

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 7 November 2024

Present:

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Robert Aldridge

COUNCILLORS

Danny Aston
Jule Bandel
Alan C Beal
Fiona Bennett
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 Dixon
Stuart Dobbin
Phil Duggart
Katrina Faccenda
Pauline Flannery
Catherine Fullerton
Neil Gardiner
Fiona Glasgow
Margaret A Graham
Joan Griffiths
Dan Heap
Euan Hyslop
Stephen P Jenkinson
Tim Jones

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

1 Deputations

a) Currie Community High School Parent Council (in relation to item 8.1 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Hyslop – Inclusion Review)

The deputation indicated that Edinburgh's vision for inclusion was that all children be supported to participate meaningfully in their education and felt that the current model was under-resourced and not sustainable. They believed that change was required but that the focus should be on improvement of services, not cost cutting.

The deputation felt that the proposals in the review were not just going to affect additional supports needs children but also teachers, support staff and eventually every child in the education system as teachers and pupil support assistants were already stretched. They urged the Council for an immediate pause and review of the proposals to ensure vital support for the most in need were maintained.

(see item 9 below)

b) Protect Edinburgh Services for Disabled Children (in relation to item 8.1 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Hyslop – Inclusion Review)

The deputation was extremely concerned about proposed cuts to the additional support for learning service as they felt that these services were essential to children's well-being and their education, and that removing services for the most vulnerable children would impact all children.

The deputation asked for genuine inclusion in the consultation, which would mean an ongoing dialogue in which the Council listened to what was being said together with assurances on a chance for them to comment on the actual proposals before they were approved.

(see item 9 below)

c) South Morningside Parent Council Transport Committee (in relation to item 8.9 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Ross – Low-cost Zebra Crossings)

The deputation was pleased to see the proposal to introduce a study of side street zebra crossings indicated that they were likely to strongly support it, along with a trial. They believed that whilst not a solution to all the issues, that painted zebra markings would be an excellent addition to the measures that allowed safe travel to school and that these crossings would make a real difference to encouraging active travel.

The Deputation also made the following suggestions for suitable trial sites:

- Morningside Drive/Comiston Road
- Comiston Drive/Comiston Road
- Craiglea Drive, at the rear entrance to the school

(see item 17 below)

d) Active Travel Group at Bruntsfield Primary School (in relation to item 8.9 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Ross – Low-cost Zebra Crossings)

The deputation welcomed and supported the motion by Councillor Ross for a trial of low-cost zebra crossings. They believed that anyone, should not be stressed and scared to simply walk to their school and that the majority of their school community had pointed to unsafe pedestrian crossings as their major concern in a survey about their travel to school.

The deputation understood that zebra crossings with Belisha beacons were both fairly complicated and very costly to install and that it was therefore, essential that the low-cost zebra crossings were considered as an alternative approach. They urged the Council to take action as quickly as possible to support the development of low-cost zebra crossings and work with the Scottish Government if a legal framework was required to achieve this.

(see item 17 below)

e) RSPB Scotland (in relation to item 8.13 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Mitchell – Urban Seagulls)

The deputation was concerned by the motion by Councillor Mitchell and indicated that, due to serious recent declines in the UK populations of Herring Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Greater Black-backed Gulls (the three species most likely to nest in urban areas), they did not believe that the proposed measures were justified or proportional and urged the Council to reject the motion.

The deputation stressed that the 2004 Biodiversity Duty placed a statutory duty on all public bodies in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity and felt that if the Council agreed to the motion it would lead to increased pressure on these already threatened native seabirds.

(see item 21 below)

2 Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Special Meeting of Council of 26 September 2024 as a correct record.
- 2) To approve the minute of the Council of 26 September 2024 as a correct record

3 Leader's Report

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

- Alex Salmond, former MP, MSP and First Minister of Scotland
- John Wilson, former Councillor - condolences
- Cowgate incident
- 1,000 days since the illegal invasion of Ukraine
- Remembrance Sunday
- Fireworks – thanks to colleagues, Police Scotland, wider emergency services, Lothian Buses, waste services and wider community
- Living Wage Week
- Visitor Levy consultation
- Lorna French, Service Director and Chief Education Office - thanks
- Joan Parr, Service Director Culture and Wellbeing - thanks

The following questions/comments were made:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Councillor Kumar | - Alex Salmond, former MP, MSP and First Minister of Scotland – condolences |
| | - Cowgate incident |
| | - Remembrance Day |
| | - UK Government Budget – 15% of NI – cost to the Council and will this be fully funded |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Councillor Lang | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Wilson, former Councillor - condolences - Cowgate incident - Alex Salmond, former MP, MSP and First Minister of Scotland – condolences - Remembrance Day - UK Government Budget - exemptions |
| Councillor Booth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 days of activism against gender based violence - UK Government Budget - cuts |
| Councillor Whyte | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Wilson, former Councillor – condolences - Cowgate incident - Alex Salmond, former First Minister of Scotland – condolences - UK Government Budget – Council savings |
| Councillor McKenzie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EIJB – proposed funding cut |
| Councillor Aston | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council leadership |
| Councillor Beal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EIJB cuts |
| Councillor Rae | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congratulations to Donald Turvill - Fire Safety maintenance programme – costs - consultation |
| Councillor Bruce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BBC reporting of Firework control zones - Balerno |
| Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US Presidential elections outcome |
| Councillor Mattos Coelho | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-social behaviour on bonfire night – preparation for future years |
| Councillor Flannery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UK Government budget – withdrawal of winter fuel allowance – assessment of impact |
| Councillor Mumford | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donald Trump – visits to Edinburgh |

Councillor Doggart	-	EIJB proposed funding cuts and increasing costs to organisations
Councillor Hyslop	-	Increased tuition fees for students in England
Councillor Davidson	-	EIJB – safe consumption proposals
Councillor Staniforth	-	City Pan 2030 – Zero for new buildings
Councillor Munro		Left hand turn to London Road from Leith Walk - signage
Councillor Gardiner	-	UK Government budget – levelling up funding
Councillor Ross	-	Adoption of full cost recovery approach for commercial events in Edinburgh

4 Appointments

Decision

To appoint Councillor Jenkinson to the Edinburgh Waterfront APOG.

5 Decisions Taken Under Urgency Provisions - Review of Scheme and Boundaries for Community Councils

Details were provided on the approval given under urgency provisions in regard to amendments which had been passed at the Special Council meeting on 26 September 2024 in relation to the Scheme for Community Councils and their Boundaries which meant two recommendations in the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services had not been approved (recommendation 1.5 and 1.6). Group Leaders had been consulted and confirmed that this was not intentional.

Motion

To note that the following decisions were taken by the Chief Executive under urgency provisions outlined in A4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions:

- 1) To approve a one off £500 payment where a newly formed community council was established or where a previously dissolved community council had reconstituted to enable its initial function.

2) To agree to hold a community council election process in quarter 1 of 2025.

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Pogson

Amendment

1) Council notes the additional challenges facing Community Councils in areas of socio-economic deprivation.

2) To note that the following decisions were taken by the Chief Executive under urgency provisions outlined in A4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions:

a) To approve a one off £500 payment where a newly formed community council was established or where a previously dissolved community council had reconstituted to enable its initial function.

b) To agree to hold a community council election process in quarter 1 of 2025.

3) To approve future additional one off payments of £500 (totalling £1000) where a newly formed community council is established or where a previously dissolved community council has reconstituted to enable its initial function, where the community council serves communities impacted by socio-economic deprivation (as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 19 votes

For the amendment - 39 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Bruce, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Day, Daggart, Faccenda, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Pogson, Rust, Watt and Whyte.

For the amendment: Lord Provost, Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Campbell, Davidson, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Flannery, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Work and Young.)

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Heap.

(References – Act of Council No 1 of the Special Meeting of 26 September 2024: report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

6 Mitigating Museums and Galleries Budget Pressures 2024/25 - referral from the Culture and Communities Committee

The Culture and Communities Committee had referred a report on Mitigating Museums and Galleries Budget Pressures 2024/25 to the City of Edinburgh Council for approval.

Motion

- 1) To note the update on budget pressures within the Museums and Galleries service
- 2) To approve the interim service proposal for Queensferry Museum, while officers consult on a new operating model with the local community.
- 3) To note the operational decision by officers to temporarily close The People's Story due to staffing pressures across the Museums and Galleries service
- 4) To note the importance of maintaining minimum staff levels to ensure safety.
- 5) To note the significance of the collections at The People's Story, which shared unique insights into the history, culture, crafts and trades of working class people in Edinburgh.
- 6) To ask officers to include detail on alternatives to the closure of the People's Story in the museum transformation report coming to the December's Culture and Communities Committee, which could include reduced hours across the service, and charging for visitors.
- 7) If practicable in terms of timescale, to ask for a report to go to Finance and Resources Committee in November on the urgent re-opening of the People's Story Museum.
- 8) In the meantime, to ask officers to look into temporary options to display the People's Story Collection in the Museum of Edinburgh, such as a digital exhibition or utilising the Keeping the Faith display, and displays in local offices and libraries.
- 9) To appreciate work by museums and galleries staff to maintain the service to the best standard possible, in the hope that the visitor levy in 2026 would

enable an improved service that supported 7-day opening across the service, development of the new collections centre, and opportunities to spread collections more widely across the city.

- 10) To commit to engaging with the community to discuss ways forward for the Peoples' Story Museum.
- 11) Notes that a report will be presented on alternative proposals for the urgent reopening of the People's Story Museum.
- 12) Recognises and appreciates the high level of importance that all our museums and their collections have for residents.
- 13) Notes that since the October Culture and Communities Committee, senior officers and the Convener have held many significant meetings with relevant stakeholders including museum staff, trade unions, national museum bodies, and community members.
- 14) Notes that officers have identified funding for a short-term approach that will re-open the People's Story Museum.
- 15) Notes that while a short-term approach demonstrates our commitment to Edinburgh's museums provision, this is not a sustainable position for the museums service.
- 16) Notes that in December 2023 the Culture and Communities Committee agreed to continue work on the longer-term transformation of the Museums and Galleries service. Given the need to provide clarity on this process, asks that this is given priority.
- 17) Notes that officers will be bringing a report to the December Culture and Communities Committee which will provide an update on this transformation work as well as present specific, costed options for maintaining the museums and galleries service.

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

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the update on budget pressures within the Museums and Galleries service
- 2) To approve the interim service proposal for Queensferry Museum, while officers consult on a new operating model with the local community.
- 3) To note the operational decision by officers to temporarily close The People's Story due to staffing pressures across the Museums and Galleries service

- 4) To note the importance of maintaining minimum staff levels to ensure safety.
- 5) To note the significance of the collections at The People's Story, which shared unique insights into the history, culture, crafts and trades of working class people in Edinburgh.
- 6) To ask officers to include detail on alternatives to the closure of the People's Story in the museum transformation report coming to the December's Culture and Communities Committee, which could include reduced hours across the service, and charging for visitors.
- 7) If practicable in terms of timescale, to ask for a report to go to Finance and Resources Committee in November on the urgent re-opening of the People's Story Museum.
- 8) In the meantime, to ask officers to look into temporary options to display the People's Story Collection in the Museum of Edinburgh, such as a digital exhibition or utilising the Keeping the Faith display, and displays in local offices and libraries.
- 9) To appreciate work by museums and galleries staff to maintain the service to the best standard possible, in the hope that the visitor levy in 2026 would enable an improved service that supported 7-day opening across the service, development of the new collections centre, and opportunities to spread collections more widely across the city.
- 10) To commit to engaging with the community to discuss ways forward for the Peoples' Story Museum.
- 11) Council agrees the importance of maintaining The People's Story as a standalone, city centre museum in the Old Town in its location in the Canongate Tolbooth.
- 11) Council urges greater community engagement than prior to the decision to temporarily close the museum and encourages exploration of sponsorship / co-curation with partners such as The STUC etc to help address the urgent need to update the urgently update and invest in the museums offer.
- 12) Council agrees to explore secondment opportunities for other CEC employees or failing this to allow temporary employment of contractors to reopen The People's Story as soon as possible.
- 13) Failing or pending the above solution, or full rectification of the staffing pressures agrees to apply a more equitable temporary closure across the museums estate (excluding the Nelson and Scott Monuments) to generate enough capacity to at least partially open The People's Story.

- moved by Councillor McNeese-Mechan, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

Amendment 2

- 1) Council notes the People's Story museum tells the story of the working-class people of Edinburgh from the late 18th century to the present day.
- 2) Council notes widespread public and trades union support for the valuable role in promoting awareness of working class history.
- 3) To note the update on budget pressures within the Museums and Galleries service.
- 4) To approve the interim service proposal for Queensferry Museum, while officers consult on a new operating model with the local community.
- 5) To note the operational decision by officers to temporarily close The People's Story due to staffing pressures across the Museums and Galleries service.
- 6) To note the importance of maintaining minimum staff levels to ensure safety.
- 7) To note the significance of the collections at The People's Story, which shared unique insights into the history, culture, crafts and trades of working class people in Edinburgh.
- 8) To ask officers to include detail on alternatives to the closure of the People's Story in the museum transformation report coming to the December's Culture and Communities Committee, which could include reduced hours across the service, and charging for visitors.
- 9) If practicable in terms of timescale, to ask for a report to go to Finance and Resources Committee in November on the urgent re-opening of the People's Story Museum.
- 10) In the meantime, to ask officers to look into temporary options to display the People's Story Collection in the Museum of Edinburgh, such as a digital exhibition or utilising the Keeping the Faith display, and displays in local offices and libraries.
- 11) To appreciate work by museums and galleries staff to maintain the service to the best standard possible, in the hope that the visitor levy in 2026 would enable an improved service that supported 7-day opening across the service, development of the new collections centre, and opportunities to spread collections more widely across the city.
- 12) To commit to engaging with the community to discuss ways forward for the Peoples' Story Museum.

- 13) Requests officers rapidly make temporary arrangements for partial re-opening of the museum, either (in order of preference) on a select number of days, or via an appointments system, to be implemented as soon as feasibly possible until the full planned reopening in April 2025, or earlier.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and accepted as addendums to the Motion.

Voting

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	47 votes
For Amendment 2	-	10 votes
Abstention	-	1

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Aston, Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Doggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Jones, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McNeese-Meechan, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Rust, Thornley, Watt, Work, Whyte and Young.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Bandel, Booth, Burgess, Heap, Miller, Mumford, O'Neill, Parker, Rae and Staniforth.

Abstention: Councillor Mackenzie.)

Decision

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

- 1) To note the update on budget pressures within the Museums and Galleries service.
- 2) To approve the interim service proposal for Queensferry Museum, while officers consult on a new operating model with the local community.
- 3) To note the operational decision by officers to temporarily close The People's Story due to staffing pressures across the Museums and Galleries service.
- 4) To note the importance of maintaining minimum staff levels to ensure safety.
- 5) To note the significance of the collections at The People's Story, which shared unique insights into the history, culture, crafts and trades of working class people in Edinburgh.

- 6) To ask officers to include detail on alternatives to the closure of the People's Story in the museum transformation report coming to the December's Culture and Communities Committee, which could include reduced hours across the service, and charging for visitors.
- 7) If practicable in terms of timescale, to ask for a report to go to Finance and Resources Committee in November on the urgent re-opening of the People's Story Museum.
- 8) In the meantime, to ask officers to look into temporary options to display the People's Story Collection in the Museum of Edinburgh, such as a digital exhibition or utilising the Keeping the Faith display, and displays in local offices and libraries.
- 9) To appreciate work by museums and galleries staff to maintain the service to the best standard possible, in the hope that the visitor levy in 2026 would enable an improved service that supported 7-day opening across the service, development of the new collections centre, and opportunities to spread collections more widely across the city.
- 10) To commit to engaging with the community to discuss ways forward for the Peoples' Story Museum.
- 11) To note that a report would be presented on alternative proposals for the urgent reopening of the People's Story Museum.
- 12) To recognise and appreciate the high level of importance that all the museums and their collections had for residents.
- 13) To note that since the October Culture and Communities Committee, senior officers and the Convener had held many significant meetings with relevant stakeholders including museum staff, trade unions, national museum bodies, and community members.
- 14) To note that officers had identified funding for a short-term approach that would re-open the People's Story Museum.
- 15) To note that while a short-term approach demonstrated the commitment to Edinburgh's museums provision, this was not a sustainable position for the museums service.
- 16) To note that in December 2023 the Culture and Communities Committee agreed to continue work on the longer-term transformation of the Museums and Galleries service. Given the need to provide clarity on this process, to ask that this be given priority.

- 17) To note that officers would be bringing a report to the December Culture and Communities Committee which would provide an update on this transformation work as well as present specific, costed options for maintaining the museums and galleries service.
- 18) To note that Council had a shared aspiration to retain The People's Story as a standalone, city centre museum in the Old Town in its location in the Canongate Tolbooth.
- 19) To urge greater community engagement than prior to the decision to temporarily close the museum and encourage exploration of sponsorship / co-curation with partners such as The STUC etc to help address the urgent need to update the urgently update and invest in the museums offer.
- 20) To agree to explore secondment opportunities for other CEC employees or failing this to allow temporary employment of contractors to reopen The People's Story as soon as possible.
- 21) Failing or pending the above solution, or full rectification of the staffing pressures to agree to apply a more equitable temporary closure across the museums estate (excluding the Nelson and Scott Monuments) to generate enough capacity to at least partially open The People's Story.
- 22) To note the People's Story museum tells the story of the working-class people of Edinburgh from the late 18th century to the present day.
- 23) To note widespread public and trades union support for the valuable role in promoting awareness of working class history

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 3 October 2024 (9); referral from the Culture and Communities Committee, submitted.)

7 Lothian Buses Board Appointments – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

The Transport and Environment Committee had referred a report on Lothian Buses Board Appointments to the City of Edinburgh Council for decision.

Motion

- 1) To consent to the appointment of Loraine Strachan, Stephanie Rivet and Peter Strachan as non-executive directors of Lothian Buses for a period of three years.
- 2) To note that George Lowder had resigned from the boards of Transport for Edinburgh and Edinburgh Trams, and that Jim McFarlane and Steve Cassidy

intended to resign from the board of Lothian Buses Limited following the appointment of the new non-executive directors.

- moved by Councillor Jenkinson, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

Council:

- 1) Consents to the appointment of Loraine Strachan and Stephanie Rivet as non-executive directors of Lothian Buses for a period of three years and to readvertise for a third non-executive director.
- 2) Notes that George Lowder has resigned from the boards of Transport for Edinburgh and Edinburgh Trams, and that Jim McFarlane and Steve Cassidy intended to resign from the board of Lothian Buses Limited following the appointment of the new non-executive directors.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Munro

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	21 votes
For the amendment	-	36 votes

(For the motion: Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bennett, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Meagher, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Watt and Young.

For the amendment: Councillors Aston, Bandel, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Campbell, Cowdy, Dixon, Dobbin, Duggart, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Jones, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meehan, Miller, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumford, Munro, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Rust, Staniforth, Whyte and Work.)

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Whyte.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee of 10 October 2024 (item 9); referral from the Transport and Environment Committee, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Lang declared a non-financial interest as he was a close personal friend of one of the appointees and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

8 City Plan 2030 Scottish Ministers' Direction and Adoption of Modified City Plan 2030 – referral from the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee had referred the City Plan 2030: Scottish Ministers' Direction and Adoption of Modified City Plan 2030 report to the City of Edinburgh Council for adoption as its Local Development Plan.

Decision

To adopt the City Plan 2030: Scottish Ministers' Direction and Adoption of Modified City Plan 2030 as its Local Development Plan.

(References – Planning Committee of 23 October 2024; referral from the Planning Committee, submitted)

9 Inclusion Review – Motion by Councillor Hyslop

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

“Council notes:

- 1) 45-day statutory consultation period with employees and trade unions is currently underway and is due to conclude on Friday 1 November.
- 2) Parents, school staff and trade unions have all expressed concerns at the lack of detail and clarity in the proposals set out in the inclusion review.

Council notes with concern:

- 3) There is no mention of critical services such as Early Years, Forest Schools, English as an Additional Language (EAL), or the Hospital Team in the proposals. This has understandably raised concerns among staff and families who depend on these services, leaving them uncertain about their future.
- 4) Officers are proposing a significant reduction in staff within the Inclusion Service, with the proposed removal of all temporary contracts, which make up 20% of the Additional Support Needs (ASN) workforce.

- 5) A reduction of this magnitude could have a severe impact on classrooms, potentially driving teachers away from the profession due to insufficient support at a time when more is needed to address the poverty-related attainment gap.
- 6) The Inclusion Review will disproportionately impact on children with ASN, with disabilities, and those from an ethnic minority background.
- 7) The unintended consequences and impact on all children in classrooms if additional support of learning is reduced for those who require it.
- 8) Despite all these concerns and the marked impact proposed changes will have on classroom support and the wellbeing and learning outcomes of children and young people, parents are currently not being consulted on the proposals.

Council agrees:

- 9) It is incredibly disappointing that this review has focussed so heavily on cost cutting with very little attention given to improving services for children and young people.
- 10) The consultation is extended to consider the views of families and service users that will be affected by the proposed changes in the Inclusion Review so that consultation includes their voices alongside those of members of staff and unions.
- 11) No reductions in existing service provision will be implemented but will be presented to Education, Children and Families Committee in a report as Officer recommendations.
- 12) That a full Integrated Impact Assessment is undertaken to identify impacts of any proposals for consideration.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Hyslop.

- moved by Councillor Hyslop, seconded by Councillor Campbell

Amendment 1

Deletes all of the motion by Councillor Hyslop and replaces with:

“Council:

- 1) Notes that the deadline for the consultation period has been extended by 1 week following a request from the Trade Unions. The consultation will now end on 8 November.
- 2) Recognises the engagement informing this review has included the views of staff, parents and stakeholders through analysis of responses from town hall events, focus groups, and responses from the inclusion survey between August 2023- and January 2024.
- 3) Acknowledges the aim to create a centralised inclusion and wellbeing service and strengthen inclusion across the learning communities.
- 4) Understands that following the ending of the consultation period all support staff on fixed term contracts will be matched into permanent posts in the new structure.
- 5) Further understands a report is coming to Education, Children and Families Committee on 21 November highlighting the outcome of the consultation and recommendations going forward

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 2

- 1) Amends points 1), 10) and 12) in the motion by Councillor Hyslop to read:
 - “1) A statutory consultation period with employees and trade unions is currently underway and is due to conclude on Friday 8 November.
 - 10) The consultation period is extended to consider the views of families and service users that will be affected by the proposed changes in the Inclusion Review so that consultation includes their voices alongside those of members of staff and unions.
 - 12) That the Integrated Impact Assessment considers impact on families and service users that will be affected and considers whether Council would be breaching its public sector equality duty.’
- 2) Adds to the motion:
 - “13) That plans and a timeline for the implementation of the Inclusion Service restructure, and the likely impact on services, will be presented

to The Education, Children and Families Committee, and no actions which would alter service provision will be taken forward without committee approval.”

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Aston

Amendment 3

Council

- 1) Deletes point 10 in the motion by Councillor Hyslop and replaces with
“that Education, Children, and Families Committee will receive an urgent update on the engagement with parents, families, and service users to this point.”.
- 2) Adds new point 13 to the motion:
“Councillors on Education, Children, and Families Committee will be invited to attend the consultation meetings taking place with parents.”

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

Amendment 4

Replace all of the motion by Councillor Hyslop with;

- “1) Welcomes the significant work of officers to improve the delivery of the Council’s Inclusion service and that current proposals are based on professional expertise, extensive research and collegiate consultation;
- 2) Notes the Council’s ongoing Inclusion Review Programme has been reported to Education Children & Families Committee in January 2023 and November 2023, and that there is a forthcoming report on the committee agenda for 21 November 2024 for noting;
- 3) Notes that part of the Inclusion review includes a significant organisational restructure that is currently considered as an ‘operational matter’ by officers, who could proceed with an implementation plan once the statutory consultation period with staff is concluded on 8 November;
- 4) Notes that councillors have been contacted by a range of stakeholders including parents and carers, teachers and unions concerned about the review, particularly the proposed organisational restructure involving changes to staffing and the impact on the service and that this has been as reported in the national media;

- 5) Believes that the Inclusion Review, including the organisational restructure has the potential to significantly affect the Inclusion service and that it has become a 'political' issue of controversy and therefore that it is a matter that should be considered by councillors;
- 6) Therefore believes that before any implementation takes place, councillors need to be satisfied that proposals under the Inclusion review, including the organisational restructure, will not affect service provision, and therefore that all review proposals should undergo further scrutiny by the Education Children & Families committee on the 21 November such that any proposals that could affect service provision can be considered for approval;
- 7) Further requests that a briefing session for councillors on the Inclusion Review including proposals for the organisational restructure is provided before the Education Children & Families committee on the 21 November and also a briefing session for parents and other stakeholders.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Heap

Amendment 5

Deletes all of the motion by Councillor Hyslop and replaces with:

- “1) Council notes that an Inclusion Review Update is due to be reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 21st November and that no changes to the Service are planned before this time.
- 2) Council recognises that the Report will contain important details about the Review and that the Education, Children and Families Committee is the best forum to scrutinise the Report, question officers and make a decision on any recommendations arising from the Review.
- 3) Council therefore agrees to take no Action on this Motion.”

- moved by Councillor Cowdy, seconded by Councillor Rust

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to the Motion, Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion, and Amendment 4 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

At this point in the proceedings, Amendments 1 and 5 were withdrawn.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Hyslop:

- 1) To note that a statutory consultation period with employees and trade unions was currently underway and was due to conclude on Friday 8 November.
- 2) To note parents, school staff and trade unions had all expressed concerns at the lack of detail and clarity in the proposals set out in the inclusion review.
- 3) To note with concern, there was no mention of critical services such as Early Years, Forest Schools, English as an Additional Language (EAL), or the Hospital Team in the proposals. This had understandably raised concerns among staff and families who depended on these services, leaving them uncertain about their future.
- 4) To note with concern, officers were proposing a significant reduction in staff within the Inclusion Service, with the proposed removal of all temporary contracts, which made up 20% of the Additional Support Needs (ASN) workforce.
- 5) To note with concern, a reduction of this magnitude could have a severe impact on classrooms, potentially driving teachers away from the profession due to insufficient support at a time when more was needed to address the poverty-related attainment gap.
- 6) To note with concern, the Inclusion Review would disproportionately impact on children with ASN, with disabilities, and those from an ethnic minority background.
- 7) To note with concern, the unintended consequences and impact on all children in classrooms if additional support of learning was reduced for those who required it.
- 8) To note with concern, despite all these concerns and the marked impact proposed changes would have on classroom support and the wellbeing and learning outcomes of children and young people, parents were currently not being consulted on the proposals.
- 9) To agree it was incredibly disappointing that this review had focussed so heavily on cost cutting with very little attention given to improving services for children and young people.
- 10) To agree the consultation period be extended to consider the views of families and service users that would be affected by the proposed changes in the Inclusion Review so that consultation included their voices alongside those of members of staff and unions.

- 11) To agree no reductions in existing service provision would be implemented but would be presented to Education, Children and Families Committee in a report as Officer recommendations.
- 12) To agree that the Integrated Impact Assessment consider impact on families and service users that would be affected and consider whether Council would be breaching its public sector equality duty.'
- 13) To agree that plans and a timeline for the implementation of the Inclusion Service restructure, and the likely impact on services, would be presented to The Education, Children and Families Committee, and no actions which would alter service provision would be taken forward without committee approval.
- 14) To agree Councillors on the Education, Children, and Families Committee would be invited to attend the consultation meetings taking place with parents'
- 15) To welcome the significant work of officers to improve the delivery of the Council's Inclusion service and that current proposals were based on professional expertise, extensive research and collegiate consultation.
- 16) To note the Council's ongoing Inclusion Review Programme had been reported to Education Children and Families Committee in January 2023 and November 2023, and that there was a forthcoming report on the committee agenda for 21 November 2024 for noting.
- 17) To note that part of the Inclusion review included a significant organisational restructure that was currently considered as an 'operational matter' by officers, who could proceed with an implementation plan once the statutory consultation period with staff was concluded on 8 November.
- 18) To note that councillors had been contacted by a range of stakeholders including parents and carers, teachers and unions concerned about the review, particularly the proposed organisational restructure involving changes to staffing and the impact on the service and that this had been as reported in the national media.
- 19) To believe that the Inclusion Review, including the organisational restructure had the potential to significantly affect the Inclusion service and that it had become a 'political' issue of controversy and therefore that it was a matter that should be considered by councillors.
- 20) To therefore believe that before any implementation took place, councillors needed to be satisfied that proposals under the Inclusion review, including the organisational restructure, would not affect service provision, and therefore that all review proposals should undergo further scrutiny by the Education

Children and Families Committee on the 21 November such that any proposals that could affect service provision could be considered for approval.

- 21) To further request that a briefing session for councillors on the Inclusion Review including proposals for the organisational restructure be provided before the Education Children and Families committee on the 21 November, and also a briefing session for parents and other stakeholders.

10 Edinburgh's Events and Festivals for Community Use – Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

The following motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22(6):

“Council;

Notes and welcomes the increase of recycled and repurposed materials being used for community use after the hosting and staging of festivals and events across the city.

Understands examples include the creation of a new reception desk and the installation of stage performance type lighting at WHALE Arts fashioned from items and materials left over from events and festivals.

Requests a Business Bulletin and an update in the next sustainability report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on how such initiatives can be promoted, supported, and encouraged on a city-wide basis.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

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

Amendment

Adds to the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron:

“Further noting the amount of material waste that can be generated from film related activity requests that appropriate council officers engage with the FirstStage Studios in Leith to explore ways in which the council can collaborate to support re-use and recycling of items and materials.

Requests that an update on this work is presented to Transport and Environment Committee via a Business Bulletin Update.”

- moved by Councillor Nols-McVey, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

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

- 1) To note and welcome the increase of recycled and repurposed materials being used for community use after the hosting and staging of festivals and events across the city.
- 2) To understand examples included the creation of a new reception desk and the installation of stage performance type lighting at WHALE Arts fashioned from items and materials left over from events and festivals.
- 3) To request a Business Bulletin and an update in the next sustainability report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on how such initiatives could be promoted, supported, and encouraged on a city-wide basis.
- 4) To further note the amount of material waste that could be generated from film related activity and request that appropriate council officers engage with the FirstStage Studios in Leith to explore ways in which the council could collaborate to support re-use and recycling of items and materials.
- 5) To request that an update on this work be presented to Transport and Environment Committee via a Business Bulletin Update.

11 RAAC Funding – Motion by Councillor Kumar

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

“Council Notes:

- 1) The presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has been identified in a number of schools, libraries, and council homes. This material, known for its structural deficiencies and potential safety risks, poses a significant threat to the health and safety of staff, students, and the general public.
- 2) Initial assessments indicate that the cost of replacing and remediating affected buildings could exceed £30 million. This figure may increase as further inspections and evaluations are conducted.
- 3) The council is committed to ensuring the safety of its residents but acknowledges the significant financial implications associated with the necessary repairs and mitigation measures.

Council Believes:

- 4) That the UK Government must recognise the urgent nature of this issue and provide the necessary financial support to local authorities in Scotland, specifically through an appropriate allocation of funds via the Barnett formula.

Council Resolves:

- 5) To instruct the Council Leader to write formally to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, requesting that an allocation of funding be provided to Scotland to support the remediation of RAAC, based on the Barnett consequential, and to ensure that Edinburgh receives its fair share of funding to address the £30M+ costs.
- 6) To share the letter with all elected members for information.
- 7) To keep elected members informed through reporting via Business Bulletin to the relevant committee(s) and to keep the public and all stakeholders regularly informed of progress and to advocate for expedited support from all levels of government to minimise any risks or disruption resulting from the RAAC crisis.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Kumar.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

Amendment 1

Adds to the motion by Councillor Kumar:

- 1) Notes that the Council owns 44 flats and houses with the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, all technical reports have now been received by the Council, confirming none of the RAAC panels in the buildings are categorised as critical. A covering letter and copies of reports have been sent to all residents with the offer of a meeting to discuss any concerns they may have; no residents have come forward to date.
- 2) Further notes the Council Leader wrote to both the UK and Scottish Governments in September 2023 regarding the issue of RAAC funding but is as yet to receive a full response.”

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Pogson

Amendment 2

In point 4 of the motion by Councillor Kumar, amends 'UK Government' to read 'UK and Scottish Governments'."

- moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 3

Deletes all after paragraph 3) in the motion by Councillor Kumar and replaces with:

- "4) Council notes the application of the Barnett formula will mean the following:
- a) If UK government expenditure in England increases on an aspect of public expenditure that is devolved, the block grant allocated to the Scottish government will automatically increase in line with the Barnett formula;
 - b) The UK government cannot insist the Scottish government spends the increased grant in the same manner as the UK government;
 - c) The Scottish government is free to determine how the additional block grant is spent.
- 5) Council welcomes the recognition that the Scottish Government cannot be trusted to provide local authorities with sufficient allocation of the block grant.
- 6) Council requests the Council Leader writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance requesting any increase in the block grant arising from increased spending for English local authorities is allocated in full to local authorities in Scotland, with the letter provided to elected members for information."

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Jones

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion, and Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to the Motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	49 votes
For Amendment 3	-	9 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton,

Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Watt, Work and Young.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Rust and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Kumar:

- 1) To note the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) had been identified in a number of schools, libraries, and council homes. This material, known for its structural deficiencies and potential safety risks, posed a significant threat to the health and safety of staff, students, and the general public.
- 2) To note initial assessments indicated that the cost of replacing and remediating affected buildings could exceed £30 million. This figure might increase as further inspections and evaluations were conducted.
- 3) To note the council was committed to ensuring the safety of its residents but acknowledged the significant financial implications associated with the necessary repairs and mitigation measures.
- 4) To believe that the UK and Scottish Governments must recognise the urgent nature of this issue and provide the necessary financial support to local authorities in Scotland, specifically through an appropriate allocation of funds via the Barnett formula.
- 5) To instruct the Council Leader to write formally to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, requesting that an allocation of funding be provided to Scotland to support the remediation of RAAC, based on the Barnett consequentials, and to ensure that Edinburgh received its fair share of funding to address the £30M+ costs.
- 6) To share the letter with all elected members for information.
- 7) To keep elected members informed through reporting via Business Bulletin to the relevant committee(s) and to keep the public and all stakeholders regularly informed of progress and to advocate for expedited support from all levels of government to minimise any risks or disruption resulting from the RAAC crisis.
- 8) To note that the Council owned 44 flats and houses with the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, all technical reports had now been received by the Council, confirming none of the RAAC panels in the buildings

were categorised as critical. A covering letter and copies of reports had been sent to all residents with the offer of a meeting to discuss any concerns they might have; no residents had come forward to date.

- 9) To further note the Council Leader wrote to both the UK and Scottish Governments in September 2023 regarding the issue of RAAC funding but was as yet to receive a full response.

12 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Motion by Councillor Kumar

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

“Council

Notes:

That we were allocated a sum of £12M as our share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the years 2022-2025.

That the primary goal of UKSPF was to increase life chances.

That a total of forty-two projects are receiving grants focusing on communities and place, supporting local businesses, and on people and skills. Organisations benefitting from this grant includes The Poverty Alliance, Community Help & Advice Initiative, Edinburgh Women’s Aid, The Prince’s Trust and so on.

Recognises

The impact of this funding on communities, businesses, and individuals.

That this funding will come to an end in March 2025 and that no assurances has been given so far about ongoing funding or alternative funding.

Agrees:

- 1) That UKSPF should be devolved to empower local communities, allowing decisions to be made by those who best understand the unique needs and priorities of their own areas.
- 2) Council Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressing Council's views and highlighting the disastrous impact on Edinburgh and its residents should this funding not be continued.
- 3) Further iterates support for Edinburgh to receive similar or enhanced funding as previous years to enable continuous work and seek assurances that she will provide this funding.

- 4) That this letter should be shared with all elected members for information.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Kumar.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

Amendment 1

- 1) In the motion by Councillor Kumar, replaces:

“That this funding will come to an end in March 2025 and that no assurances has been given so far about ongoing funding or alternative funding.”

With:

“That it has been confirmed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be extended for one year and that UK Government will bring forward a new replacement programme of funding in Spring.”

- 2) Adds at the end of the motion:

“Notes that a report will come to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at the next meeting to look at recommendations on how to allocate the money.”

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 2

- 1) Adds to the motion by Councillor Kumar:

Notes:

That Chancellor of Exchequer has now confirmed that UKSPF will be extended for one year but at a reduced level.

Recognises:

That UK Shared Prosperity Fund was meant to replace European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which included the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

That Brexit meant that UK can no longer access ESIF which provided substantial funding – and that UKSPF did not fully compensate for the loss of these funding streams since Brexit leaving a significant funding gap.

2) Amends the motion:

“Agrees

2) Council Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to convey the Council’s serious concerns regarding the detrimental impact of Brexit and the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as a replacement for previous funding mechanisms. The letter should highlight the significant challenges faced by Edinburgh and its residents due to these changes.

The Council Leader should request that the Chancellor and relevant officials engage directly with Council officers regarding the future replacement programme starting from 2026/27. This engagement is necessary to ensure that Edinburgh’s unique needs and challenges are fully considered, helping to offset the loss of vital funding and investment required for local economic development, training initiatives, and community support programmes.”

- moved by Councillor Aston, seconded by Councillor Dobbin

Amendment 3

1) In the motion by Councillor Kumar, before “increase life chances”, inserts “build pride in place and”.

2) Deletes 1) in the motion and inserts:

1) that the new UK Government a) must confirm as a matter of urgency what funding will be in place beyond 2026 and b) should establish a joint council covering the nations and regions of the UK to oversee the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and ensure governments, combined authorities and councils across the UK work in partnership to ensure fairness in the allocation of money from the fund.

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Davidson

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as amendments to the Motion, and Amendment 3 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as amendments to Amendment 3.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	26 votes
For Amendment 3 (as adjusted)	- -	30 votes
Abstentions	-	1

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

For Amendment 3 (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Rust, Thornley, Watt, Whyte and Young.

Abstentions: Councillor Walker.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Amendment 3 by Councillor Lang:

- 1) To note that it had been confirmed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would be extended for one year and that UK Government would bring forward a new replacement programme of funding in Spring.
- 2) To note that the new UK Government
 - a) must confirm as a matter of urgency what funding would be in place beyond 2026; and
 - b) should establish a joint council covering the nations and regions of the UK to oversee the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and ensure governments, combined authorities and councils across the UK worked in partnership to ensure fairness in the allocation of money from the fund.
- 3) To note that the primary goal of UKSPF was to build pride in place and increase life chances.
- 4) To note that a total of forty-two projects were receiving grants focusing on communities and place, supporting local businesses, and on people and skills. Organisations benefitting from this grant included The Poverty Alliance,

Community Help & Advice Initiative, Edinburgh Women's Aid, The Prince's Trust and so on.

- 5) To recognise the impact of this funding on communities, businesses, and individuals.
- 6) To recognise that this funding would come to an end in March 2025 and that no assurances had been given so far about ongoing funding or alternative funding.
- 7) To agree that UKSPF should be devolved to empower local communities, allowing decisions to be made by those who best understood the unique needs and priorities of their own areas.
- 8) To agree the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to convey the Council's serious concerns regarding the detrimental impact of Brexit and the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as a replacement for previous funding mechanisms. The letter should highlight the significant challenges faced by Edinburgh and its residents due to these changes.
- 9) To agree the Council Leader should request that the Chancellor and relevant officials engage directly with Council officers regarding the future replacement programme starting from 2026/27. This engagement was necessary to ensure that Edinburgh's unique needs and challenges were fully considered, helping to offset the loss of vital funding and investment required for local economic development, training initiatives, and community support programmes.
- 10) To further iterate support for Edinburgh to receive similar or enhanced funding as previous years to enable continuous work and seek assurances that she would provide this funding.
- 11) To agree that this letter should be shared with all elected members for information.
- 12) To note that a report would come to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at the next meeting to look at recommendations on how to allocate the money.
- 13) To note "Notes that a report will come to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at the next meeting to look at recommendations on how to allocate the money."
- 14) To note that Chancellor of Exchequer had now confirmed that UKSPF would be extended for one year but at a reduced level.

- 15) To recognise that UK Shared Prosperity Fund was meant to replace European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which included the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).
- 16) To note that Brexit meant that UK could no longer access ESIF which provided substantial funding – and that UKSPF did not fully compensate for the loss of these funding streams since Brexit, leaving a significant funding gap.

13 Nations and Regions – Motion by Councillor Gardiner

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

“Council Notes:

- 1) The inaugural meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions organised by the UK Government was held on 11th October 2024 in Edinburgh.
- 2) In addition to the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, council understands that the Mayors from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the East Midlands, Greater Manchester, the Liverpool City Region, London, the North East, South Yorkshire, Tees Valley, the West Midlands, the West of England, and York and North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire were all invited to attend this council.
- 3) Although taking place in this city, Edinburgh, the Capital City of Scotland, was not invited to attend this event.

Council therefore requests that

- 4) The Council Leader writes to the Prime Minister of the UK Government requesting that the City of Edinburgh is invited to attend and be represented by the Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council at future meetings of this council.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Gardiner.

- moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Fullerton

Amendment 1

Delete and replace 4) in the motion by Councillor Gardiner with:

- “4) Understands that COSLA, speaks on behalf of Scottish Local Authorities and as agreed by Council Leaders across Scotland at a previous meeting, should have a seat at future meetings of the Nations and Regions.

Therefore requests that

- 5) The Council Leader write to COSLA urging them to reaffirm this position with the Prime Minister.”

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 2

Council

Deletes paragraphs 2-4 in the motion by Councillor Gardiner and inserts:

- “2) note the concerns expressed in the motion that the Scottish Government is unable to adequately represent the interests of the Scottish Capital City within this forum.
- 3) agrees that the Council Leader should write to the First Minister to express these concerns and seek assurances on what actions the Scottish Government will take to champion Edinburgh and its interests at future meetings of the Council.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 3

Deletes Paragraph 4 in the motion by Councillor Gardiner and replaces with:

- 4) Notes that the power to create City Mayors is devolved to the Scottish Parliament and that at any point in the last 25 years since the creation of the Scottish Parliament, Mayors with powers equivalent to those listed above could have been created for any, or all Scottish Cities; and that rather than devolving power from the Scottish Parliament to communities it has been the practice of the Scottish Government to hoard powers at Holyrood and fetter the discretion of Local Government by the introduction of Single Outcome Agreements, ring fenced budget allocations and an unwillingness to recognise the unique needs and qualities of different cities and regions across Scotland and requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the First Minister requesting that this practice ends and proper respect to Local Government is restored, in the first instance by passing on sufficient of the recent UK

Government largesse to local Government, so that we may fully meet all statutory requirements in the budget settlement in December.”

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Rust

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 2 and 3 were accepted as Amendments to Amendment 1.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion	-	23 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	32 votes
Abstentions		3

(For the Motion: Councillors Aston, Bandel, Booth, Burgess, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McNeese-Meechan, Mumford, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Staniforth and Work.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Rust, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte and Young.

Abstentions: Councillors Heap, McKenzie and Miller.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Amendment 1 by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the inaugural meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions organised by the UK Government was held on 11th October 2024 in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the concerns expressed in the motion that the Scottish Government was unable to adequately represent the interests of the Scottish Capital City within this forum.
- 3) To agree that the Council Leader should write to the First Minister to express these concerns and seek assurances on what actions the Scottish Government would take to champion Edinburgh and its interests at future meetings of the Council.

- 4) To understand that COSLA, speaks on behalf of Scottish Local Authorities and as agreed by Council Leaders across Scotland at a previous meeting, should have a seat at future meetings of the Nations and Regions.
- 5) To request that the Council Leader write to COSLA urging them to reaffirm this position with the Prime Minister.
- 6) To note that the power to create City Mayors was devolved to the Scottish Parliament and that at any point in the last 25 years since the creation of the Scottish Parliament, Mayors with powers equivalent to those listed above could have been created for any, or all Scottish Cities; and that rather than devolving power from the Scottish Parliament to communities it had been the practice of the Scottish Government to hoard powers at Holyrood and fetter the discretion of Local Government by the introduction of Single Outcome Agreements, ring fenced budget allocations and an unwillingness to recognise the unique needs and qualities of different cities and regions across Scotland and request that the Leader of the Council write to the First Minister requesting that this practice end and proper respect to Local Government be restored, in the first instance by passing on sufficient of the recent UK Government largesse to local Government, so that the Council might fully meet all statutory requirements in the budget settlement in December.

14 ATEC24 Telecare Alarm System – Migration to Digital– Motion by Councillor Aston

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes that the ATEC24 alarm system is provided to vulnerable people who require support to continue to live safely in their own homes and provision of this service sits within the remit of the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 2) Notes that the analogue telephone network is being phased out over the next few years in favour of a digital network, and that this necessitates the transfer of the ATEC24 system from analogue to digital, and that this was considered at the IJB Strategic Planning Group meeting on 4th December 2023, with the minutes of that meeting noted at Edinburgh Integration Joint Board on 9th February 2024.
- 3) Further notes that the migration of the ATEC24 telecare alarm system from analogue to digital entails the provision of new hardware (such as pendants) to service users.

- 4) However, notes with concern that there is reason to believe that not all service users have been provided with the requisite new digital-compatible hardware, and this would mean vulnerable people are being left without important support that they rely upon to continue to live in their own homes safely and with peace of mind.
- 5) Therefore, requests a report in one cycle to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on the implementation of the migration of the ATEC24 telecare alarm system from analogue to digital, including specific investigation into how many service users have not been provided with the requisite pendants and associated hardware and what steps are being taken to resolve these issues as a matter of urgency, with that report then being referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Aston.

- moved by Councillor Aston, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

Amendment

Deletes 4) and 5) in the motion by Councillor Aston and replaces with:

- “4) Notes that this work requires to be completed by March 2027, when the analogue service will be discontinued, and that work is currently on schedule to have users fully transitioned to the digital network by the end of 2025, more than a year prior to the scheduled date for the switchover.
- 5) Therefore requests a Member briefing on the rollout of this programme of work for information and assurance purposes.”

- moved by Councillor Pogson, seconded by Councillor Dalglish

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Aston:

- 1) To note that the ATEC24 alarm system was provided to vulnerable people who required support to continue to live safely in their own homes and provision of this service sat within the remit of the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 2) To note that the analogue telephone network was being phased out over the next few years in favour of a digital network, and that this necessitated the

transfer of the ATEC24 system from analogue to digital, and that this was considered at the IJB Strategic Planning Group meeting on 4th December 2023, with the minutes of that meeting noted at Edinburgh Integration Joint Board on 9th February 2024.

- 3) To further note that the migration of the ATEC24 telecare alarm system from analogue to digital entailed the provision of new hardware (such as pendants) to service users.
- 4) To note that this work required to be completed by March 2027, when the analogue service would be discontinued, and that work was currently on schedule to have users fully transitioned to the digital network by the end of 2025, more than a year prior to the scheduled date for the switchover.
- 5) To therefore request a member briefing on the rollout of this programme of work for information and assurance purposes.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Gardiner made a transparency statement in respect of the above item as a relative of his was a tenant of a Macrae flat.

15 City Architect Centenary – Motion by Councillor Gardiner

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

“Council Notes:

- 1) 2025 will be the hundredth anniversary of the appointment of Ebenezer James MacRae as City Architect for the City of Edinburgh, a post he held until retiring in 1946.
- 2) In the following year (1926), MacRae was also appointed as Director of Housing.
- 3) MacRae and his team thereafter were responsible for the design and delivery of high-quality social housing with good space standards and natural daylighting.
- 4) The works included new housing districts, schools and public buildings in the north, east and west of our city including: Piershill, Prestonfield, Stenhouse, Redbraes, Saughton, Whitson, Craigentenny, Granton and Craigmillar.
- 5) MacRae and his team were also responsible for designing and delivering sensitive urban social housing renewal in the Old Town and South Side.

Therefore, in order celebrate this important centenary Council requests that:

- 6) A report be prepared in two cycles to the appropriate committee, to consider mounting an exhibition of the work across the City of Edinburgh of MacRae and his team in the People’s Story Museum, Canongate Tolbooth.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Gardiner.

- moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

Amendment 1

Council

Adds new 6 directly after 5 in the motion by Councillor Gardiner and replaces present paragraph 6 with new paragraph 7 as follows:

- “6) Notes the Culture and Communities Committee in May 2023 agreed the Museums and Galleries Edinburgh Temporary Exhibitions Policy 2023–2026 which sets out the aims and objectives of the Policy and how requests for exhibitions can be considered.
- 7) Agrees a report to be prepared in two cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee, to consider the best ways to celebrate the work of Ebenezer James MacRae, including, but not limited to, mounting an exhibition of the work across the City of Edinburgh of MacRae and his team.”

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 2

Adds to the motion by Councillor Gardiner:

“The Report to include the costs of preparing any exhibition and whether there is any capacity in Council budgets to fund this.”

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Doggart

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	35 votes
For Amendment 1	-	22 votes
Abstentions	-	1

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Campbell, Cowdy, Dixon, Dobbin, Doggart, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Heap, Hyslop, Jones, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, Miller, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Parker, Rae, Rust, Staniforth, Whyte and Work

For Amendment 1: Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bennett, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Lang, Meagher, Osler, Pogson, Ross, Thornley, Walker, Watt and Young.

Abstentions: Councillor Munro.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Gardiner:

- 1) To note 2025 would be the hundredth anniversary of the appointment of Ebenezer James MacRae as City Architect for the City of Edinburgh, a post he held until retiring in 1946.
- 2) To note in the following year (1926), MacRae was also appointed as Director of Housing.
- 3) To note MacRae and his team thereafter were responsible for the design and delivery of high-quality social housing with good space standards and natural daylighting.
- 4) To note the works included new housing districts, schools and public buildings in the north, east and west of our city including: Piershill, Prestonfield, Stenhouse, Redbraes, Saughton, Whitson, Craigentiny, Granton and Craigmillar.
- 5) To note MacRae and his team were also responsible for designing and delivering sensitive urban social housing renewal in the Old Town and South Side.

Therefore, in order celebrate this important centenary Council requests that:

- 6) A report be prepared in two cycles to the appropriate committee, to consider mounting an exhibition of the work across the City of Edinburgh of MacRae

and his team in the People's Story Museum, Canongate Tolbooth, the Report to include the costs of preparing any exhibition and whether there was any capacity in Council budgets to fund this.

16 Mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting – Motion by Councillor Bandel

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

- “1) Notes that Participatory Budgeting (PB) is an internationally recognised approach to allocating budgets that has the potential to empower communities, reduce inequalities, improve good governance, drive public sector reform, and build better relationships between governments and their citizens.
- 2) Notes the 2017 framework agreement between COSLA and the Scottish Government, revised in 2021, to "[mainstream] PB within decisions on the allocation of existing resources across all council services" and allocate at least 1% of local government budgets through PB.
- 3) Notes and celebrates the success of previous Council PB processes, including the Edinburgh Community Climate Fund as well as £eith Chooses, one of the longest-running PB projects in Scotland.
- 4) Notes that academic research suggests that realising PB's potential to affect transformative social change requires multi-year processes and meaningful funding in order to mobilise marginalised citizens and make PB worth their time and participation.
- 5) Believes that preliminary proposals approved at Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2024 to allocate 2% of funding raised by the Visitor Levy using PB provide an opportunity for a sustainable, multi-year process.
- 6) Further believes that Council can build on these proposals and develop a stronger PB process by supplementing the budget raised by the Visitor Levy with a portion of mainstream service funding in order to create a more meaningful sum and embed PB as an approach to allocating budgets within council services.
- 7) Agrees that the aspiration of the council should be a move towards mainstreaming participatory budgeting which should seek to actively promote positive social justice outcomes, rather than solely using PB for individual 'pots' of money.

- 8) Finally, recognises that democratic processes such as PB can replicate structural inequalities, meaning that those who have greater access to time, education, and money are able to use democratic processes to advance their interests to a greater degree unless measures are put in place to overcome these barriers and ensure all citizens are able to participate equally. Further recognises the good practice of £eith Chooses in promoting an equitable process.
- 9) Therefore asks officers to provide a report within three cycles to Policy and Sustainability Committee presenting proposals for a pilot mainstream PB process, including suggestions for:
 - Services that would be suitable for a pilot;
 - Measures to tackle barriers to participation and ensure the equity of the process; and
 - Measures to promote social justice, for example redistributive mechanisms such as budget matrixes.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Bandel.

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor Rae

Amendment 1

Adds new point 7 to the motion by Councillor Bandel and renumbers accordingly:

- “7) That despite the council's efforts to implement PB, there are clear indicators that its approach has fallen short of fostering genuine engagement and meaningful participation. The council's current PB initiatives feel tokenistic except for “£eith Chooses”, providing communities with limited and isolated funding opportunities rather than integrating them into broader budgetary decisions. That community input is often supplementary rather than as a core component of service delivery and funding which misses the opportunity to align spending with residents’ real needs.”

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Dobbin

Amendment 2

Deletes all of the motion by Councillor Bandel and replaces with:

- 1) Council faces an extremely challenging financial landscape over the remainder of this Council term;

- 2) The cost of commissioning services will increase as a consequence of the UK government's anti-business and high tax Budget and these costs have not yet been included in projections for future Budgets;
- 3) Council has already surveyed city residents about expenditure priorities and possible areas of savings with very clear results. Council should consider the impact of these suggestions before considering other ways of spending taxpayers' money;
- 4) Council recognises it retains the democratic mandate for setting budgets and allocating money for city wide expenditure;
- 5) Consequently, Council defers any further consideration of participatory budgeting until the Council's finances are stable."

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an amendment 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 Aston, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Work and Young.

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 note that Participatory Budgeting (PB) was an internationally recognised approach to allocating budgets that had the potential to empower communities, reduce inequalities, improve good governance, drive public sector reform, and build better relationships between governments and their citizens.

- 2) To note the 2017 framework agreement between COSLA and the Scottish Government, revised in 2021, to "[mainstream] PB within decisions on the allocation of existing resources across all council services" and allocate at least 1% of local government budgets through PB.
- 3) To note and celebrate the success of previous Council PB processes, including the Edinburgh Community Climate Fund as well as £eith Chooses, one of the longest-running PB projects in Scotland.
- 4) To note that academic research suggests that realising PB's potential to affect transformative social change required multi-year processes and meaningful funding in order to mobilise marginalised citizens and make PB worth their time and participation.
- 5) To believe that preliminary proposals approved at Policy and Sustainability Committee in August 2024 to allocate 2% of funding raised by the Visitor Levy using PB provided an opportunity for a sustainable, multi-year process.
- 6) To further believe that Council could build on these proposals and develop a stronger PB process by supplementing the budget raised by the Visitor Levy with a portion of mainstream service funding in order to create a more meaningful sum and embed PB as an approach to allocating budgets within council services.
- 7) That despite the council's efforts to implement PB, there were clear indicators that its approach had fallen short of fostering genuine engagement and meaningful participation. The council's current PB initiatives felt tokenistic except for "£eith Chooses", providing communities with limited and isolated funding opportunities rather than integrating them into broader budgetary decisions. That community input was often supplementary rather than as a core component of service delivery and funding which missed the opportunity to align spending with residents' real needs.
- 8) To agree that the aspiration of the council should be a move towards mainstreaming participatory budgeting which should seek to actively promote positive social justice outcomes, rather than solely using PB for individual 'pots' of money.
- 9) Finally, to recognise that democratic processes such as PB could replicate structural inequalities, meaning that those who had greater access to time, education, and money were able to use democratic processes to advance their interests to a greater degree unless measures were put in place to overcome these barriers and ensure all citizens were able to participate equally. Further recognises the good practice of £eith Chooses in promoting an equitable process.

- 10) To therefore ask officers to provide a report within three cycles to Policy and Sustainability Committee presenting proposals for a pilot mainstream PB process, including suggestions for:
- Services that would be suitable for a pilot;
 - Measures to tackle barriers to participation and ensure the equity of the process; and
 - Measures to promote social justice, for example redistributive mechanisms such as budget matrixes.

17 Low-cost Zebra Crossings – Motion by Councillor Ross

The following motion by Councillor Ross was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22(6):

“Council:

- 1) Notes the motion passed by the Council on 25 November 2021 entitled ‘Call for Action on Zebra Markings for Side Streets’. Notes that the proposed side road zebra markings - that do not use expensive Belisha Beacons or zigzags - are in common use across the world to give greater priority to pedestrians when crossing quieter roads. They are also in widespread use across the UK in supermarket car parks and airports and are already authorised for use on protected cycle tracks. The crossings typically cost around £1,000 compared to £40,000 for a zebra crossing with Belisha Beacons.
- 2) Notes on 4 December 2023, the Council and Transform Scotland co-hosted a hybrid event to publicise a study into continental-style zebra crossings, undertaken recently by Edinburgh Napier University, and a joint letter was sent to Scottish Ministers, from Transform Scotland and interested local authorities. In addition, the Council announced plans to undertake a study of its own to monitor the operation of existing continental-style zebras in Edinburgh.
- 3) Notes that an application for £42,750 to fund the study was submitted to the Road Safety Trust, with the Council providing a further £17,000 to cover internal costs and monitoring/analysis costs. The study will include
 - a) a **literature and policy review** to establish a baseline of existing research, and demonstrate where these measures fit within national and local policy;
 - b) **Monitoring and evaluation** of the operation of existing continental style zebras in Edinburgh, at locations which are not on the public road network, to provide data on level of use and user compliance; and

- c) A **Safety Risk Assessment** to provide an analysis of hazards and risks related to continental-style zebras, and determine acceptability of proposals from a safety perspective, and if required, identify additional control measures if needed for acceptability.
- 4) Notes the Council was recently unsuccessful in its funding application and intends to submit a revised application in November for the next round of funding.
- 5) Reaffirms that pedestrians are at the top of the transport hierarchy and that pedestrian safety is therefore the top priority of the Council's Active Travel strategy.
- 6) Notes the very long list of expensive pedestrian crossing facilities already approved for future delivery by the Council and the low-cost opportunity presented by continental-style zebras.
- 7) Notes the recent approval of a motion entitled 'Improving safety around schools' and its request for a review of all statutory powers available to the Council to make road safety improvements around schools.
- 8) Therefore requests that, in the absence of adequate funding being secured from the Road Safety Trust or elsewhere, consideration is given by the Transport and Environment Committee to meeting the cost of the study from the Active Travel budget.
- 9) Also requests that the Transport & Environment Committee considers the basis of the study on continental style low-cost zebras, outlined at 3. above, once funding decisions are known with a view to giving approval to proceed with the study."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Ross.

- moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Osler

Amendment 1

Replace 8) in the motion by Councillor Ross with:

"8) Requests a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in two cycles to consider meeting the cost of the study from the Active Travel budget."

- moved by Councillor Jenkinson, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 2

- 1) Insert after 6) in the motion by Councillor Ross and renumber accordingly:

“Notes that in the present economic circumstances, any means by which infrastructure can be maintained or improved, at lower cost merits investigation.”

- 2) Insert after 7) in the motion and renumber accordingly:

“Notes that an increase in the number of zebra crossings would be particularly useful to vulnerable pedestrians and those with limited mobility and consequently improve the accessibility of the city’s roads.”

- 3) Insert at the end of point 8 in the motion, removing the full stop following “budget”:

“Or any other appropriate revenue stream that could be reprioritised within Transport funding following discussion at the committee.”

- moved by Councillor Munro, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as amendments to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Ross:

- 1) To note the motion passed by the Council on 25 November 2021 entitled ‘Call for Action on Zebra Markings for Side Streets’. To note that the proposed side road zebra markings - that did not use expensive Belisha Beacons or zigzags - were in common use across the world to give greater priority to pedestrians when crossing quieter roads. They were also in widespread use across the UK in supermarket car parks and airports and were already authorised for use on protected cycle tracks. The crossings typically cost around £1,000 compared to £40,000 for a zebra crossing with Belisha Beacons.
- 2) To note on 4 December 2023, the Council and Transform Scotland co-hosted a hybrid event to publicise a study into continental-style zebra crossings, undertaken recently by Edinburgh Napier University, and a joint letter was sent to Scottish Ministers, from Transform Scotland and interested local authorities. In addition, the Council announced plans to undertake a study of its own to monitor the operation of existing continental-style zebras in Edinburgh.

- 3) To note that an application for £42,750 to fund the study was submitted to the Road Safety Trust, with the Council providing a further £17,000 to cover internal costs and monitoring/analysis costs. The study would include
 - a) a **literature and policy review** to establish a baseline of existing research, and demonstrate where these measures fit within national and local policy;
 - b) **Monitoring and evaluation** of the operation of existing continental style zebras in Edinburgh, at locations which are not on the public road network, to provide data on level of use and user compliance; and
 - c) A **Safety Risk Assessment** to provide an analysis of hazards and risks related to continental-style zebras, and determine acceptability of proposals from a safety perspective, and if required, identify additional control measures if needed for acceptability.
- 4) To note the Council was recently unsuccessful in its funding application and intends to submit a revised application in November for the next round of funding.
- 5) To reaffirm that pedestrians were at the top of the transport hierarchy and that pedestrian safety was therefore the top priority of the Council's Active Travel strategy.
- 6) To note the very long list of expensive pedestrian crossing facilities already approved for future delivery by the Council and the low-cost opportunity presented by continental-style zebras.
- 7) To note that in the present economic circumstances, any means by which infrastructure could be maintained or improved, at lower cost merited investigation.
- 8) To note the recent approval of a motion entitled 'Improving safety around schools' and its request for a review of all statutory powers available to the Council to make road safety improvements around schools.
- 9) To note that an increase in the number of zebra crossings would be particularly useful to vulnerable pedestrians and those with limited mobility and consequently improve the accessibility of the city's roads.
- 10) To request a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in two cycles to consider meeting the cost of the study from the Active Travel budget or any other appropriate revenue stream that could be reprioritised within Transport funding following discussion at the committee.

- 11) To also request that the Transport and Environment Committee consider the basis of the study on continental style low-cost zebras, outlined at 3. above, once funding decisions were known with a view to giving approval to proceed with the study.

18 Film Studies – Motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

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

“Council notes that the welcome opening of a film studio in Leith was a significant boost to the Scottish film industry, helping transform Edinburgh into more than just a film location, but a centre for well-paid and highly skilled motion picture and television industry employment.

Council welcomes the fact that many of our secondary school students now have the opportunity to pursue film studies with the goal of applying the skills they learn to good jobs here, rather than needing to move abroad for work.

Council however also notes that some students lack proper equipment to advance their practical studies, instead relying on school tablets to make their video projects. This is much more likely to be the case for students in areas of high SIMD.

In order for the benefits of film and television career opportunities to be enjoyed by all of our young people, Council requests that officers explore ways of increasing access to equipment such as tripods and video cameras across those schools currently offering film studies, and look to expand provision through avenues such as, but not limited to, sponsorship from visiting film companies on location in the city. A report or business bulletin update comes to Education, Children and Families Committee in three cycles.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

- moved by Councillor McNeese-Mechan, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

Amendment 1

Deletes in the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan, from:

“A report or business bulletin update comes to Education, Children and Families Committee in three cycles”

And replaces with:

“Council understands that:

Screen Scotland has a new SQV qualification that they are currently piloting in a few Local Authorities in Scotland including Drummond High School in Edinburgh.

Screen Scotland further invests in most of the film and TV productions that come to Scotland.

Council requests:

Officers meet with Screen Scotland to discuss any further opportunities they can offer our young people in Edinburgh.

A business bulletin update to Education, Children and Families Committee once the information is available.”

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 2

Council

1) Adds a new paragraph 3 to the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan:

“Council notes that pilot projects are taking place regarding a new Film and Screen SVQ at several Scottish Schools including at Drummond High School and believes that these pilots should be resourced properly by the Scottish Government and Screen Scotland including support for the provision of appropriate equipment.

2) After “in the city” in Paragraph 4 of the motion adds:

“This should include the Convenor of Education, Children and Families Committee writing to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Screen Scotland to ask what support they can provide to support the new qualification.”

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Lang

Amendment 3

Deletes last 2 paragraphs in the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan from “Council however also notes...” and replaces with:

‘Council notes that schools are required to have the necessary equipment to support students through their chosen courses and that modern devices such as iPads can offer high quality media tools.

Council further notes the pressures on ECF budgets are so significant that Headteachers already face very difficult funding decisions, but should any schools

wish, they could seek sponsorship or advice through organisations such as the Council's own Film Edinburgh or through Screen Scotland who offer funding from £500 to £5,000 for schools from Early Years, Primary or Secondary stages.'

- moved by Councillor Cowdy, seconded by Councillor Rust

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 3 were accepted as amendments to the Motion, and Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Decision

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

- 1) To note that the welcome opening of a film studio in Leith was a significant boost to the Scottish film industry, helping transform Edinburgh into more than just a film location, but a centre for well-paid and highly skilled motion picture and television industry employment.
- 2) To welcome the fact that many of our secondary school students now had the opportunity to pursue film studies with the goal of applying the skills they learn to good jobs here, rather than needing to move abroad for work.
- 3) To note that pilot projects were taking place regarding a new Film and Screen SVQ at several Scottish Schools including at Drummond High School and believe that these pilots should be resourced properly by the Scottish Government and Screen Scotland including support for the provision of appropriate equipment.
- 4) To note that schools were required to have the necessary equipment to support students through their chosen courses and that modern devices such as iPads could offer high quality media tools.
- 5) To further note the pressures on ECF budgets were so significant that Headteachers already faced very difficult funding decisions, but should any schools wish, they could seek sponsorship or advice through organisations such as the Council's own Film Edinburgh or through Screen Scotland who offered funding from £500 to £5,000 for schools from Early Years, Primary or Secondary stages.'
- 6) To understand that Screen Scotland had a new SQV qualification that they were currently piloting in a few Local Authorities in Scotland including Drummond High School in Edinburgh.
- 7) To understand that Screen Scotland further invested in most of the film and TV productions that came to Scotland.

- 8) The Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee should write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Screen Scotland to ask what support they can provide to support the new qualification. Alongside this to request officers meet with Screen Scotland to discuss any further opportunities they could offer the young people in Edinburgh.
- 9) To request a business bulletin update to Education, Children and Families Committee once the information is available.

19 Recognising Traditional Festivals in Edinburgh – Motion by Councillor Hyslop

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

“Council notes:

- 1) That Hallowe'en is considered by many to have originated in Scotland with etymology originating from the Scots language and traditions rooted in the Celtic festival of Samhain.
- 2) That Samhain is a festival in Celtic cultures which marks the end of the harvest season and the start of the Celtic New Year on the 1st of November. It has been celebrated by Celtic peoples including those indigenous to Britain and Ireland for thousands of years.
- 3) The Christian celebration of All Saints Day was moved to November 1st in the 8th Century to coincide with the Celtic festival, Samhain. The evening before All Saints' Day became "Hallowe'en" which directly evolved from the Scots words "Hallow" meaning Saint, and "E'en" meaning evening.
- 4) The important work that the Beltane Fire Society has done in Edinburgh since 1988 to revive traditional Celtic cultural festivals including Samhain which has been celebrated in Edinburgh every year since 1995.

Council Agrees:

- 5) That there is nowhere better to be the cultural home of Hallowe'en and Samhain than Edinburgh, as the capital city of Scotland.
- 6) That customs and practices of Edinburgh's traditional Scottish festivals and holidays are worth preserving and that more could be done to enhance and celebrate them.
- 7) That ahead of the 30 year anniversary of Samhain festival celebrations in Edinburgh next year, the Council should consider what more could be done to

recognise the traditional cultural festivals that are celebrated in Edinburgh, including Halloween and Samhain.

- 8) Although not possible to mark every important cultural date in Edinburgh's calendar with a public holiday, but that our chosen public holidays should be a reflection of our values as a Council.

Therefore:

- 9) Council agrees to receive a report to Policy and Sustainability Committee within 3 cycles which outlines what is being done to mark the traditional cultural festivals that are celebrated in the City. The report should include a breakdown of current local public holidays that the Council currently observes and set out options to review them."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Hyslop.

- moved by Councillor Hyslop, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Meehan

Amendment

To take no action on the motion by Councillor Hyslop.

- moved by Councillor Dalglish, seconded by Councillor Whyte

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	17 votes
For the amendment	-	39 votes
Abstentions	-	2

(For the motion: Councillors Aston, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meehan, Nicolson, Nols-McVey and Work.

For the amendment: Lord Provost, Councillors Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalglish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Griffiths, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumford, Munro, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Rust, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte and Young.

Abstentions: Councillors Heap and Miller.)

Decision

To take no action on the motion by Councillor Hyslop.

20 Emily's Test – Motion by Councillor Kumar

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

“Council notes:

That gender-based violence remains a pervasive issue across the UK, with 1 in 3 women experiencing some form of domestic abuse or sexual violence in their lifetime.

In education settings, the problem is equally alarming. A 2023 report by the UK Department for Education revealed that nearly 1 in 5 girls have experienced sexual violence in schools and colleges across the UK. This highlights the critical need for targeted interventions within educational institutions.

With sadness, the tragic loss of Emily Drouet, an undergraduate law student who took her own life in 2016 following domestic abuse and violence at university by her boyfriend, is remembered.

Council commends Emily's mother, Fiona Drouet, who, in honour of her daughter's life, established Emily's Test (www.emilytest.org). This initiative seeks to tackle gender-based violence in education settings by providing essential training, support, and awareness resources for staff and students.

Council recognises their tireless efforts to address and combat gender-based violence through the EmilyTest Charter, which aims to make training and awareness accessible to all university staff and students, thereby fostering safer learning environments.

Notes that, while a number of universities and colleges across Scotland have already signed up to the EmilyTest Charter, it is concerning that not a single educational institution in Edinburgh has yet committed to this important initiative.

The Council, therefore, requests that efforts are made at the Edinburgh Partnership level by Council Leader, and through communication from council officers, to engage with all universities and colleges in Edinburgh. The aim is to make these institutions aware of Emily's Test and strongly encourage their participation in this life-saving program by signing up to the EmilyTest Charter.

Agrees to report on the progress of this word through a business bulletin to the Education, Children, and Families committee in three cycles.

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Kumar.

- moved by Councillor Hyslop, seconded by Councillor Nicolson

Amendment 1

“Council notes:

That gender-based violence remains a pervasive issue across the UK, with 1 in 3 women experiencing some form of domestic abuse or sexual violence in their lifetime.

In education settings, the problem is equally alarming. A 2023 report by the UK Department for Education revealed that nearly 1 in 5 girls have experienced sexual violence in schools and colleges across the UK. This highlights the critical need for targeted interventions within educational institutions.

With sadness, the tragic loss of Emily Drouet, an undergraduate law student who took her own life in 2016 following domestic abuse and violence at university by her boyfriend, is remembered.

Council commends Emily’s mother, Fiona Drouet, who, in honour of her daughter's life, established Emily’s Test (www.emilytest.org). This initiative seeks to tackle gender-based violence in education settings by providing essential training, support, and awareness resources for staff and students.

Council recognises their tireless efforts to address and combat gender-based violence through the EmilyTest Charter, which aims to make training and awareness accessible to all university staff and students, thereby fostering safer learning environments.

Notes that, while a number of universities and colleges across Scotland have already signed up to the EmilyTest Charter, it is concerning that not a single educational institution in Edinburgh has yet committed to this important initiative.

The Council, therefore, requests that efforts are made at the Edinburgh Partnership level by Council Leader, and through communication from council officers, to engage with all universities and colleges in Edinburgh with the aim to make these institutions aware of Emily’s Test and strongly encourage their participation in this life-saving program by signing up to the EmilyTest Charter.

That this work should complement existing work of the Equally Safe Committee continues their engagement with universities and colleges in Edinburgh with the aim that higher and further education institutions incorporate the principles of the Emily’s

Test Charter into the work that they are doing to recognise and respond to GBV (Gender Based Violence).

Work that is ongoing includes: Consent Matters training for students, Report and Support platforms, active links with SARCs (Sexual Abuse Referral Centres), Active Bystander training, training for student leaders and welfare officers, Lime Culture training and policy creation/revision to better respond to GBV.

Agrees to receive report on the progress of this work through the Equally Safe Committee updates to the Policy and Sustainability Committee and to Business Bulletin at the Education, Children and Families Committee.”

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Nols-McVey

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted in place of the motion.

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Kumar.

21 Urban Seagulls – Motion by Councillor Mitchell

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes concerns expressed by residents and businesses regarding the number of urban seagulls nesting in the city, especially within tenement areas, and the negative impact this is having on amenity and health.
- 2) Agrees that the Council Leader shall write to the Scottish Government requesting they instruct NatureScot to adapt the licensing scheme to allow local authorities more ability to react and control the numbers of seagulls and their nests within urban areas, and that these adaptations should support residents’ licence applications as well.
- 3) Further agrees that the Council Leader shall write to NatureScot informing them of concerns about the lack of flexibility for local authorities and residents to control urban seagulls and their nests within urban areas and the associated health impacts and notify them of the request made to the Scottish Government.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Mitchell.

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Bruce

Amendment

Deletes all of the motion by Councillor Mitchell and replaces with:

- 1) Notes that there is no such species as a 'seagull' and that there are in fact 50+ species of gull worldwide, 6 of which commonly breed in the UK including Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls (the 2 species that nest on roofs). Further notes that the population of Herring Gulls is in serious decline making them a red-listed species and UK conservation priority.
- 2) Believes that advocating for action to kill species which are designated as a UK conservation priority would make a mockery of the Council's declaration of a nature emergency and undermine Council investment in measures to tackle this.
- 3) Notes the council has undertaken numerous studies and actions in an attempt to limit the impact of gulls on residents, going back at least to 2009, including a gull denesting pilot in 2012, and that none of these actions have been successful.
- 4) Recognises that all species of gull are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 making it illegal to intentionally or recklessly injure or kill any gull, or damage or destroy an active nest or its contents. Nevertheless, notes that the current law does recognise that, in extreme circumstances, control measures may be necessary and government licences can allow the killing of urban gulls only as a last resort, for example, where a significant risk to public health or safety has been identified. Therefore, considers that there is no need for any change in the Nature Scot licencing regime.
- 5) Understands that the best action the Council can take to manage possible conflicts between humans and gulls in urban settings is to take meaningful action to address the climate and nature emergencies in order to reverse the degradation of the natural habitats of gull species, as well as to reduce waste in order to make the urban environment less attractive to them."

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Bandel

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	9 votes
For the amendment	-	50 votes

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

For the Amendment: Lord Provost, Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Work and Young.)

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Parker.

22 Gorgie Farm Implementation of Culture and Communities Committee Decision – Motion by Councillor Heap

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes that it has expressed the view that Gorgie Farm should re-open, even if only partially, as soon as possible.
- 2) Regrets that neither the public nor even volunteer gardening group, the latter of which had access until recently, can access the farm

Council further notes:

- 3) That, on October 3, the Culture and Communities Committee unanimously made the following requests:
 - a) A note within one week explaining why the whole site is not currently safe and why not even the garden areas cannot be safely accessed.
 - b) That Council will take the necessary steps to make site safe at the earliest opportunity, so that volunteers are able to return to the garden area.

- c) That the next stage of the bid process for the farm will make clear that the Council's expectation is that any part of the site that can be safely opened to volunteers and to the public will be opened without delay after the lease is awarded.
- 4) That a briefing note issued to the Culture and Communities Committee:
- a) In respect of 3(a), did not explain why the garden areas cannot be safely accessed.
 - b) In respect of 3(b), did not indicate what steps can be taken to make the site safe, to allow the return of volunteers.
 - c) In respect of 3(c), appeared to suggest this would not be progressed.

Council therefore:

- 5) Requests a report to the December meeting covering the following:
- a) The safety information referred to in 3(a).
 - b) A plan to realise the aim referred to in 3(b).
 - c) A plan to realise the aim referred to in 3(c)."

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Heap.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Booth

Amendment 1

Adds to the motion by Councillor Heap:

"Council

Recognises that there are practical and financial implications to reopening the site safely at this stage.

Agrees to refer the motion to Finance and Resources Committee."

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

Amendment 2

Council adds to point 5 of the motion by Councillor Heap:

“d) Cost and resources required to realise 3 b) and how that will be managed so that volunteers are able to return to the garden at the earliest opportunity.”

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Heap:

- 1) To note that the Council had expressed the view that Gorgie Farm should re-open, even if only partially, as soon as possible.
- 2) To regrets that neither the public nor even volunteer gardening group, the latter of which had access until recently, could access the farm.
- 3) To further note that, on October 3, the Culture and Communities Committee [unanimously made the following requests:](#)
 - a) A note within one week explaining why the whole site is not currently safe and why not even the garden areas cannot be safely accessed;
 - b) That Council will take the necessary steps to make site safe at the earliest opportunity, so that volunteers are able to return to the garden area;
 - c) That the next stage of the bid process for the farm will make clear that the Council's expectation is that any part of the site that can be safely opened to volunteers and to the public will be opened without delay after the lease is awarded.
- 4) To note that a briefing note issued to the Culture and Communities Committee:
 - a) In respect of 3(a), did not explain why the garden areas cannot be safely accessed;
 - b) In respect of 3(b), did not indicate what steps can be taken to make the site safe, to allow the return of volunteers;
 - c) In respect of 3(c), appeared to suggest this would not be progressed.

- 5) To therefore request a report to the December meeting covering the following:
 - a) The safety information referred to in 4(a);
 - b) A plan to realise the aim referred to in 4(b);
 - c) A plan to realise the aim referred to in 4(c);
 - d) Cost and resources required to realise 3 b) and how that will be managed so that volunteers are able to return to the garden at the earliest opportunity
- 6) To recognise that there were practical and financial implications to reopening the site safely at this stage.
- 7) To agree to refer the motion to Finance and Resources Committee.

23 UK Budget – Motion by Councillor Day

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

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

Council;

Welcomes the first new UK Budget in 14 years announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 30th October 2024.

Acknowledges the additional Barnett Consequentials for Scotland are estimated at £3.4 billion which represents the largest real-terms funding settlement since devolution.

Understands an additional spend of some £1.3 billion., generated from local government spending in England, would give rise to positive Barnett Consequentials and increase the Scottish Government's overall level of block grant.

Notes that under devolved arrangements, allocation of total Barnett Consequentials will be determined by the Scottish Government.

Calls on the Scottish Government to allocate these consequentials to local government in the draft Budget when it is published on 4 December.

Requests the Leader of the Council write to the First Minister to ensure this additional revenue is passed onto the City of Edinburgh Council, as the lowest per head funded local authority in Scotland, in full without any ringfencing of funds.”

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

Council

- 1) Deletes “welcomes” and inserts “notes” in the motion by Councillor Day.
- 2) Adds at the end of the motion:

“Notes the changes in the Budget to employer national insurance contributions which could bring additional liabilities for the Council as an employer of some £18m.

Agrees the Council and other local authorities should be compensated fully to avoid this additional cost, and that the Council Leader press Ministers and work through COSLA to ensure these costs are covered through additional funding.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Young

Amendment 2

Deletes first paragraph in the motion by Councillor Day and replaces with:

“Council notes the high tax high spend Budget presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 30 October 2024. The increase in employer National Insurance Contributions will have a devastating impact on employers across the city, whether running businesses and jobs, or providing services purchased by the Council. The impact of such increases will inevitably have consequences for Council Budgets and services.”

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an amendment to the Motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	49 votes
For Amendment 2	-	9 votes
Abstentions	-	1

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Flannery, Fullerton,

Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Key, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O'Neill, Osler, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Work and Young.

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

Abstentions: Councillor McNeese Mechan.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the first new UK Budget in 14 years announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 30th October 2024.
- 2) To acknowledge the additional Barnett Consequentials for Scotland were estimated at £3.4 billion which represented the largest real-terms funding settlement since devolution.
- 3) To understand an additional spend of some £1.3 billion, generated from local government spending in England, would give rise to positive Barnett Consequentials and increase the Scottish Government's overall level of block grant.
- 4) To note that under devolved arrangements, allocation of total Barnett Consequentials would be determined by the Scottish Government.
- 5) To call on the Scottish Government to allocate these consequentials to local government in the draft Budget when it was published on 4 December.
- 6) To request the Leader of the Council write to the First Minister to ensure this additional revenue was passed onto the City of Edinburgh Council, as the lowest per head funded local authority in Scotland, in full without any ringfencing of funds.
- 7) To note the changes in the Budget to employer national insurance contributions which could bring additional liabilities for the Council as an employer of some £18m.
- 8) To agree the Council and other local authorities should be compensated fully to avoid this additional cost, and that the Council Leader press Ministers and work through COSLA to ensure these costs were covered through additional funding.

24 Fireworks Disturbance – Motion by Councillor Day

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

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

“Council;

Notes the widespread disruption in the lead up to, and on Fireworks night across the city.

Further notes the in-depth engagement done in the runup to Fireworks Night, with Council Officers meeting with Police, Fire and Rescue and Crown Office officials.

Understands the Council Leader has been in contact with emergency services and Council staff since the disturbances on 31st October, has spoken with Lothian buses drivers at their depot on 1st of November and accompanied them that night to learn first hand of the pressures they are facing.

Commends the work of the police, emergency services, Lothian Buses, council officers, including colleagues in waste services, who were on the scene to clear up the debris, and the local community for their steadfastness during the disturbance and condemns the actions of the minority of people who took part in the violent disorder.

Requests the Council Leader write to the Lord Advocate asking her to support stronger sentences and harsher punishments against those that attack emergency workers, Lothian Buses staff and members of the public.

Further requests the Leader write to the UK and Scottish Government to support a ban on the public sale of fireworks across the whole city.

Finally requests the Council Leader write to Edinburgh MPs and MSPs, calling on them to support this proposal.”

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

Amendment 1

Council deletes the final two paragraphs of the motion by Councillor Day and inserts:

“Agrees that a report be presented to the Culture & Communities Committee in two cycles, setting out

- a) the lessons learned from the first year of using firework control zones in Edinburgh,
- b) what additional options exist within existing powers to take further action in future to prevent and tackle firework misuse, and
- c) what additional powers could usefully be given to the Council to strengthen its ability to act to protect local communities.”

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 2

- 1) Deletes paragraph 5 in the motion by Councillor Day (requesting the Council Leader write to the Lord Advocate) and replaces with:

“Recognises policies which prioritise public health rather than criminalisation are both more effective in tackling problem behaviours and more appropriate in meeting the holistic needs of individuals and communities.

Therefore, requests that the Council Leader convene a meeting with elected representatives from the wards most affected by the disturbances this year, the emergency services, Lothian buses, community centres and youth workers to discuss what actions are needed year-round to prevent these events occurring again in 2025.”

- 2) Adds a new paragraph to the motion:

“Recognising that many former sellers of fireworks, including Sainsburys and Waitrose, have ceased to sell fireworks out of respect for public opinion, also requests the Council Leader write to known vendors of fireworks in the city asking them to voluntarily cease fireworks sales, offering those who respond positively an appropriate recognition of this, such as a marque to display in store windows.”

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Heap

Amendment 3

- 1) Deletes the following paragraph in the motion by Councillor Day:

“Requests the Council Leader write to the Lord Advocate asking her to support stronger sentences and harsher punishments against those that attack emergency workers, Lothian Buses staff and members of the public.”

And replaces with:

“Notes the mounting evidence that longer sentences don’t act as a deterrent or reduce crime, only making it more likely that offenders will reoffend and have poorer life outcomes. Requests the council leader write to the Lord Advocate to request a range of justice approaches are considered, including but not limited to restorative justice and learning from organisations such as The Vow Project and Turn Your Life Around.”

2) Amends the following paragraph in the motion:

“Further requests the Leader write to the UK and Scottish Government to support a ban on the public sale of fireworks across the whole city **by amending UK legislations on Fireworks Regulations 2004 and Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015.**”

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion, and Amendments 2 and 3 were accepted as amendments to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 2 and 3 were adjusted and accepted as amendments to Amendment 1.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	38 votes
For Amendment 1(as adjusted)	-	21 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Booth, Burgess, Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell, Dalgleish, Day, Dixon, Dobbin, Faccenda, Fullerton, Gardiner, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Heap, Hyslop, Jenkinson, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, Meagher, Miller, Mumford, Nicolson, Nols-McVey, O’Neill, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Staniforth, Walker, Watt and Work.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Beal, Bennett, Bruce, Caldwell, Cowdy, Davidson, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Flannery, Jones, Lang, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Osler, Ross, Rust, Thornley, Whyte and Young.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the widespread disruption in the lead up to, and on Fireworks night across the city.
- 2) To further note the in-depth engagement done in the runup to Fireworks Night, with Council Officers meeting with Police, Fire and Rescue and Crown Office officials.
- 3) To understand the Council Leader had been in contact with emergency services and Council staff since the disturbances on 31st October, had spoken with Lothian buses drivers at their depot on 1st of November and accompanied them that night to learn first hand of the pressures they were facing.
- 4) To commend the work of the police, emergency services, Lothian Buses, council officers, including colleagues in waste services, who were on the scene to clear up the debris, and the local community for their steadfastness during the disturbance and condemn the actions of the minority of people who took part in the violent disorder.
- 5) To recognise policies which prioritised public health rather than criminalisation were both more effective in tackling problem behaviours and more appropriate in meeting the holistic needs of individuals and communities.
- 6) To note the mounting evidence that longer sentences did not act as a deterrent or reduce crime, only making it more likely that offenders would reoffend and have poorer life outcomes. To request the council leader write to the Lord Advocate to request a range of justice approaches be considered, including but not limited to restorative justice and learning from organisations such as The Vow Project and Turn Your Life Around.
- 7) To therefore, request that the Council Leader convene a meeting with elected representatives from the wards most affected by the disturbances this year, the emergency services, Lothian buses, community centres and youth workers to discuss what actions were needed year-round to prevent these events occurring again in 2025.
- 8) To further request the Leader write to the UK and Scottish Government to support a ban on the public sale of fireworks across the whole city by amending UK legislations on Fireworks Regulations 2004 and Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015.
- 9) To request the Council Leader write to Edinburgh MPs and MSPs, calling on them to support this proposal.

- 10) Recognising that many former sellers of fireworks, including Sainsburys and Waitrose, had ceased to sell fireworks out of respect for public opinion, to also request the Council Leader write to known vendors of fireworks in the city asking them to voluntarily cease fireworks sales, offering those who responded positively an appropriate recognition of this, such as a marque to display in store windows.
- 11) To agree that a report be presented to the Culture and Communities Committee in two cycles, setting out
 - a) the lessons learned from the first year of using firework control zones in Edinburgh,
 - b) what additional options exist within existing powers to take further action in future to prevent and tackle firework misuse, and
 - c) what additional powers could usefully be given to the Council to strengthen its ability to act to protect local communities.

25 City Centre Ward Councillors - Cowgate – Motion by Councillor Mowat

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

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

“Council expresses its sincere condolences on the death of the resident in the Cowgate on Saturday 2nd November; and recognises it cannot make comment on this matter whilst it is being investigated by Police Scotland:

However, Council notes that the current position of the Council is that traffic in the Cowgate should be reduced which was reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in February and May this year.

Council therefore agrees that, in order to address the concerns of residents and the ward councillors, that a report on the progress of this work stream is made to the Transport and Environment Committee on 18th November 2024.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Graham.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mowat.

26 Jim Hollington, Dance Base – Motion by Councillor McFarlane

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

“Council:

Notes that Jim Hollington, Chief Executive Officer of Dance Base will leave his post on the 15th of November 2024 with the appointment of Jeanie Scott as his successor.

Agrees that as Scotland’s National Centre for Dance, Dance Base is a critically important cultural organisation both to the city, nationally and internationally and notes Jim’s leadership of the organisation through the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent challenging financial circumstances. In particular, the council commends his work to support artists to maintain their practice through these times.

Council therefore agrees that the Lord Provost writes to Jeanie welcoming her to her new post.

Council further agrees that the Lord Provost writes to Jim to wish him well for his future endeavours, thanking him for his service in this key role and noting the impact of his tenure at Dance Base.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McFarlane.

27 45th Anniversary of the Pilmeny Development Project – Motion by Councillor Dalgleish

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

“Council:

Notes that 2024 was the 45th Anniversary of the opening of the Pilmeny Development Project, with this project being based in the Lorne area of Leith Walk since 1979.

Notes the important and positive impact this project has had on Edinburgh and its residents, with over 2,300 volunteer hours being committed in 2022/23 to assist local residents in practical support such as foodbank deliveries, gardening, accompanying residents to medical appointments, including 2,874 calls made for befriending and service advice.

Extends its congratulations to the staff, volunteers and users of Pilmeny Development Project who have had such a positive impact working alongside the various communities in Edinburgh for 45 years.

Asks the Lord Provost to recognise this milestone in an appropriate manner.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Dalglish.

28 Long Service Award from Girlguiding Edinburgh – Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

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

“Council;

Notes and warmly congratulates Ms Dorothy Walker on receiving a Long Service Award from Girlguiding Edinburgh at their recent Annual Gathering on 28th September 2024, marking Dorothy’s 60 years of voluntary service to the 41st City of Edinburgh Guide Unit.

Requests the Lord Provost to convey our appreciation and congratulations to Dorothy on reaching the amazing milestone of 60 years of dedicated service and commitment to the Brownies in Leith and the wider Edinburgh Girlguiding Movement.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

29 Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams National Transport Awards – Motion by Councillor Jenkinson

The following motion by Councillor Jenkinson was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22(6):

“Council:

Understands both Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams won at the National Transport Awards 2024 event in London on the 3rd of October.

Notes that both won the Bus and Tram Operator of the Year, the top prize across the whole UK.

Gathers that the recognition is testament to the quality of the integrated, green and affordable transport network which serves our cities visitors and residents each day.

Asks the Lord Provost to mark this achievement in an appropriate manner.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Jenkinson.

30 Gracemount Leisure Centre – Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

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

“Council:

Notes with pride and delight that Gracemount Leisure Centre was awarded the Regional Club/Centre of the Year 2024 in Scotland category at the UKACTIVE AWARDS 2024 held in Birmingham on Thursday 3rd October.

Warmly congratulates everyone in the Gracemount Leisure Centre Team and Edinburgh Leisure on winning this prestigious award and asks the Lord Provost to formally recognise this success in what is a very competitive sector in an appropriate manner.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

31 Evie Murray – Climate Action Awards Lifetime Achievement Winner – Motion by Councillor Booth

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

“Council:

- 1) Congratulates Evie Murray, Chief Executive of Earth in Common, the organisation behind Leith Community Croft and other initiatives, for being awarded a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the Climate Action Awards 2024;
- 2) Notes that this award reflects the many years of hard work that Evie has dedicated to making Leith and Edinburgh a greener place, promoting community growing, encouraging a shift to more sustainable practices and taking local action to tackle the climate and nature emergencies;
- 3) Notes that in her acceptance speech, Evie mentioned the African word Ubuntu meaning 'humanity to others', often described as reminding us that 'I am what I am because of who we all are', and the interconnected nature of sustainability.
- 4) Asks that the Lord Provost recognise Evie's achievement in an appropriate manner.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Booth.

32 30th Craigmmond (Davidson's Mains) Scout Group Centenary – Motion by Councillor Younie

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

“Council:

- 1) Notes that the 30th Craigmmond (Davidson's Mains) Scout Group are celebrating their centenary this year. First formed in 1924 it has grown through the years and recently have included Squirrels to join the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, extending the opportunities they offer to a younger age group.
- 2) To mark this auspicious event, the group commissioned a mural designed by the children which now adorns the Scout Hut in Davidson's Mains.

- 3) Thanks the Group for the contribution they and their volunteers have made to the Davidson's Mains and wider community for the past hundred years and looks forward to the coming hundred.
- 4) Requests that the Lord Provost congratulate the 30th Craigmmond (Davidson's Mains) Scout Group in an appropriate manner."

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Younie.

33 250th Anniversary of Robert Fergusson– Motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

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

"Council notes that the city recently observed the 250th anniversary of the death of the poet Robert Fergusson, who died in Edinburgh on October 17, 1774, at only 24 years old.

Council notes that Fergusson was a true poet of this city. Although born in Ayrshire, he drew inspiration from the life - and the language - of the ordinary people around him in Auld Reikie.

Writing in Scots, Fergusson is credited with having inspired no less a poet than Robert Burns. Despite this, Robert Fergusson died in relative obscurity, and Burns paid out of his own pocket to erect a gravestone on the previously unmarked Fergusson's grave.

Council agrees therefore that efforts will be put into place to recognise Fergusson's legacy in an appropriate way including annual observation on October 17th."

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

34 50th Anniversary of Edinburgh Dunedin Link– Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

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

“Council:

Notes Edinburgh has been a sister city to Dunedin, New Zealand since 1974.

Further notes the link was re-established in 2004 when the Dunedin-Edinburgh Sister City Society was formed to promote Dunedin's Scottish heritage and connect the Dunedin City Council with the various Scottish societies in the city.

Believes the Society has built strong links between Dunedin and Edinburgh and encourages celebrations such as St Andrew's Day.

monthly and share a passion for Scottish heritage and an enthusiasm for promoting and celebrating this heritage with the wider community.

Welcomes this anniversary and asks the Lord Provost to mark this in an appropriate manner.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron.

35 45th Anniversary of Pilmeny Development Management Trust – Motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

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

“Council notes that the Pilmeny Development Management Trust has recently celebrated its 45th Anniversary. Founded in 1979, Pilmeny Development Management Trust has delivered youth work support and services for elderly people every year, even throughout the recent pandemic.

Pilmeny Development Management Trust relies both on vital sponsorship and partners such as the City of Edinburgh Council in delivering its transformative services, but also on the invaluable contribution of its local volunteers.

Council therefore agrees to request that a congratulatory letter is sent from the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, thanking PDMT and its staff for their years of service to the community. Council also agrees that an invitation be extended to the

staff and volunteers of the charity to visit the City Chambers for an appropriate observation of this civic milestone.”

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

36 Alex Salmond, former MP, MSP and First Minister of Scotland – Motion by the Lord Provost

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given after the notice of meeting had been issued, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Council

Expresses its shock and sympathy at the untimely death of Alex Salmond, former MP, MSP and First Minister of Scotland.

Extends its deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time and thanks the Lord Provost for swiftly arranging the Book of Condolence.

Recognises the substantial and significant contribution that he made to Scottish and UK politics and the cause of Scottish independence.

Recognises his pivotal role in bringing about the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, which shaped the nation's political landscape.

37 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 37 of 7 November 2024)

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Convener of the Licensing Board
at a meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

Question

Please will the convener list all applications in any areas of overprovision which have been refused by the licensing board?

Please break down the answer by:

- a) new premises licences
- b) provisional premises licences
- c) major variations to increase capacity of premises

Please also break down the answer by:

- 1) applications refused during period of validity of the current statement of licensing policy approved in November 2023
- 2) applications refused during the period of validity of the previous statement of licensing policy, valid from November 2018 to November 2023

Answer

The table below provides a summary of the applications received and determined by the Licensing Board since November 2018.

	Total applications received* Nov 2018 - Nov 2023	Total applications received* Nov 2023 - Nov 2024
a) new premises licences	39	6
b) provisional premises licences	326	69
c) major variations– see <i>note below</i>	477 (all major variations)	171 (all major variations)
Total	842	246

	Total applications determined** Nov 2018 - Nov 2023	Total applications determined** Nov 2023 - Nov 2024
a) new premises licences	19	2
b) provisional premises licences	274	73
c) major variations - see <i>note below</i>	421 (all major variations)	116 (all major variations)
Total	714	191

For information, two applications have been refused, but neither of them in an overprovision area:

(i) 38-39 Elm Row – Decision date: 31 May 2021

(ii) Starbucks (Edinburgh Airport) – Decision date: 27 March 2023

When looking at the number of refusals, it is important to be aware that the Board will often grant an application or variation with a reduction in hours, or a lower capacity than originally sought by the applicant.

Also, the table shows that a number of applications are not pursued to a determination and a concern about how the over provision policy will apply may have been a factor in some cases.

The Council's ICT system records the address for the property but does not have the functionality to report on whether the applications referred to in the table are located within the geographical area identified as areas of overprovision.

In addition, the ICT system is not designed to report on major variation applications in a way that distinguishes an application for an increase of capacity from the other applications.

In order to provide this information, officers would need to manually check each record to identify if there are in areas of overprovision and/or are major variation applications

**Supplementary
Question**

The answer provided is not an answer to the question I asked, which appears to be due to the council's ICT system and council processes not having the functionality to report on whether applications are in an area of overprovision.

Please can the Convener therefore clarify what changes would need to take place to the council's ICT system or council processes, in order for the council to be able to answer my question?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I agree that having this information would be very helpful and should be recorded where possible against new and variation applications. I would also like to see recorded a difference between a 'grant' and a 'restricted grant'. As discussed with Councillor Booth, I have referred his question to the next meeting of the Licensing Board on 25th November so that it may be discussed in a formal meeting.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 7 November 2024**

Cleansing Schedule for Carrubers Close

- Question** (1) Can he please confirm the “ in the Old Town and further confirm whether this has been adhered to in the last six months?
- Answer** (1) Carrubers Close is scheduled to be washed three times per week and brushed 4 times per week. However, due to water ingress into the building site at the bottom of the steps, it receives a light wash. This schedule has been adhered to in the last six months.
- Question** (2) If not, why not?
- Answer** (2) See Answer 1.
- Question** (3) If it has, does he accept that the current level /schedule of cleansing of Old Town closes is insufficient, causing significant public health risks to residents and indeed reputational damage to the council and the city as a whole?
- Answer** (3) As noted above, washing and brushing is continuing. However, currently a light wash is taking place to minimise water ingress into the building site at the bottom of the stairs. In addition, Trade Waste has been an issue at the entrance to the Close, therefore the Street Enforcement Team are monitoring this.

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Biagi for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 7 November 2024**

Question (1) How many bus stops have been moved in the past 12 months?

Answer (1) One.

Question (2) How many bus stops have been proposed to be moved in the past 12 months?

Answer (2) There are a number of stops proposed for repositioning as part of road safety and active travel projects. Design work and associated consultation is ongoing therefor the number proposed moves cannot yet be confirmed.

Question (3) In how many cases were objections received following notice to the public as per para 126 of the Scheme of Delegation?

Answer (3) None.

Question (4) How many proposals to move bus stops have been referred to councillors as a result of objections following notice to the public?

Answer (4) None.

Question (5) By what means is notice to the public usually provided in these situations?

Answer (5) If a bus stop is proposed to be moved to a position immediately outside a property, the property owner would normally be notified by letter or visit.

If a bus stop is proposed to be moved as part of a wider road improvement or infrastructure project, the stop positioning would be depicted on detailed drawings and would form part of any associated consultation.

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Nols-McVey for answer
by the Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

The Council's parks department are currently not servicing our school estate in instances of essential maintenance of trees overhanging from school grounds into private gardens or indeed impacting use of facilities within schools themselves. Schools are being asked to divert money away from young people's learning to pay for these kinds of works, instead of existing Council teams prioritising works requested by schools

Question (1) Can the Convener list the instances of works requested by schools currently not acted upon due to blockages in internal council budget decisions?

Answer (1) Officers have confirmed that all requests for work are actioned.

Question (2) Can the Convener commit to ensuring that all requests by schools are carried out by the existing parks teams without diverting money away from educating our children?

Answer (2) While any work required is co-ordinated by the Forestry team, the service is unable to meet the cost of works carried out on other parts of the estate (except in parks and public spaces) within its existing budget. To allow for the cost of forestry activities to be funded by Neighbourhood Environmental Services, additional funding would need to be allocated to the service (either as part of the Council budget setting process or through a transfer of budgets from services who experience issues with trees (e.g. schools and housing)).

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

Question

On 1 June 2023 in answer to my Full Council question it was stated that officers were “investigating the feasibility of relocating the *Body and Soul* statue from Hunter Square to the Museum of Edinburgh Courtyard.” The statue unfortunately remains boarded up in its previous position.

Can you please provide an update, including whether there has also been consideration of the Friends of James Court request to install it at that location and provide detail on why no action has been taken thus far and the plan for the statue going forward.

Answer

Officers are still investigating the feasibility of moving the statue to the Museum of Edinburgh Courtyard or to another location. Once a suitable location has been identified, officers will engage with the artist on this, particularly in respect of the plumbing requirements for the statue. Once a location can be confirmed, a Business Bulletin update will be provided to Culture and Communities Committee.

QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 7 November 2024**

Question

Can you please provide the number of acquisitions and disposals of council houses within Ward 11 (City Centre) for 2022, 2023, and 2024 if possible delineating those within the Old Town (EH1 post code)

Answer

The table below shows the number of acquisitions and disposals in Ward 11 as requested.

	Acquisitions ward 11 total	Acquisitions in EH1	Disposals ward 11 total	Disposals in EH1
2022	0	0	4	0
2023	3	0	3	2
2024	3	0	5	1

Since 2022, the Council disposed of 12 homes in Ward 11, with only three being in the EH1 postcode area. Nine of the total disposals were the last in the block, while the other three were in blocks where the Council is a minority owner and has further divested. During the same period, six homes were purchased in Ward 11, further increasing the number of affordable homes in the city.

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 7 November 2024**

A lift at Lochview Court in Dumbiedykes has been out-of-action for around ten weeks causing residents (especially those with young families and disabilities) anxiety and stress. Moreover, residents report that they have been told that the lift would be fixed 'this week' for nine weeks. Around week 8 of the lift being out of action I was informed that the motor would be removed 'in the next couple of days' to see if it can be repaired. If a repair is not possible it could take a minimum of eight further weeks to order a replacement.

Question (1) Both lifts in Lochview Court (originally installed in 1963) were slated for full replacement in 2023. Can you please provide an update on why this has not occurred to-date and what the forward plan is for this piece of work?

Answer (1) The lifts were originally installed in 1963 and received a lift car upgrade in 2004. Both are due to have a full upgrade in the current financial year (2024/25) however there has been a delay in the programme which means that work will start early in the New Year. Officers are prioritising arrangements for the work to start as soon as possible and will engage with tenants and residents in advance so as to minimise the disruption caused as a result of the work.

Question (2) Do you agree that residents deserve correct information and clear communication on lift repair and replacement timescales as was called for in Cllr. Campbells motion regarding the Coillesdene House Lifts in 2023?

Answer (2) Yes. An annual report on the Lift Replacement Programme is due to be presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 3 December 2024. In future, an annual update on lifts will form part of the Cyclical Assurance report to Committee to keep members updated.

Question (3) Can you please provide an update as to the interim repair and expected timescales for the residents?

Answer

- (3)** The lift motor is currently being assessed for the extent of damage and, if it can be repaired, it is estimated that the lift will be back in service by Friday 8 November 2024.

If the motor is not repairable, it is likely that a replacement motor will not arrive before the lift replacement works commence in January 2025 (or earlier if possible). Officers are monitoring closely the operation of the other lift to make sure tenants and residents have an in-service lift which accesses all floors in the building until the second lift is working. An update will be provided to ward Councillors once the assessment of the damage is complete.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 7 November 2024**

Question

Can he please confirm when the public water tap installed as part of the Picardy Place Public Realm will be functional?

Answer

Officers have contacted Scottish Water to identify what the issues are to making the tap operational and have requested a timescale for delivery. A further update will be provided when a response is received.

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Hyslop for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

It was agreed by all parties at a meeting of the Full Council in September that there should be 'no reduction in the overall provision and notes a decision will be taken through the 2025/26 budget setting process in February' for the future of the Holiday Hubs.

Question

Can the Convener please explain why parents of the 'working group' have been told that February's Holiday Hub is not certain as there were 'no resources surrounding it' and there is 'no one to take control of it leaving the provision vulnerable and potentially unsafe'?

Answer

Officers have been clear with both committee and parents, that the current HH scheme runs without any dedicated central staffing resource, and this is not sustainable. Therefore, even with no budget reduction the provision in February needs to change in order to be safe and sustainable. The operational needs are significant, and this exposes the hubs and the provision, when resource has need to be drawn from other parts of the council. It also places risk within those core services from which staff are drawn, who are already operating with tight resources. There was a dedicated full-time manager overseeing the organisation and running of the hubs. This was a fixed term secondment and ran up to December 2023. This post wasn't replaced due to lack of resource.

Core statutory provision must take priority, and hubs cannot run without the necessary staffing and oversight being in place. This would be unsafe practice.

So, whilst the intent is to provide the HH in February as set out, the caveat would be in having staff and venues available, as required and a central resource funding from the existing budget. This is part of the proposal which has been co created with parents and will come to the special committee. Confirmation letters have gone out to all those families who have been allocated a space

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Hyslop for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question

It was agreed at September Full Council that there would be 'co-ordination of clear communication with parents and carers about who is getting provision and when for the imminent school holiday in October and that a briefing note on this is circulated to councillors'. Why was no briefing note sent out and were parents and carers contacted?

Answer

Consultation meetings were held with parents in September.

All parents who had requested Holiday Hub provision for October 2024 were informed once allocation was completed and venues were confirmed. This took place .as per usual process. with allocations being confirmed on the 11th September.

The February 2025 and Easter allocations were all communicated out to parents and providers by the 25th October

There has been correspondence between members, parents and Council Officers throughout this time. There has been further meeting with providers. In hindsight, this could have come in the form of a briefing, but we were working with very tight timescales and with no actual or additional staffing resource.

QUESTION NO 11

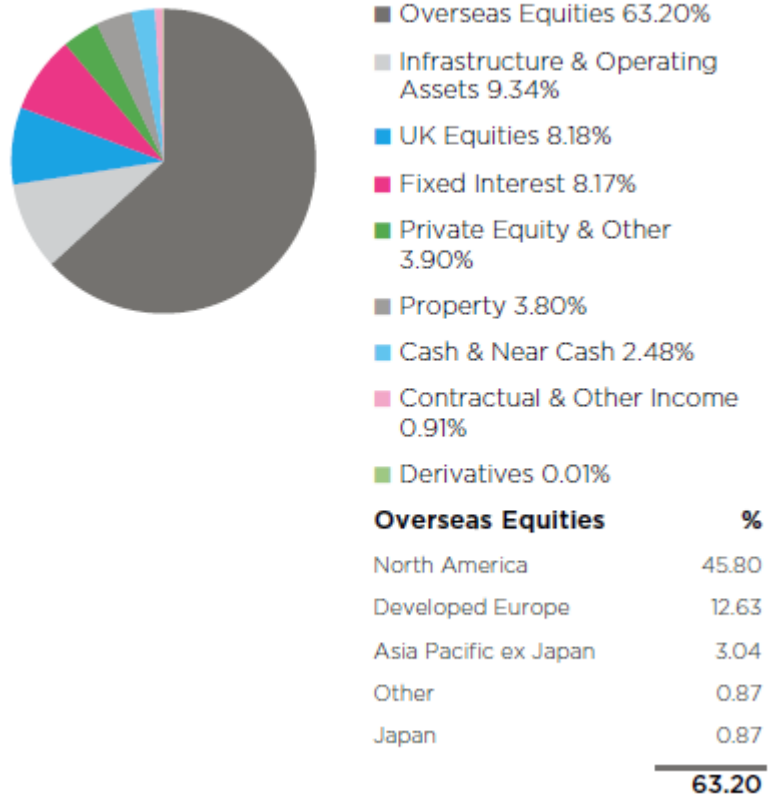
By Councillor Heap for answer by the Convener of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

To ask the Convener of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

Question (1) Whether the Council will publish a list of investments made by the Jean F Watson Charitable Trust

Answer (1) As at 30/09/2024, funds are invested in the following assets as broken down below:

Asset allocation as at 30 September 2024



Question (2) Whether the Jean F Watson Charitable Trust's investments currently include investments in fossil fuels and other environmentally-destructive practices?

Answer

- (2)** The Jean F Watson Bequest is managed on behalf of the Council by CCLA (80% and M&G (20%).

CCLA are a specialist investment manager for Churches, Charities and Local Authorities. They apply a set of rules which place significant restrictions around fossil fuels.

While M&G place no specific exclusions on the oil and gas sector, the Jean F Watson Bequest has no exposure to this industry.

Committee on the Jean F. Watson Bequest

Briefing Note: Investment Fund

Finance & Procurement Division
Corporate Services Directorate

22 February 2023

1. Background

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest on 2 February 2023, in considering the Jean F Watson Financial Statement 2021/22 and Forecast for 2022/23, members requested a briefing providing information about the investments currently held in Jean F. Watson Trust.
- 1.2 The purpose of this briefing note is to provide members of the Committee on the Jean F. Watson Bequest with information about the investments that have been made with the Jean F. Watson endowment fund.
- 1.3 The endowment fund is currently managed by two investment managers; CCLA Investment Management Limited and M&G Investment Management Limited, with CCLA now being regarded as the UK's largest charity fund manager.
- 1.4 The value of the investments held by the Jean F. Watson Trust as at 31 March 2022 was £1,178,531, with an income yield of 2.83% and a total return (a combination of capital growth and income) of 9.35%.
- 1.5 The details of the investment portfolios, offered by these investment managers, that we have opted for, together with the investments breakdown, are provided below. Heather Lamont, the Director for Client Investments at CCLA, has offered to come and meet with the JFW Committee to provide an in-depth briefing on their investment strategy, if the Committee would like to have this briefing.

2. Main Points

Details of the Investment Portfolios held by the Trust.

2.1 CCLA - COIF Charities Investment Fund

About 80% of the Charitable Trust investment fund is managed by CCLA Investment Management Limited, which is held in their COIF Charities Investment Fund portfolio.

This Fund is a long-term, sustainable investment solution which incorporates environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into the investment strategy. The Fund has a set of outcome targets, and the investment managers use their discretion to select the blend of assets that will help them achieve these targets. The Fund has a bias towards real assets, predominantly global equities but also property investments and infrastructure.

With regard to sustainability, CCLA uses the power of asset ownership to work towards positive change. They engage with companies, other investors, and policy makers (i.e., government, regulators) to pursue making real difference in areas such as climate action, mental health, and Modern Slavery. Knowing it is important that portfolios are aligned with clients' values, CCLA does not invest in fossil fuel companies. The COIF Charities Investment Fund also excludes investment in tobacco, online gambling, and indiscriminate weaponry such as cluster bombs and landmines.

CCLA has other investment portfolios including the Investment Fund's sister, the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund which additionally excludes alcohol, gambling (not just online) and strategic armaments among others.

As mentioned above, Heather Lamont from CCLA has offered to come and meet with the JFW Committee to give briefing of their strategy and approach to sustainable investment.

As at 31 December 2022, the CCLA COIF investment breakdown is as follow;

1.	Asset (breakdown for entire portfolio)	2.	Net (%)
3.	Overseas Equities**	4.	59.20%
5.	Cash & Near Cash	6.	10.21%
7.	UK Equities	8.	9.21%
9.	Infrastructure & Operating Assets	10.	8.42%
11.	Fixed Interest	12.	4.94%
13.	Property	14.	3.25%
15.	Private Equity & Other	16.	2.66%
17.	Contractual & Other Income	18.	2.11%
19.	**Overseas Equities %	20.	
21.	North America	22.	40.19%
23.	Developed Europe	24.	14.29%
25.	Asia Pacific ex Japan	26.	3.11%
27.	Other	28.	0.89%
29.	Japan	30.	0.72%

2.2 M&G Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Fund (Charibond)

20% of the Charitable Trust investment fund is managed by M&G Investment Management Limited, held in their Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Fund portfolio.

The Fund aims to provide a higher total return (the combination of capital growth and income), net of charges, than that of a composite index comprising one-half gilts and one-half UK corporate bonds, over any five-year period.

The M&G Charibond Fund is mainly invested in bonds with at least 70% of the Fund invested in investment grade sterling denominated bonds issued by governments or companies. The Fund may also invest in non-sterling denominated bonds, cash and near cash directly or via collective investment scheme. Derivatives may be used for efficient portfolio management and hedging.

The investment approach is to identify bonds which, in the manager's opinion at the time of investment, are undervalued. An in-house team of credit analysts assists the manager in the selection of bonds and with the monitoring of issuers held by the Fund. The Fund's active investment approach allows the manager to adjust the portfolio's interest rate and credit exposure based on macroeconomic trends such as economic growth, interest rates and inflation.

As at 31 January 2023, the M&G Charibond investment breakdown is as follow;

31.	Asset (breakdown for entire portfolio)	32.	Net (%)
33.	Government bonds	34.	50.6 0%
35.	Investment grade corporate bonds (Fixed Rate)	36.	46.6 0%
37.	Securitised	38.	1.30 %
39.	Cash	40.	1.50 %
41.	Country (breakdown for entire portfolio)	42.	Fund (%)
43.	UK	44.	74.6 0%
45.	US	46.	7.80 %
47.	France	48.	5.40 %
49.	Germany	50.	2.40 %
51.	Canada	52.	1.40 %
53.	Switzerland	54.	1.40 %
55.	Netherlands	56.	1.30 %
57.	Austria	58.	0.90 %
59.	Other	60.	3.30 %
61.	Cash	62.	1.50 %

3. Next Steps

-
- 3.1 Further information can be provided if required, and subject to the request of the Committee, Heather Lamont can be invited to give briefing on CCLA's investment strategy and approach.

Richard Carr

Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: John Aghodeaka, Accountant

Finance and Procurement Division, Corporate Services

Directorate E-mail: john.aghodeaka@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel:

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QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Heap for answer by the
Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

Question

To ask the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee whether full reimbursement of Council costs incurred in supporting the Oasis concerts in August 2025 will be sought

Answer

The public spaces event charging model came into effect on 1 October 2024. The new model sets out charging rates for a variety of Council services and the percentage charged depends on the category of event. Those of a commercial nature are charged 100%, those of a community or charity nature are not charged.

However, the model does not include costs for services which might impact on ensuring the delivery of safe events within the city (e.g. the cost of officer to time in planning events). However, the model does ensure the Council is recovering more costs from commercial events than previously. The model will also be reviewed regularly.

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question

To ask the Convener of the Culture and Culture and Communities Committee to respond to the claims made in the blog [The Story of a Farm Garden Closing](#) that the Gorgie Farm gardens are, contrary to claims made by the Council, safe for volunteer gardening to maintain the gardens in a good condition until a new operator is found

Answer

Following the decision of Culture and Communities Committee on 3 October 2024, officers have considered the options to safely reopen the Gorgie Farm site and specifically the garden area, to allow volunteers to continue with their work. However, the site remains closed for the following reasons:

- There is no current resource within the security service to allow the volunteers to access the site. Given the condition of the site, the Council could not accept the risk of permitting the volunteers to enter the site unsupervised, nor could we give access to allow the volunteers to disable on-site security measures.
- Increased security measures have been introduced on the site for safety and to protect it from future risk of vandalism. This is in the form of a PID alarm system which monitors the whole site. Due to the site layout, in order to provide maximum protection, the position of the units means that access to the garden site will trigger the alarm system. Consequently, if volunteers were to access the site on a regular basis, this would require an officer to visit the site on each occasion to ensure the whole system is disabled and then re-enabled when volunteers have left the site. Whilst this is practical on an infrequent basis for ad-hoc visits (e.g. contractors), it is challenging to manage for more regular access; and

- Due to the upcoming winter period, services have been turned off to the site to minimise any potential risk of frozen pipes. This means that there would be no water facilities available to volunteers or members of the public when visiting the site.

The cost of reopening the site for volunteers is not currently budgeted.

The Expressions of Interest process is ongoing with second submissions from interested parties due to be submitted later in November. It is hoped to grant the lease to the preferred party early in the New Year, following relevant approvals.

Officers will work with the preferred operator on developing a robust plan for the reopening of the site, and to identify any early works which the operator may seek to undertake in order to deliver their proposals for the site. It is possible that the scale or practical arrangements for these works may impact on the timescales for reopening the site but the details of this will not be known until the preferred operator has been appointed. Officers will update Elected Members on this as soon as the plans and timescales become available.

QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Heap for answer by the
Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

Question

To ask the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee whether the volunteer gardeners have been thanked for their efforts to maintain the Gorgie Farm gardens (outlined [here](#)) and if not, why not?

Answer

Yes, the project manager employed by EVOC thanked the volunteers. In addition, the EVOC annual report will include an article on the volunteers and will thank them for their efforts.

QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Heap for answer by the
Convener of the Planning Committee
at a meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

To ask the Convener of the Planning Committee

Question **(1)** Why the Hearts FC Maroon Mile project is not able to hang appropriate banners in Gorgie, the location of Hearts FC, but is allowed to do in Dalry.

Answer **(1)** The banners, regardless of whether they are erected in Dalry or Gorgie, would require the benefit of advertisement consent. Whilst there may be non-statutory guidance in terms of the display of advertisements in Dalry, this does not obviate the need to obtain statutory consent for such signage.

However, while Dalry is designated as a City Dressing site and has lampposts suitable for banners, Gorgie does not currently have this designation. Officers are currently investigating this and will provide an update to ward Councillors as soon as possible.

Question **(2)** What assistance can be given to Hearts FC and Maroon Mile so that the projects banners can be hung the full length of the project.

Answer **(2)** Officers have spoken to representatives from Hearts and have advised that the Council could support the display of banners for a temporary period along the route.

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question

Can the Convener please confirm, over the last five years, how many households have been directly evicted from Link Curb PSL (Private Sector Leasing) managed properties as a result of the landlord terminating the lease with Link Curb PSL?

Answer

From October 2019 – March 2020, there were no evictions as a result of the landlord hand backs of a property which has been included in the PSL scheme.

During and following the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there was a moratorium on evictions taking place. The moratorium ended on 31 March 2024.

Since 1 April 2024, there have been nine households evicted as a direct result of landlord hand backs of a property.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for that answer. Given there have been 9 instances in the 5 months since the end of the eviction moratorium, can the Convener please clarify what steps the Council are taking to monitor the situation and work with Link Curb to resolve this issue, and best ensure PSL tenant security?

Supplementary Answer

Every effort is made by Curb to retain properties. Where a landlord indicates their intention to terminate a lease, Curb work closely with the landlord throughout the notice and extension periods to try to retain the property on the scheme. However, there are times when the landlord may need to withdraw a property from the scheme (e.g. for financial reasons or where they wish to move into their property).

To encourage retention of properties within the scheme, Finance and Resources Committee on 19 November 2024

agreed a new price structure for the PSL scheme. This will be effective from 1 December 2024 and will make the scheme more competitive in the open market and will allow Curb to offer a competitive rate. Curb proactively contact landlords who have previously indicated that they no longer wish to continue with the scheme to advise of the new scheme rates and to encourage participation.

The existing contract has been extended for a period of one year from 1 April 2025 to enable a re-tender exercise to take place. During the period of this extension, officers will conduct an exercise to establish whether it would be possible and financially beneficial to deliver this scheme in-house.

QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Dijkstra-Downie for
answer by the Convener of the
Transport and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 7 November 2024**

On 19 September the Cabinet Secretary for Transport wrote to you that “All local authorities have been offered £140,000 to identify future local EV charging requirements.”

Can you clarify:

- Question** (1) Whether this was the outcome of the £1.1m bid made to Transport Scotland as reported to the Transport & Environment committee on 25 April 2024?
- Answer** (1) No. This £140,00 of funding was linked to the first phase of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund, which involved Transport Scotland, Scottish Futures Trust and the Energy Savings Trust supporting local authorities to develop public EV charging Strategy and Expansion Plans (SEPs). All Scottish local authorities received up to £140,000 to support the cost of developing a SEP, alongside resources and guidance from Scottish Futures Trust and Energy Savings Trust.
- Question** (2) Whether Edinburgh has accepted and/or received this Scottish Government funding?
- Answer** (2) The Council has accepted and received the £140,000 but is awaiting the outcome of the subsequent bid for further funding.
- Question** (3) If so, how this funding is now being spent?
- Answer** (3) The £140,000 has been used to produce the SEP for EV Infrastructure to guide future investment and set out how the Council will deliver a charging network which meets the objectives set out in the Scottish Government’s vision for EV charging infrastructure in Scotland. This will help to inform the delivery a new approach to growing and operating Scotland’s public EV charging network through joint investment by the public and private sectors.

QUESTION NO 18

**By Councillor Hyslop for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 7 November 2024**

Question

What discussions have been had with Taylor Wimpey as to why the Craigs Road/Maybury Road Junction has still not been started? This is an essential junction that is needed to redirect the 31 bus into the new housing at West Craigs.

Can we get clarity on exactly when the work is going to start?

Answer

It is not possible to provide a precise date for commencement of works at this juncture until the revised tender costs are agreed. This is being progressed as a priority given concerns about the delivery of this essential piece of infrastructure.

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Work for answer by the
Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

Notes that Cammo Estate Advisory Committee has recently been terminated. This committee was set up under the Feu Charter transferring management responsibilities for Cammo Estate from the National Trust of Scotland to the City of Edinburgh Council with representatives from partner organisations.

Question (1) What consultation if any, has the Convener had with members of the community, community council, Friends of Cammo and Cramond Association and others?

Answer (1) I've not had any consultation or communication with these groups.

Question (2) What was the rationale of terminating the advisory committee?

Answer (2) In 2023, the Council agreed to close the Group as a formal working group and to convert it into an officer-only group. However, following a review of the Feu Charter associated with the Group, it is now proposed to reestablish the Group. A report on this is expected to be presented to the Council in December.

Question (3) What structures will replace it? And has this been communicated to stakeholders and partners?

Answer (3) See Answer 2 above.

QUESTION NO 20

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 7 November 2024**

Question (1) On the basis of conversations between council officers and Transport Scotland, are all the regulations in place to allow the council to introduce a congestion charge scheme?

Answer (1) Transport Scotland has indicated that a regulatory review will be required to determine if all the powers are in place. This is likely to include a national consultation led by the Scottish Government to seek input from key stakeholders including local and regional authorities.

Question (2) If not, what regulations are considered to be missing?

Answer (2) This will be determined by the regulatory review.

Question (3) What steps need to be taken to put the necessary missing regulations in place?

Answer (3) This is expected to be determined once the regulatory review has been completed.

Question (4) How long is it expected to take for the missing regulations to be introduced?

Answer (4) This is expected to be determined once the regulatory review has been completed.

Supplementary Question Please can the convener clarify why it is considered that a regulatory review is necessary?

Supplementary Answer The need for a regulatory review has been determined by Transport Scotland.

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Transport Scotland published the TRO Public Consultation Analysis Report in September 2021. This included a commitment to discussing further the need for a public local inquiry when objections are made in relation to a proposed TRO that contains loading restrictions, and a commitment to further work to assess the demand for legislative change in respect of redetermination orders.

Question (1) What communication has the council had since September 2021 with Transport Scotland, the Scottish Government, Cosla or SCOTS regarding either of the issues referred to above?

Answer (1) The Council wrote to Transport Scotland on 14 April 2023 regarding these issues and received a response on 24 May 2023.

Question (2) What communication has the council had since September 2021 with Transport Scotland, the Scottish Government, Cosla or SCOTS regarding any other issues around streamlining the process for TROs, TTROs, ETROs or RSOs?

Answer (2) Communication is ongoing between officers from all of the organisations listed on these issues, but the only formal correspondence is referred to in Answer 1 above.

Supplementary Question Please can the convener clarify whether he will circulate the response from Transport Scotland, received on 24 May 2023, to party transport spokespeople?

Supplementary Answer Response now attached.

Minister for Transport
Ministear airson Còmhhdhail
Kevin Stewart MSP/BPA

T : 0300 244 4000
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Andrew Kerr
Andrew.Kerr@edinburgh.gov.uk

Our Reference: 202300352312
Your Reference: AK/GB/dh

11 May 2023

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 April 2023, addressed to the interim Chief Executive of Transport Scotland regarding Redetermination Orders. I wanted to respond to you directly in my capacity as Minister for Transport.

Officials have confirmed that Redetermination Orders were considered as part of Transport Scotland's Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) review process and discussed with members of the TRO review group. This group consisted of representatives from the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), COSLA, and a number of local authorities including officials from The City of Edinburgh Council.

As part of this work Transport Scotland undertook a review of the TRO and Redetermination Order processes and concluded that there would appear to be nothing that mandates the use of both a TRO and a Redetermination Order to achieve the same thing. A road authority has the power to determine and (by Order) redetermine the public right of passage over a road however there is no corresponding duty to do so. If a traffic authority made a TRO which effectively determines the means by which the public can exercise their right of passage over the road it would appear that it is not necessary to also have a redetermination order to give effect to the restrictions on traffic. A TRO could, if all procedures were followed correctly, be validly made and, in conjunction with the appropriate indications to road users of its effect, be enforceable without the need for an additional Redetermination Order. This would also appear to be how the majority of roads authorities in Scotland approach TROs and Redetermination Orders.

Transport Scotland have also looked at the position in other parts of the UK where Redetermination

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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Orders are not featured in law and the TRO legislation is broadly similar. It appears that the same outcomes have been achieved by ensuring that the TRO effectively determines the means by which the public can exercise their right of passage over the road.

I would also like to assure you that, as promised in 2019, there have been changes within Transport Scotland and how Redetermination Orders are considered. Prior to 2019, any Redetermination Order which had over five outstanding objections which were passed to Ministers for consideration were automatically sent to the Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) to arrange a Public Local Inquiry (PLI). This is no longer the case and each objection to a Redetermination Order is considered on its own merits. This has led to a marked decrease in the time taken to issue Ministerial decisions on these matters. Currently, on average, it is taking around 4 months from the receipt of a Redetermination Order to the decision letter being issued.

Of course there will still undoubtedly be instances where a PLI is required. However, with proper engagement by roads authorities with objectors at an early stage in order to try to mitigate public concerns on specific projects and the changes in processes in Transport Scotland, we hope these will be less impactful than they were prior to 2019. It is of course for local authorities to take their own view on the appropriate legislation in the exercise of their powers. For any particular scheme, what is most appropriate is also likely to vary given the particular circumstances of what is to be achieved.

I hope this response is of assistance but if any further information is required on the previous discussions between officials or on the processes described above please feel free to contact myself or Transport Scotland's Fred O'Hara (Head of Road Policy) at fred.o'hara@transport.gov.scot who will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

KEVIN STEWART

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) in Scotland are a vital part of the country's workforce development and play a key role in supporting economic growth, particularly at the local level. These programs are important for a variety of reasons, from fostering employment opportunities to enhancing the skill base of the workforce.

Question (1) Can the convener clarify the number of modern apprentices employed by the Council?

Answer (1) There are currently 129 Modern Apprentices employed by the Council.

Question (2) Requests this data be broken down by departments?

Answer (2) This is broken down by department below:

Place	30
Corporate Services	19
Children and Families	10
Health and Social Care Partnership	70
Overall	129

QUESTION NO 23

By Councillor Biagi for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question

How would the Convener of Finance and Resources respond to the conclusion of the Accounts Commission that, in the City of Edinburgh Council's plans, "levels of borrowing bring risks that could impact future financial sustainability"?

Answer

The Council undertakes all Capital and Treasury activities in compliance with the CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes.

As part of its budget-setting process the Council reviews its capital investment plans for the general fund and the HRA each year, to ensure they are affordable within the context of the Council's overall financial position.

The budget set in February 2024 set out capital investment of £3.5bn over the next six years. Taking account of anticipated income from capital grant, assets sales and other receipts, as well as planned repayments, the Council's Capital Financing Requirement, which represents its underlying requirement to borrow, is forecast to increase from £2.3bn in 2024/25 to £3.5bn in 2029/30.

To ensure that the level of Council external borrowing is both affordable in the short-term and sustainable over the longer-term borrowing is monitored against the Authorised Limit (level that is considered affordable) and the Operational Boundary (level that is considered affordable **and** sustainable). There are currently no forecasts or concerns suggesting that the Council is likely to breach either of these limits. This is robustly managed and is reported to committee on a quarterly basis alongside capital monitoring and treasury management reports.

It is recognised that the increase in borrowing, does result in increased financing costs, particularly for the HRA where annual financing costs are forecast to increase by £67m (60%) over the next six years as new homes are built to address the Housing Emergency and existing homes are upgraded.

However, it should also be noted that the majority of capital investment is still to be committed and that capital plans are reviewed annually as part of the budget process to ensure they remain affordable.

QUESTION NO 24

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Given Officers knew the questions in the Health and Wellbeing Census would give cause for concern and it was optional for City of Edinburgh Council to participate.

Question (1) Why did council officers not bring the 2021/22 Health and Wellbeing Census to Full Council or the Education, Children and Families Committee for final approval before implementation?

Answer (1) The City of Edinburgh has gathered health and wellbeing information for decades. This is done through surveys, and in this case, a census. Pupils are selected by age/stage, or sampled. In the case of this survey there was the ability to amend by removing or adding questions; as such officers sought guidance from the Education Senior Leadership Team around the types of question that could be included or removed. As the results of the census were to be used for a national and local needs assessment, issues were explored which could help inform policy on health and wellbeing education. Officers used their knowledge of previous surveys to agree a final set of questions. This was discussed at the HWB Board, comprising Headteachers, as well as at HT meetings and locality/CCWP. Committee does not approve questionnaires as this is deemed operational, so no decision was sought.

Question (2) Why was the Education, Children and Families committee told on 3 Sept 2024 that officers had brought the Health and Wellbeing Census to council for approval before implementation when they hadn't?

Answer

- (2)** The statement about the HWB census being brought to Council for approval related to the Motion and Amendments that were positioned in relation to the survey. Once the final decision was made, this was regarded as tacit Council approval to continue implementation. This is notwithstanding the fact that questionnaires and surveys do not need permission, as they are an operational device to gather information.

QUESTION NO 25

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question

The experimental traffic order TRO/21/30 covering the bus lane on Lanark Road approaching Gillespie crossroads was dated 21 Nov 2022 until 20 May 2024. However, due to an error creating legal issues which were detailed on pp. 6 and 7 of the [Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin on 15 June 2023](#), the traffic order needed to be replaced and readvertised.

Rather than keep the first traffic order advertised until the replacement order was made, the traffic order was withdrawn entirely from the council website in Spring 2023. The Business Bulletin stated that that readvertising would commence at the end of June 2023, however this did not happen until a year later on 17 June 2024.

As a legal traffic order was not advertised anywhere on the council website on the pages for "first stage consultation", "view and comment on advertised orders" or "recently completed orders", for over a year until 17 June 2024, how can the 783 bus lane fines totalling up to £78,300, and issued between 6 May 2024 and 20 May 2024, be valid?

Answer

The legislation that governs the process by which ETROs are made and advertised specifies that there is a six month consultation period during which representations can be made. There are provisions within that legislation that allow for the six month consultation period be restarted (such as a modification to the ETRO), but there is no provision that allows for the consultation period to be otherwise extended.

In the case of TRO/21/30, the consultation period ran from 21 November 2022 until 20 May 2023. During that period the documentation relating to the ETRO (including the ETRO itself and associated plans) was available on the Council website and on public deposit at Waverley Court.

Once the consultation period ended, the content was removed from both the website and from public deposit. This is the same approach that is taken for Orders of all types once the opportunity to engage in the legal process has ended.

The ETRO covering Lanark Road included provisions that introduced a bus lane on the westbound approach to Gillespie Crossroads. That ETRO was legally in place, providing for the restrictions on street, between 21 November 2022 and 20 May 2024. Any person who contravenes a restriction contained within either a permanent Order or within an ETRO during the period when that ETRO operates, would be subject to enforcement action.

QUESTION NO 26

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question (1) Given the monitoring officer report at the Council meeting of 26th September is the Convener confident that the Council is not committing a criminal offence every time it books people into an unlicensed HMO under Section 154 of the Housing Act Scotland 2006?

Answer (1) Section 154 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 deals with criminal conduct of HMO operators and agents and is therefore not applicable to the Council. Nonetheless, clearly the Council should not be associated in any way with any form of criminal conduct and officers are taking urgent steps to bring HMO practice into line with legal requirements and to mitigate risk.

Question (2) Have any new unlicensed HMOs been brought into use since the report to Council on 26th September 2024?

Answer (2) No.

QUESTION NO 27

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

The council has suggested that data gathered from 23,000 children in the Health and Wellbeing Census in 2022 has been deleted.

Question (1) Can the council confirm that all data variables gathered in the census have been deleted from all parts of any council or school system and the SmartSurvey platform, and if any variables have been retained then confirm what these are?

Answer (1) The Council can confirm that all pupil returns have been deleted. The only extant information relating to the Health and Wellbeing Census are aggregated statistical returns for each individual school. These cannot be linked to individual pupils.

Question (2) What date was the data deleted?

Answer (2) The data was deleted during 2023.

Question (3) Why was it deleted?

Answer (3) The data was deleted because it had no further business purpose.

Question (4) Are officers aware that this data is now being advertised to researchers through Scottish Government funded charity, Research Data Scotland, on this page <https://www.researchdata.scot/metadata-catalogue/search-results/result/?id=451a5ad3-cadf-40c7-8783-07b14eafe6e3>?

Answer (4) No - This is a matter for the Scottish Government who make decisions concerning the use of statistical data for research purposes.

- Question** (5) Does the council believe that the transfer of this data to the Scottish Government was:
- a) Compliant with any data sharing or data processing agreements between the council and the Scottish Government?
 - b) Compliant with all aspects of GDPR at the time of transfer?
 - c) Compliant with basic ethical standards for health research at the time of transfer?
 - d) In line with promotion of UNCRC in schools, specifically article 16 - the right to privacy?

Answer (5) Yes - The Council conducted a data protection impact assessment to ensure that all privacy risks and data protection risks were properly considered, including an assessment of the rights of individuals, and an evaluation of how that information would be shared. Scottish Government also conducted their own data protection impact assessment.

Ethical considerations were considered and discussed by Education's Senior Management Team. However, as a result of a previous motion at Committee, the Council has committed to developing a Research Policy to formalise the Council's approach in this area.

Question (6) If there is any doubt about compliance with any of these requirements, will officers request the Scottish Government to delete this data?

Answer (6) The Council would always seek to address any compliance issue. However, it does not consider there to be any issues at this time.

QUESTION NO 28

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 7 November 2024

Question (1) What is the latest update on the Marchmont to Kings Buildings active travel scheme?

Answer (1) It is now intended to deliver the Marchmont to King's Buildings Active Travel Improvements project in a phased manner. The central section of the route, which includes Kilgraston Road, will be the first phase to be delivered.

Work to develop the proposals for this section is currently nearing completion of RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design.

However, further development work is currently suspended, pending the outcome of work to prioritise the City Mobility Plan Capital Investment Plan. It is currently anticipated that this will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee in December 2024.

Should the project be prioritised through this process, development work will resume. The promotion of traffic orders will be required, and the timescale for these (and dealing with any objections received) will be a key determinant in the delivery programme. The statutory process for these orders usually takes at least a year to complete but can take considerably longer. Following completion of the design, tender package and traffic orders process, procurement of a contractor and their mobilisation to site normally takes around a further three months.

Question (2) Given the strategic importance of facilitating a safe crossing at Kilgraston Road for children and young people to access the Greenbank-Meadows Quiet Route, has consideration been given to installing a temporary crossing point on this road, whilst the works described in 1) are being developed?

Answer

- (2)** The installation of a temporary pedestrian crossing on Kilgraston Road is not currently being considered.

Having reviewed the possible options for this, alongside the changes required (e.g. temporarily dropping kerbs etc), it is estimated that the overall cost of installing a temporary pedestrian crossing across Kilgraston Road, as an interim measure until this section of the Marchmont to King's Buildings route can be delivered, would be at least £60,000 (based on the temporary crossing being required for 18 months). This would be a revenue cost, which is not currently budgeted in the Council's transport allocation.

QUESTION NO 29

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 7 November 2024**

Question (1) On 14 September 2023, Committee agreed to pursue a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for an area of land on Duff Street Lane in order to provide access to the Roseburn to Union Canal Active Travel Route and Green Corridor. It was further agreed that a draft CPO would be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Council for authority to exercise compulsory purchase powers.

Why did it take almost a full year (until 29 August 2024) for the draft CPO to be submitted to Council?

Answer (1) The task of preparing all of the associated documentation required for the draft CPO to be submitted was complex and took significant officer time.

It was also necessary to establish contact details for each of the 30+ owners of the area of land to be acquired, many of whom are non-resident landlords, and to write to them advising them of the Council's intentions.

Question (2) Since the project was first consulted on in November 2015, what steps have been taken to acquire the land on Duff Street Lane?

Answer (2) The connection to Duff Street Lane was not part of the original Concept Design, for which an extensive public and key stakeholder consultation took place in late 2015 and early 2016. The connection was added to the proposals later in 2016, in response to feedback from the consultation.

However, while there was a delay in progressing these further between 2018 and 2019, a second more local consultation to help refine the proposals further took place in June 2019.

There were two potential options for the route of the connection to Duff Street Lane. Initially, the Council attempted to acquire an area of land that was in the sole ownership of one individual. Discussions took place with the landowner but these concluded when the landowner stated categorically that they would not consent to sell the area to the Council.

The second option was to route the connection via another area of land, immediately adjacent to the first. While this option was slightly less preferable from a design viewpoint, it did have the advantage that the planning permission for the flatted residential development to which the land belongs contained an advisory note that earmarked this area for a future active travel connection. This was considered likely to be helpful, should a CPO ultimately be required to acquire the area.

A decision to proceed with acquiring the area required for the second option, to which the current CPO applies, was taken in 2022. The property management factor representing the property owners within the development was then contacted by the Council to express its interest in acquiring the land. The factor subsequently advised that there was an unwillingness among some of the owners to sell the land and ceased to engage with the Council thereafter. Given the number of shared owners, it is not considered practical to seek to negotiate individual agreements with every owner.

The Delivery Agreement with the construction contractor was signed in May 2023. In advance of this, there were significant risks to the project proceeding to construction, including concerns about tree removal and the need to put in place legal agreements relating to the new bridge over the Mid-Calder railway line. Given these risks, the Council did not have sufficient confidence to initiate CPO procedures until after the Delivery Agreement was in place.

- Question** **(3)** Since this project was first consulted on in November 2015, what steps have been taken to acquire land to provide a connection from Dundee Street to the West Approach Road?

Answer

- (3) During the early development of the proposals for the project, the owners of the land required to provide a fully accessible link between the new active travel route and Dundee Street were identified and attempts were made to engage with them on the potential to acquire this area by agreement. Unfortunately, the owners failed to respond to the Council's attempts to make contact.

As the project developed further, a need arose in 2021 to undertake a value engineering exercise, to reduce costs to a level that was affordable with the funding that was in place for the project.

Given the extensive and expensive measures that would be required to provide a fully accessible link to Dundee Street, it was decided to instead proceed with a more modest interim solution. Design work was not therefore progressed further for the fully accessible link.

The extent of land required to provide such a link cannot be determined until its design has been developed further. Additional topographical surveys and ground investigation work will be required to allow this design development.

Given the inability to engage the landowner in negotiations, the lack of ongoing design work or funding for delivery of the link and the expectation that even the cost of acquiring the land would be significant, it was decided not to proceed further with pursuing acquisition by agreement, as part of the current delivery of the project.

It would be also problematic to pursue a CPO for the land without certainty over the area to be acquired and funded plans being in place for delivery of the link, as the Scottish Government would look for these to be in place when reviewing a CPO.

Provision of a fully accessible link does, however, remain an aspiration under future work programmes.

Officers recently became aware of Planning Proposal of Application Notice 24/01157/PAN, relating to the demolition of the existing building on this site and its replacement with a proposed mixed-use development, and are in discussions with colleagues in Planning to seek to make provision for or

safeguard such a link through the Planning process.

Question (4) When will the speed limit on the 40mph sections of the West Approach Road be reduced to 30mph?

Answer (4) Officers are currently concluding the work package for the 40mph to 30mph programme. It is expected the tender phase will be undertaken towards the end of 2024 and, assuming an appropriate contractor can be appointed, works for the 22 citywide sites should commence in early 2025.

QUESTION NO 30

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 7 November 2024**

Question (1) How many times has the Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership met during the past 24 months?

Answer (1) The EAHP meets quarterly. The next meeting is due to take place on 14 November 2024.

Question (2) Which organisations were represented at these meetings?

Answer (2) - Blackwood Housing Association
- Cairn Housing Association
- Places for People Housing Association
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Wheatley Group (EAST) Housing Association
- Hanover Housing Association
- Hillcrest Housing Association
- Home Group
- Link Housing Association
- Lister Co-op
- Manor Estates Housing Association
- Melville Housing Association
- Muirhouse Housing Association
- Harbour Homes
- Prospect Housing Association
- Trust Housing Association
- Viewpoint Housing Association
- West Granton Housing Co-op
- Chartered Institute of Housing
- Scottish Federation of Housing Associations

Question (3) Can minutes from these meetings be shared?

Answer (3) Yes, minutes from these meetings obtained from the current chair of the EAHP (shelley.hutton@placesforpeople.co.uk).

QUESTION NO 31

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 7 November 2024**

Question

Please provide details of the model and manufacturer of the communal gas boiler at Westfield Court.

Answer

The block at Westfield Court is served by two Ideal Viceroy GT400 Open Flued Gas Boilers.

QUESTION NO 32

**By Councillor McKenzie for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 7
November 2024**

In relation to the Inclusion Review Consultation.

Question (1) Currently, what proportion of Additional Support for Learning Service (ASLS) staff are employed on temporary contracts?

Answer (1) In total 17% of posts in ASLS (26 people from 154 people) are on fixed term contracts. Eight of these are HR reasons (e.g. maternity leave and backfill for career breaks and secondments), 4 ring-fenced funding (e.g. Ukrainian funding), 7 are to allow flexibility in staff who support children with EAL and 7 are posts that have been identified which were created ad hoc and therefore do not exist in the previous structure.

The fixed term contract will be ended when the ring fenced funding ends or the substantive post holder returns. Following the ending of the consultation period all support staff on fixed term contracts will be matched into permanent posts in the new structure.

Question (2) How many temporary posts (individual posts and full time equivalent) will be lost if this proposal is agreed?

Answer (2) At the moment this is unclear as there are different reasons as to why colleagues are on fixed term contracts (e.g. ringfenced funding, backfill for maternity leave, career breaks, secondments). Some staff are on fixed term contracts with the ASLS service but remain on a permanent contract with the Council. There is a small number of staff on fixed term contracts and following the ending of consultation HR will meet with each group of staff and/or individual and offer advice and support on an individual basis. We value all colleagues and a key aim of the review is to reduce the number of fixed term posts across all teams. It is also important to note that the proposal offers a number of increased positions across a wide range of roles that will be recruited for on a permanent basis

- Question** (3) Is it correct that only 2 Headteachers were consulted by the Inclusion Review Advisory Board?
- Answer** (3) No this is incorrect. All headteachers across primary, secondary and special school sector were consulted. Presentations were given at the primary and secondary Headteacher meeting on a number of occasions as well as updates in other forums. There are 3 Headteachers on the Advisory group itself representing each sector.
- Question** (4) Do you consider that the input from those Headteachers reflects an accurate representation of senior leadership's understanding of the proposals?
- Answer** (4) All headteachers across primary, secondary and special school sector were consulted. Presentations were given at the primary and secondary Headteacher meeting on a number of occasions as well as updates in other forums.
- Question** (5) Speech and Language Therapists and Health Visitors were considered "not in scope" for the review feedback process, despite the impact that the withdrawal of support staff will have on their workload. Why were they not included in the process?
- Answer** (5) Allied Health professionals were invited to engage in the pre-consultation engagement events. There is no withdrawal of support staff that will adversely affect the workload of Speech and Language therapists and Health Visitors. We can arrange meetings to discuss the proposals with these colleagues if they would find this helpful.
- Question** (6) Why was there no Additional Support for Learning Service (ASLS) representation on the Inclusion Review Advisory Board?
- Answer** (6) This is not true. The Headteacher of the ASLS service was a member of the Inclusion Advisory Board until her retirement in June 24 and thereafter were represented by the Acting Quality Improvement Manager (Inclusion).

Question (7) Do you accept that incorrect information (such as inaccuracies on the composition of the Senior Management Team) was used in developing the proposals and that this could have been avoided with ASLS representation on the Advisory Board?

Answer (7) No this is not accepted. See answer to question no 6. Correct information was provided to the Advisory Board regarding the composition of the Senior Management Team.