritised, and attitudes towards different areas along the Union Canal. Officers will be incorporating these views into the refreshed Strategy and creating new objectives and a delivery plan for the Edinburgh stretch of the Union Canal. This is set to include a GIS storyboard which will be an interactive piece of work highlighting current and future activities. The refreshed Union Canal Strategy is expected to be presented to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval in late-2023.

For further information, contact:

[Rebecca Smith](#),
Development Officer

Wards Affected:

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

Ukraine Support

2023/24 (Year 2) Funding Agreement by UK and Scottish Governments

COSLA Leaders discussed this on Friday 31 March 2023, Leaders agreed that COSLA should seek clarification from the UK Government on the £150m 'moving on fund', full payment of education tariff funding and the reconciliation of existing UK Government tariff funding; and COSLA also agreed to continue to lobby both the UK and Scottish Governments for on-going funding to support the key role of councils for the Ukraine humanitarian programmes.

In addition, it is hoped to receive confirmation from the Scottish Government that:

- The £100,000 for resettlement team capacity (for each local authority) will continue and be enhanced if possible;
- That funding will be allocated more flexibly to enable the Council to use this as required;

For further information, contact:

[Gavin Sharp](#), Service
Manager

Wards Affected: All

- The Council will be reimbursed for any costs incurred in supporting welcome accommodation; and
- Funding will be provided for training to ensure local authorities can continue providing strategic and operational support in relation to the Ukraine programme.

Resettlement Fund Projects within the City

On [9 May 2023](#), Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee considered a report on Capital Funding Opportunities for Council Housing to support Ukrainian Displaced People.

The Continuation and funding of short-term accommodation options within the city

The Scottish Government have confirmed to the Council that the contract for the MS Victoria will end on 11 July 2023. A joint disembarkation plan between Scottish Government and the Council is underway with the Scottish Government confirming that contingency temporary accommodation will be procured via their Travel Management service for those guests not finding matched or alternative accommodation such as private rental across the country. The Scottish Government will also continue to fund welcome hotel and apartment accommodation for those currently being accommodated within hotels and apartments within the city.

Voluntary Sector Network Support – Fresh Start

In December 2022, an update to the Council’s Culture and Communities Committee confirmed the intention to provide financial support to support the development of voluntary sector networks to respond positively to models of working post-pandemic.

A funding award to Fresh Start will enable the organisation to proceed to pilot a new approach to local co-ordination to support local Community Wealth Building. The Council’s contribution is being matched by the Scottish Government. This model will also be used to develop a test site for Local Outcome Improvement Planning in the area, as a priority for integrated service delivery and the learning from this pilot will be used to develop local co-ordination arrangements across the city. The contribution will be split over two financial years and will support Community Wealth Building

For further information, contact:

Alison Coburn,
Operations Manager

Wards Affected:
4 - Forth

and local co-ordination.

Motion by Councillor Biagi – Eurovision 2023 Bid

On [15 December 2022](#), the Council approved an adjusted motion by Councillor Biagi which recognised that, despite being a major international city of culture, the city has a fundamental weakness in not having an indoor arena of sufficient size to accommodate major events.

As requested by the Council, a report is being prepared for Culture and Communities Committee in August 2023 which seeks to learn from the experiences of other cities, will set out the options for stakeholder engagement and will identify the possible funding models which could be delivered.

There are currently two different arena operators looking at potential sites in the city and undertaking project feasibility work. Officers will support both parties equally and will seek to involve the Scottish Government and its relevant agencies in discussions and it is hoped that further details of this will be available to incorporate into the report for Culture and Communities Committee in August 2023.

For further information, contact: [David Cooper](#), Head of Development and Regeneration

Wards Affected: All

Taiwan Visit - March 2023

The Council Leader recently led a delegation, including partners from the University of Edinburgh to Taiwan. Cllr Day presented at the Edinburgh's Smart City and NetZero ambitions at the Taiwan Expo Summit in the cities of Kaohsiung and Tainan City to a global audience.

By taking part in the event and holding productive meetings with many officials over several days, the delegation were able to build on our positive relationships with Taiwan.

With the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh's Festivals, Edinburgh is looking forward to developing joint collaborations on trade and investment opportunities, in net zero learnings, and to explore opportunities for festivals and cultural events.

Knowledge exchange visits were also made to numerous sites across Taiwan, including a sustainability business, an art centre and festival, hospital, and net zero village.

For further information, contact:

[Nick Langan](#), International Relations Officer, Corporate Services

The City of Edinburgh Gaelic Language Plan 2023-27

The item on the Council's third Gaelic Language Plan, for the period 2023-28, was scheduled to be considered at the 23 May Policy and Sustainability Committee.

For further information, contact:

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

However, following extensive feedback from public consultation and engagement, which closed on 6 May 2023, officers have recommended that the report is deferred until the committee's 22nd August meeting.

This will allow them to give detailed and thorough consideration to the feedback from the 83 responses on the Council's consultation hub, the 2 engagement sessions and written submissions, and to revise the plan accordingly.

Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services in Niddrie and Craigmillar

ORT is predominantly delivered in communities, with approximately 50% in GP practices and 50% in local Recovery Hubs. The four Recovery hubs are located in the areas of highest need but where needed additional bases are open for some or all of the week (e.g. Craigmillar as well as Leith, Gilmerton as well as the city centre, South Queensferry as well as Craigroyston). The new central treatment initiation clinic will be the only part of the ORT system delivered centrally for the city and the decision to adopt this model was carefully considered through an options appraisal. This was driven by the MAT standards (specifically the need to start treatment within 24 hours unless clinically inappropriate) and the practical requirements that follow from this as well as resource constraints and the views of people with lived/living experience. The factors that favour the single centralised model include:

- 1) The service needs to be consistent and resilient: in order to meet MAT 1, multiple practitioners need to be reliably available every day in every setting where it is offered. This entails having the staff and giving this task absolute priority within the workers' day. Doing this consistently in 5 or more locations in the city is not considered feasible given resource limitations. Reliable same-day access in one location for the city is a trade-off for waits/ non-delivery closer to home (though see mitigations below).
- 2) The service needs to be unconditional: treatment needs to be started independent of address etc (e.g. people who present following prison or police custody release or on arrival in the city or who are homeless etc but who are opiate dependant and are not already on a script can start treatment). Having a number of clinics covering individual criteria (e.g. only for people living in particular parts of the city, or registered with particular GPs) might create confusion whereas a single clinic is simple for users and referrers to understand ("come to this clinic and you will be offered treatment if clinically appropriate"). It also remains constant for people who are moving about the city (e.g. because they are in temporary accommodation).
- 3) The service needs some element of specialisation: safely and confidently starting ORT prescriptions on the day of presentation needs practice which is expected to be more easily built up in a single specialist centre, at least initially.

For further information, contact:

[David Williams](#),
Programme Manager,
Edinburgh Alcohol and
Drug Partnership

However the potential barriers created by having a central clinic were raised in the consultation process and are understood and acknowledged (e.g. lack of choice; travelling-time, -cost and -energy; less connection to local community supports; weaker relationships with local primary care). Mitigation for them includes

- People will still be offered titration at the local hubs, albeit with a potential wait – that door is not closed, but the offer will always be made to get a quicker service from the central team.
- Transport will be offered for those who need support to attend – bus fares are paid for people who need them and the practitioners from the central team can outreach and either see people at home or transport them to the service when needed.
- Many of those in most urgent need of treatment will be being engaged through assertive outreach and the outreach workers will be able to accompany/ transport them.
- People will return to their local community service as quickly as possible: it is expected that almost all patients will be back in mainstream community services in 8 weeks or under. During people's time in the clinic, the voluntary sector workers attached to the central team will work with them and with colleagues in the local hubs to develop support and transition plans (e.g. the Turning Point Scotland worker in the central team and the TPS workers in Craigmillar will support Craigmillar service-users to engage with the local supports there while they are getting their medical treatment from the central clinic).
- The service will be reviewed through external evaluation and consultation with its users and their families – if it is feasible to revert to all local services this remains our preference.

Forthcoming activities:
