

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Miller for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question (1) Please list by month the number of requests received (via any channel) since September 2018 to clear leaves from footpaths and cycle paths.

Answer (1) Please find below a summary of the number of requests received for leaf clearing each month from September 2018. Although the system allows reports to be provided for cycleways, they are usually associated with the nearest street and therefore the specific location (e.g. cycleway) is recorded as free text. It is not possible to provide the breakdown of reports of cycleways recorded in free text without analysing each individual record.

Month	Not Cycleway	Cycleway	Totals
2018 09	7	0	7
2018 10	63	0	63
2018 11	88	0	88
2018 12	21	0	21
2019 01	12	0	12
2019 02	4	0	4
2019 03	4	0	4
2019 04	6	0	6
2019 05	1	0	1
2019 06	1	0	1
2019 07	2	0	2
2019 08	2	0	2
2019 09	2	0	2
Grand Total	213	0	213

Question (2) Please provide the dates when footpaths and cycle paths have been swept or cleared since September 2018

Answer (2) Sweeping of footpaths and cycle paths is carried out as part of the normal street cleansing duties, although this happens more frequently from October through to January. A record of these day to day duties is not kept.

Question (3) Has the council's new web site been updated to explicitly allow residents to report concerns re leaf sweeping?

Answer (3) There is no specific web form for recording leaf clearances. These can be logged on the Council's website at the following location:

<https://webforms.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/portal/request/litter>

Or by calling 0131 608 1100

Question (4) Has an equalities assessment identified which groups are more impacted by the condition of footpaths and cycle paths?

Answer (4) An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out for this. However, the service prioritises sweeping of areas where health and safety issues have been identified.

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question

How many cars have been either fined or towed for parking in front of a communal bin. Break down by Ward?

Answer

The parking contravention in this situation is not specifically related to the bin bay but to the yellow line restriction using the associated contravention codes. It is therefore not possible to identify tickets which have been issued specifically of instances of parking in front of a communal bin.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question

After road resurfacing what checks are done of the gullies to make sure that they are not blocked by loose chippings?

Answer

All gullies are visually inspected after all resurfacing works and cleaned out by the contractors as required.

However, the approach is slightly different when surface dressing is carried out. In this case, gullies are cleaned out immediately after the surfacing works. However, as loose chippings will occur for a period after the surfacing, the contractor has an obligation to monitor and brush up any loose chippings. They inspect and clean gullies if necessary at these times.

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question

On 14 October the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology published a study which showed that, on average, Edinburgh is losing 11.3 hectares of green space annually as gardens are paved over or built on. In light of climate breakdown forecasts of increased and more intense rainfall, what steps does the convenor propose as regards policy and guidance to ensure that the rate of loss is reversed?

Answer

The city continues to grow and acknowledges that there is demand/pressure on green space. The role of planning is to balance the need for change whilst protecting high quality amenity spaces. It appears that people are adapting their homes to reflect an overheated property market and people are adjusting to different lifestyles such as growing families and an ageing population.

The study notes two causes of the loss of green land to 'urban creep':

- urbanisation through development of new homes, employment sites and other building and infrastructure (average 4.81 hectares per year);
- and the loss of garden ground of homes to extensions, hardstanding and other domestic development (average 6.44 hectares per year).

The emphasis of the report is on the impacts of urban creep on potential flooding rather than the loss of green space in itself and it makes clear that some instances of new or re-development have actually increased available greenspace e.g. Quatermile.

It is also important to recognise that new developments can reduce flooding and flood risk as they are required to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems under Local

Development Plan policy as well as national planning policy and Scottish Environment Protection Agency requirements. New development can also remediate brownfield sites and produce significant areas of high quality open space to complement development, as is the case of the new landscaped park at Western Harbour which will serve the new community and also at Granton. The Local Development Plan has policies to encourage this, to protect existing open spaces and the Council is currently developing policy on Green Networks to complement place-making and active travel policies.

For smaller scale garden ground development, a significant amount is carried out under permitted development rights granted by government legislation; and the Council has no control over these developments outside of conservation areas. It should be noted that where these rights are to form hardstanding to the front of a house, there is a requirement that the surface be porous or otherwise drained so as not to affect the street or roadway. Householder or other small scale developments that do need a grant of planning permission need to comply with Local Development Plan policy on sustainable urban drainage.

The Council is currently doing everything in its power to ensure that loss of green space is minimised, that new green spaces are created and that in all developments it has control over the issues of flood risk and flooding are addressed, whilst providing for homes and jobs. Features such as green roofs can contribute both to rainwater attenuation and biodiversity.

City Plan 2030 provides an opportunity to get involved in the debate on this issue. Other CEC programmes such as City Centre Transformation also offer the opportunity to reimagine road space (and parking areas) to introduce trees and greenspace. Edinburgh Design Guidance is also reviewed on a regular basis by the Planning Committee.

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question

What independent evidence did you have when you warned of “a steady and unstoppable decline for the city’s global reputation if it started to turn away promoters and organisers” and why imposing “a cap or upper limit” on what the gardens could be used for would send out the wrong message?

Answer

The article on Saturday misleadingly links my comment specifically to Princes Street Gardens, which is to take what I actually said, out of context.

It is my personal view that limiting or cutting back on events and festivals in the city as a whole runs the risk of sending out the wrong message internationally.

However, at no point in the interview did I state that either I or the Council were in favour of removing, or even altering, the cap on events in Princes Street Gardens

Item no 5.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Brown for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question

Can the Convener advise of the total numbers, per school and as a percentage of school roll, how many school children across Edinburgh were granted authorised absence by Parents / Guardians to attend the Climate Change event on 20th September 2019?

Answer

According to attendance statistics 2005 pupils in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools were granted authorised absence to attend the Climate Change event on 20th September 2019.

This represents:

3.4% of Primary School Pupils

4.4% of Secondary School Pupils

9.7% of Special School Pupils

Attendance - Friday 20 September 2019

Sector	School Name	Authorised Absence	
		Number of Pupils	% of School Roll
Primary	Abbeyhill Primary School	8	4.9%
Primary	Balgreen Primary School	10	2.8%
Primary	Blackhall Primary School	8	1.8%
Primary	Bonaly Primary School	7	1.6%
Primary	Broomhouse Primary School	7	3.1%
Primary	Broughton Primary School	11	2.9%
Primary	Brunstane Primary School	21	9.3%
Primary	Bruntsfield Primary School	17	2.8%
Primary	Buckstone Primary School	7	1.6%
Primary	Bun-sgoil Taobh na PÃ irce (Parkside Primary)	8	1.9%
Primary	Canal View Primary School	19	5.3%
Primary	Carrick Knowe Primary School	7	2.0%
Primary	Castleview Primary School	10	3.1%
Primary	Clermiston Primary School	23	4.9%
Primary	Clovenstone Primary School	10	4.3%
Primary	Colinton Primary School	5	3.0%
Primary	Corstorphine Primary School	10	1.8%
Primary	Craigentenny Primary School	11	4.0%
Primary	Craiglockhart Primary School	5	1.4%
Primary	Craigour Park Primary School	25	4.9%
Primary	Craigroyston Primary School	14	5.0%
Primary	Cramond Primary School	9	2.1%
Primary	Currie Primary School	16	3.2%
Primary	Dalmeny Primary School	3	3.5%
Primary	Dalry Primary School	16	6.1%
Primary	Davidson's Mains Primary School	12	2.1%
Primary	Dean Park Primary School	9	1.9%
Primary	Duddingston Primary School	14	3.7%
Primary	East Craigs Primary School	13	3.0%
Primary	Echline Primary School	12	4.0%
Primary	Ferryhill Primary School	14	3.9%
Primary	Flora Stevenson Primary School	11	1.9%
Primary	Forthview Primary School	17	4.1%
Primary	Fox Covert ND Primary School	6	2.1%
Primary	Gilmerton Primary School	24	5.1%
Primary	Gracemount Primary School	25	4.9%
Primary	Granton Primary School	27	5.7%
Primary	Gylemuir Primary School	9	1.8%
Primary	Hermitage Park Primary School	12	3.8%
Primary	Hillwood Primary School	5	8.1%
Primary	Holy Cross Roman Catholic Primary School	17	5.8%
Primary	James Gillespie's Primary School	28	4.5%

Primary	Juniper Green Primary School	7	1.7%
Primary	Kirkliston Primary School	14	2.2%
Primary	Leith Primary School	11	3.1%
Primary	Leith Walk Primary School	5	2.1%
Primary	Liberton Primary School	18	3.9%
Primary	Longstone Primary School	15	6.0%
Primary	Lorne Primary School	8	3.5%
Primary	Murrayburn Primary School	12	3.2%
Primary	Nether Currie Primary School	5	2.8%
Primary	Newcraighall Primary School	3	1.6%
Primary	Niddrie Mill Primary School	21	7.0%
Primary	Oxgangs Primary School	11	3.2%
Primary	Parsons Green Primary School	9	2.8%
Primary	Pentland Primary School	15	3.4%
Primary	Pirniehall Primary School	14	5.0%
Primary	Preston Street Primary School	16	5.5%
Primary	Prestonfield Primary School	9	4.7%
Primary	Queensferry Primary School	11	2.4%
Primary	Ratho Primary School	4	1.5%
Primary	Roseburn Primary School	11	4.4%
Primary	Royal Mile Primary School	8	5.7%
Primary	Sciennes Primary School	12	1.8%
Primary	Sighthill Primary School	6	2.5%
Primary	South Morningside Primary School	9	1.4%
Primary	St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School	5	3.2%
Primary	St Catherine's Roman Catholic Primary School	6	2.8%
Primary	St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School	8	4.0%
Primary	St David's Roman Catholic Primary School	19	6.0%
Primary	St Francis' Roman Catholic Primary School	18	6.8%
Primary	St John Vianney Roman Catholic Primary School	14	5.4%
Primary	St John's Roman Catholic Primary School	25	6.8%
Primary	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	6	1.9%
Primary	St Margaret's Roman Catholic Primary School	5	4.6%
Primary	St Mark's Roman Catholic Primary School	12	7.7%
Primary	St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (Edin.)	11	3.2%
Primary	St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (Leith)	21	6.1%
Primary	St Ninian's Roman Catholic Primary School	12	4.8%
Primary	St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School	15	4.0%
Primary	Stenhouse Primary School	10	2.9%
Primary	Stockbridge Primary School	11	4.1%
Primary	The Royal High Primary School	10	3.0%
Primary	Tollcross Primary School	2	0.8%
Primary	Towerbank Primary School	11	1.8%
Primary	Trinity Primary School	22	3.8%

Primary	Victoria Primary School	11	3.9%
Primary	Wardie Primary School	14	2.7%
Primary Total		1064	3.4%
Secondary	Balerno Community High School	20	2.7%
Secondary	Boroughmuir High School	36	2.8%
Secondary	Broughton High School	61	5.3%
Secondary	Castlebrae Community High School	11	4.6%
Secondary	Craigmount High School	32	2.7%
Secondary	Craigroyston Community High School	20	3.4%
Secondary	Currie Community High School	21	2.9%
Secondary	Drummond Community High School	19	5.0%
Secondary	Firrhill High School	48	3.9%
Secondary	Forrester High School	43	5.9%
Secondary	Gracemount High School	84	15.2%
Secondary	Holy Rood Roman Catholic High School	51	4.8%
Secondary	James Gillespie's High School	44	3.3%
Secondary	Leith Academy	53	5.6%
Secondary	Liberton High School	35	5.3%
Secondary	Portobello High School	51	3.6%
Secondary	Queensferry Community High School	30	3.4%
Secondary	St Augustine's Roman Catholic High School	63	8.1%
Secondary	St Thomas of Aquin's Roman Catholic High School	25	3.2%
Secondary	The Royal High School	38	3.0%
Secondary	Trinity Academy	54	6.3%
Secondary	Tynecastle High School	28	4.5%
Secondary	Wester Hailes Education Centre	10	2.9%
Secondary Total		877	4.4%
Special	Braidburn	14	12.5%
Special	Gorgie Mills School	5	10.2%
Special	Howdenhall and St Katharine's	0	0.0%
Special	Kaimes School	8	8.0%
Special	Oaklands School	8	16.3%
Special	Pilrig Park School	6	7.9%
Special	Prospect Bank School	5	9.8%
Special	Redhall School	4	5.9%
Special	Rowanfield School	3	10.3%
Special	St Crispin's School	5	9.6%
Special	Woodlands School	6	8.1%
Special Total		64	9.7%
Grand Total		2005	3.9%

Item no 5.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question (1) What business case has the City of Edinburgh Council put forward to secure additional funding from the £99m made available by the UK Government to the Scottish Government for distribution to Local Authorities to help prepare for the UK leaving the European Union?

Answer (1) The Council has contributed to various submissions being collated by CoSLA / SOLACE Scotland, the most recent showing estimated costs for Edinburgh of £1.2m

Question (2) How much additional funding has been secured for City of Edinburgh Council to be best prepared for leaving the European Union? And have these funds been received?

Answer (2) To date all Scottish local authorities have been awarded £50,000 of funding.

Additionally, a £7m Rapid Poverty Mitigation Fund has been announced by the Scottish Government in the event of a No Deal EU Exit. It is anticipated that the basis of distribution of this funding will be agreed at October's CoSLA Leaders' Meeting.

The Council will continue to work with CoSLA to identify the costs incurred in respect of exiting the European Union and will support CoSLA actions to have these fully funded for Local Government

Item no 5.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Brown for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 October 2019

Question

Can the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee confirm the lead times in place for Council related lampposts wraps to be removed following the date of the event advertised?

Answer

The guidance states that lamppost wraps may be installed for a maximum period of 28 days. Typically, the duration is less and timescales are generally dictated by the end date of the campaign or need for public messages. Where a supplier is used, they are instructed with installation and removal dates..

Lamppost wraps for the Edinburgh Fringe festival are managed as part of a contract with by Out of Hand Ltd. These are in place for the duration of the festival and can be in place up to 20 September.