

**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**

**MEETING 7**

**23 NOVEMBER 2017**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

## Item no 5.1

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Rae for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### **Question**

What discussions have taken place between the council and Network Rail, with a view to construction of a walking/cycling path on the former Powderhall rail line?

#### **Answer**

There have been no recent discussions with Network Rail regarding re purposing of this rail line. However, it is safeguarded for use as a cycleway footpath in the Edinburgh Local Development Plan. Furthermore, it is included in the city's proposed 'QuietRoutes' network as shown in the 2016 refresh of the Council's Active Travel Action Plan. It is intended to bring forward proposals for the future use of the route in association with the redevelopments of the Powderhall waste transfer station and land at Meadowbank, sites which the line connects.

## Item no 5.2

### QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

On 30 May 2017, Councillor Young and I submitted a petition to officials calling for action to address the parking issues in Newbridge. This was signed by the majority of the residents in the village.

What action has been taken since this date, particularly in the period since [10 August](#) when the Transport and Environment Committee approved the new Parking Action Plan?

#### Answer

The Council established a monitoring regime in August 2017 and have committed to visiting the area each month to collect details on the available number and location of parking spaces and to help identify any other relevant issues.

The monitoring will continue over the next three to six months to determine if the area meets all of the criteria as outlined in the Controlled Parking and Priority Parking Protocol, in particular:

- There must be indications of parking pressures generated by non-residential vehicles.
- Most properties within the area being considered should have no access to off street parking.
- Parking controls will only be considered in instances where the parking problems are either long-standing or established and reflect a permanent situation.

Initial reviews ascertained that alternative measures may also help to improve conditions for residents and these include; a review of restrictions in the vicinity of Newbridge village, removal of 'no parking' cones being used to keep kerbside space clear, introducing enforceable disabled bays for residents in the area and considering the introduction of yellow lines around junctions to improve sight-lines and enhance road safety.

Once the monitoring period concludes the Council will consider if the area meets all of the criteria within the Controlled Parking and Priority Parking Protocol. Should this be the case then we will engage further with ward members and residents to consult upon the design of any parking schemes.

## Item no 5.3

### QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

What action is being taken to tackle excessive vehicle speeds on rural roads in the Almond ward, particularly in areas close to small groups of residential housing?

#### Answer

The Council undertakes an annual collision investigation into all streets within the city, using details of all collisions that involve personal injury.

Two locations on rural roads in Almond Ward have been identified through this process for road safety interventions aimed at reducing vehicle speeds.

Design work is ongoing for the provision of a vehicle activated warning sign on Maybury Road, on the approach to its junction with Cammo Gardens.

It is also intended to commence the statutory process to lower the speed limit on the section of Burnshot Road between the A90 and Kirkliston in January 2018.

Responsibility for the enforcement of moving traffic offences, including speeding, lies with Police Scotland.

The provision, maintenance and operation of safety cameras (both speed and red light cameras) in Scotland is undertaken by the Scottish Safety Camera Programme, which is part of Police Scotland.

The Safety Camera Programme undertakes an annual review, in partnership with Local Authorities, to identify sites that meet its national criteria for the installation of safety cameras. This year's review of the Council's area did not identify any potential camera sites on rural roads in Almond Ward.

## Item no 5.4

### QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

**Question** (1) What statutory responsibility exists on the Council to ensure there is adequate lighting of the cycle path network?

**Answer** (1) There is no statutory requirement on local authorities in Scotland to provide public lighting.

**Question** (2) What percentage of the cycle path network in the City of Edinburgh is covered by lighting?

**Answer** (2) Precise information on percentages is not readily available. However, it is estimated that around 45% of the paths available to cycle on in Edinburgh are lit. Within the city bypass, the figure is estimated to be around 65%.

This estimate includes:

- the tarmac surfaced off-road path network, the large majority of which is lit, with exceptions mostly being in parks and on the waterfront promenade;
- non-tarmac surfaced paths, most of which are unlit, for example most of the Water of Leith Path; and
- paths adjacent to rural main roads, such as the A90 and A8, some of which are lit and others unlit.

**Question** (3) What plans exist to install additional lighting on the National Cycle Route 1 between Queensferry and Dalmeny?

**Answer** (3) The Council is undertaking an extensive programme of Active Travel improvements at locations throughout the City. However, there are no current proposals to install additional lighting on the National Cycle Route 1 between Queensferry and Dalmeny.

## Item no 5.5

### QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Janitorial Review

#### Question

At the 26 October Council meeting and in response to my second supplementary question on Item 5.8, the Convener said he would "look into the question in more detail and see if there are any issues that can be resolved".

When does he expect to provide me with follow up information?

#### Answer

The provision of facilities management support to community centres forms one part of the wider review of janitorial services provided across the Council estate which is currently underway. This review also incorporates the provision of service to those buildings run under the Communities and Families directorate, such as schools and nurseries.

The review process is aligned to the Council's Asset Management Strategy 2015-19 and has involved formal legal consultation with the affected staff and their trade unions, in accordance with the Council's organisational review procedure and processes. It has also involved direct engagement and consultation with Communities and Families over the levels of provision they require across the education and learning estate.

Part of the review process has equally involved engagement with users of the estate. In the case of community centres this has involved opportunities for management committees to meet directly with the project team to discuss the proposed arrangements for future janitorial hours that are able to be provided and how that can be delivered in a way that appropriately supports the activities that are run in community centres across the City. The majority of the community centre management committees have met with

the project team and local councillors have also been present at a number of these meetings by invitation of the management committee.

Given that the formal consultation process with the staff and trade unions has not yet concluded, no final confirmation of the hours and shift patterns are able to be confirmed in the public domain. The formal consultation with the janitorial staff is due to close on 24 November and after that date that a finalised structure for janitorial support across the Council estate will be determined. This is planned to complete in December.

Following the conclusion of the consultation and the confirmation of a final service model, I have instructed the Head of Property and Facilities Management to provide a briefing to all Councillors on the outcomes of the Janitorial review. I would expect this briefing process to take place in December, subject to the conclusion of the consultation process. This will also be formally reported to the Finance and Resources Committee in January 2018, as part of the wider Asset Management Strategy update reporting process.



## Item no 5.6

### QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

**Question** (1) What discussions has the council had with the Scottish Government regarding the possibility of allowing Scottish councils to use CCTV cameras for parking enforcement?

**Answer** (1) The use of CCTV cameras for parking enforcement is not currently permitted in Scotland. In England and Wales, the Traffic Management Act (TMA) allows the use of CCTV enforcement, for instance around schools.

As part of the Council's recent response to the Scottish Government's consultation on *Improving Parking in Scotland* it was suggested that allowing the use of CCTV cameras in Scotland could help improve parking enforcement. The Council also raised this point at Transport Scotland's recent *Parking in Scotland* event, where a number of Local Authorities and stakeholders came together to discuss themes arising from the consultation responses.

**Question** (2) What discussions has the council had with the Scottish Government regarding the possibility of decriminalising school streets enforcement?

**Answer** (2) Non-compliance with school streets restrictions is a criminal offence and must be enforced by Police Scotland. The Council does not have powers to enforce such offences and there have been no discussions with the Scottish Government regarding decriminalising this restriction.

**Question** (3) What discussions has the council had with the Scottish Government and other Scottish local authorities regarding the possible introduction of graduated parking ticket charges?

**Answer** (3) As part of the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on *Improving Parking in Scotland* it was suggested that allowing differential parking ticket charges could enhance compliance with parking regulations and improve road safety.

**Question** (4) What is the URL for members of the public to download the council's enforcement protocol; controlled parking zone and priority parking protocol; and private roads protocol, as approved by Transport and Environment Committee on 10 August 2017?

**Answer** (4) The Council's Protocols on:

- Parking Enforcement
- Controlled Parking and Priority Parking; and
- Private Roads

Can currently be found using the following URL:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/54363/item\\_72\\_-\\_delivering\\_the\\_local\\_transport\\_strategy\\_2014-2019\\_parking\\_action\\_plan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/54363/item_72_-_delivering_the_local_transport_strategy_2014-2019_parking_action_plan).

We are currently reviewing the parking web pages and it is intended to provide these documents online, in an easy to find location, once this review is concluded.

## Item no 5.7

### QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Miller for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

What systems are in place to track onward sales or uses of designated “affordable housing” whether provided through section 75 planning agreements; public subsidy or other financial mechanisms?

#### Answer

Most affordable homes, including those delivered by Section 75 planning agreements, are delivered by the Council or housing associations with Scottish Government grant funding. Grant funded homes cannot be disposed of without the consent of Scottish Government.

Affordable homes are also delivered through the Scottish Government’s National Housing Trust (NHT) programme. Homes must be retained in mid rent for a minimum of 5 years after which tenants can be offered the option of buying their home. There have been no disposals of NHT homes to date.

The remainder of affordable homes are for low cost home ownership and are delivered by private developers without grant subsidy. Scottish Government processes are in place for tracking onward sale of shared equity homes. The Council has a process for monitoring onward sale of low cost home ownership that are delivered through Golden Share.

#### Question

- (2)** What policies and procedures are in place to ensure that “affordable homes” as defined above are kept in perpetuity within the reach of people who cannot afford market prices to rent or buy?

**Answer** (2) For grant funded homes the terms of the grant offer requires the affordable housing provider to restrict rents to affordable levels.

All homes delivered through the National Housing Trust are required to be let at mid-rent levels (within Local Housing Allowance) for a minimum of 5 years.

In the instance of Golden Share homes, title deeds restrict the sale of homes to 80% of the market price in perpetuity.

**Question** (3) How many designated “affordable homes” as defined above are now in use as short term holiday lets?

**Answer** (3) Permission is normally required to sublet in Council and housing association tenancies to ensure homes are occupied by tenants as permanent residences. No Council tenancies have been granted permission to sublet on this basis in the last 12 months. One case of unauthorised subletting as a short term holiday let was reported with action taken to repossess the tenancy and re-let it as an affordable home.

## Item no 5.8

### QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Mary Campbell for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

- Question** (1) How many young people in City of Edinburgh Council Schools are eligible for the education maintenance allowance (EMA)?
- Answer** (1) The EMA is means tested and requires application, therefore eligibility can only be determined for those who apply.
- Question** (2) How many young people in City of Edinburgh Council Schools are receiving the EMA?
- Answer** (2) 1,080 have received an EMA payment for the 2017/18 academic year however applications are received up to the end of March 2018 therefore, this figure will increase.

## Item no 5.9

### QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Brown for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### **Question**

Further to my question in relation to Road Surfacing Works to the meeting of the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017, can the Convener supply a list of all locations where the contractor has yet to return to make good the road surfaces, a note of said works highlighted and dates when the respective remedial works will be undertaken?

#### **Answer**

I have attached the current Defects Register. The items highlighted in Green have been completed. A meeting has been arranged with the contractor on Tuesday 21 November to review their proposals to rectify the remaining defects. Rectification dates will be requested from the contractor at this meeting.

<b>Defect Number</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Issued To</b>	<b>Date issued by CEC</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Closed Out</b>
DN001	Areas not patched edge of carriageway	East Fettes Avenue	BB	29/8/17	CP005	17/10/17
DN002	Toby covered surface dressing	no16 Braid Farm Road	Kiely	29/8/17	CP004	
	Toby cover missing	Braid Hills Avenue	BB	29/8/17	Toby replaced and reinstatement around cover.Works completed by Kiely	27/9/17
	Damage to Surface Dressing	Gardiner Road @ Jeffrey avenue junction	Kiely	29/8/17	CP001	
	Manhole to be uncovered	Gardiner Road @ Jeffrey avenue junction	Kiely	29/8/17	CP004	
DN003	Low ironwork Orchard Road south	Ravelston Dykes	BB	1/9/17	CP002	20/10/17
	Missing cover on toby frame	Ravelston Dykes	BB	1/9/17	CP002	20/10/17
	Loose chippings footway	Blackford Avenue	Kiely	1/9/17	Footways cleared and channels swept again	21/9/17
	Area of surface dressing missing @ South oswald road	Blackford Avenue	Kiely	1/9/17	CP003	
	Carriageway defect at Bus stop South oswald road	Blackford Avenue	BB	1/9/17	CP005	20/10/17
	Carriageway defect at South oswald road junction	Blackford Avenue	BB	1/9/17	CP005	20/10/17
	SD defects at South oswald road junction	Blackford Avenue	Kiely	1/9/17	CP001	

	Carriageway defects From Junction of Grange Terrace down to just before St Albans road	Blackford Avenue	BB	1/9/17	CP005	20/10/17
	Outside EFI furniture store, iron-work covered	Blackford Avenue	Kiely	1/9/17	CP004	
DN004	Micro Asphalt laid too high removing upstand from driveway kerb	Dundas Place (12, 19, 23, 24, 29, 55)	Kiely	26/9/17	Areas profile planed prior to works. Kiely to provide proposal to defect. <b>Micro-asphalt re-profiled to provide a small kerb check at 19, 23, 24, 29 and 55. Re-profiling not possible at no.12 due to existing kerb levels/damage. BB will need to lift/replace kerbs. BB to reset kerbs at No 29 and No55</b>	
	Toby cover filled micro material	Dundas Place (14)	Kiely	26/9/17	Cover replaced.	27/9/17
	Covers missing from 3no toby frames	Dundas Place	Kiely	26/9/17	Covers replaced.	27/9/17
DN005	Poor quality of micro asphlat material. Possibly laid in wet weather. Excess loose chippings	Burnbrae	Kiely	2/10/17	Kiely to provide proposal for solution. <b>Burnbrae swept again and surface inspected by G Duncan/J Stalker on 5/10/17. Surface was found to be acceptable and is continuing to bed in. No remedial works are required.</b>	11/10/17
	Two small areas of micro material missing.	Burnbrae	Kiely	2/10/17	Two areas removed and reinstated.	22/9/17
DN006	MA laid too high removing upstand from driveway kerb	Craigleith Hill Avenue	Kiely	3/10/17	CP006	



DN007	MA laid too high removing upstand from driveway kerb	Coilesdene Crescent	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	CP007	
DN008	Potholes in surface dressing	Braid Crescent	<b>Kiely</b>	31/10/17	Repair to surface dressing	
DN009	Raised MA/Line markings burned on	Craigcrook Road		30/10/17	No action with raised MA there is not a significant dip in road. Line markings were burned to dry out and install markings no noticable damage to MA.	15.11.17
DN010	Potholes in surface dressing	East Fettes Avenue	<b>Kiely/BB</b>	10/11/17	Repair to surface dressing / reinstate surfacing	

<b>Defect Number</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Issued To</b>	<b>Date issued by CEC</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Closed Out</b>
CP001	Several areas of surface dressing push up	Saughton Road North	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	SD materail not taken to kerb leaving gap	Midmar Drive (No 10 to 30)	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Several areas of surface dressing push up	Midmar Drive @ Cluny Drive Junction	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Damage to Surface Dressing	Gardiner Road @ Jeffrey avenue junction	<b>Kiely</b>	29/8/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	SD material exposed	Davidson Road no 23	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Hole in SD to be surveyed	Davidson Road no 25	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Several potholes in surface dressing	Braid Crescent	<b>Kiely</b>	31/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
CP002	3no Toby covers to raise	Midmar Drive @ Cluny Drive Junction	<b>BB</b>	4/10/17	BB/Kiely to raise	23/10/17
	3no Toby covers to raise	Glenogle Road	<b>BB</b>	1/10/17	BB/Kiely to raise	23/10/17
	Low ironwork Orchard Road south, Missing cover toby	Ravelston Dykes	<b>BB</b>	1/9/17	BB/Kiely to raise	23/10/17
	2no toby covers to raise	No 29 Barnton Gardens	<b>BB</b>	4/10/17	BB/Kiely to raise	23/10/17
CP003	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	Braid Cresent 24m2 + 12m2	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	27 Greenbank Crescent 12m2	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	1A House O Hill Avenue 24m2	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	Davidson Road (opp no3 14m2)	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	Glenogle Road(Swim centre 44m2, Gabriels road 20m2, Teviotdale Place	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	

		16m2, Opp standard life 10m2)				
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	Keith Row (Craigcrook Place) no7 24m2	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	Albion road (no13 12m2)	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	East Fettes Avenue (Fettes college @ inverleith place 170m2, stewarts melville college 72m2)	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
	Areas missed due to parked vehicles	Blackford Avenue (No8 24m2, Grange Terrace 80m2, Ashfield Grange 60m2)	<b>Kiely</b>	11/10/17	Kiely to reinstate during next SD window	
CP004	Gas toby covered in SD material	Midmar Drive No30	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Cover to be cleaned	
	SV toby covered in SD material	House O Hill Avenue	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Cover to be cleaned	
	Manhole to be uncovered	Gardiner Road @ Jeffrey avenue junction	<b>Kiely</b>	29/8/17	Tape to be removed from MH	
	Toby covered surface dressing	no16 Braid Farm Road	<b>Kiely</b>	29/8/17	Toby to be uncovered	
	Ironwork covered SD material at EFI store	Blackford Avenue	<b>Kiely</b>	4/10/17	Cover to be cleaned	
CP005	Carriageway defects	Craigcrook Road/ Keith Row	<b>BB</b>	11-Oct	Remedial works by BB	18-Oct
	Carriageway defects	Midmar Avenue	<b>BB</b>	11-Oct	Remedial works by BB	18-Oct
	Carriageway defects	Blackford Avenue	<b>BB</b>	11-Oct	Remedial works by BB	20-Oct
	Carriageway defects	East Fettes Avenue	<b>BB</b>	11-Oct	Remedial works by BB	17-Oct
CP006	Micro Asphalt laid too thick removing kerb upstand and causing water to flow over kerb	Craigleith Hill Avenue	<b>Kiely</b>	31-Oct	Proposals by kiely. Site meeting required.	

CP007	Micro Asphalt laid too thick removing kerb upstand and causing water to flow over kerb	Coillesdene Crescent	<b>Kiely</b>	31-Oct	Proposals by kiely. Site meeting required.	
CP008	Profile planing/Kerb adjustment required to give kerb upstand	Dundas Place (13, 15, 19, 29, 55)	<b>BB</b>	1/9/17, 2/11/17	13-MA scrapped to remove excess material leaving upstand, 15-No issue, 19-TBC, 29-Kerbs to be raised, 55-Kerbs to be raised and block paving altered.	

## Item no 5.10

### QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### **Question**

Please could the Convener contact the owners of these telecoms junction boxes that line Lanark Road West as you enter Balerno and the junction of Cockburn Crescent & Whitelea Road and encourage them to have the graffiti removed as soon as a possible in order to help restore the area to its original condition?

#### **Answer**

I will ask the South West Locality to inspect the apparatus to identify the Public Utility responsible. We will then request that the Public Utility company arranges for the graffiti to be removed.

## Item no 5.11

### QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

At this time as we approach winter please confirm

- Question** (1) How many grit bins are in serviceable condition?
- Answer** (1) There are approximately 2,250 salt bins positioned throughout the City of Edinburgh and these are checked, replaced if necessary and refilled on a cyclical basis.
- Question** (2) What is the turnaround time to replace or repair unserviceable grit bins?
- Answer** (2) They are checked and replaced if necessary, on a cyclical basis. During normal mild conditions in the winter, a reported unserviceable salt bin will be attended to within five working days. During periods of freezing weather they will be attended to per answer four below.
- Question** (3) Are all the serviceable grit bins fully stocked?
- Answer** (3) Grit (salt) bins are checked, and refilled on a cyclical basis during the winter months.
- Question** (4) What is the anticipated turnaround time from the moment of notification of empty grit bin to it being fully restocked?
- Answer** (4) For efficiency and to enable resources to be directed effectively, salt bins are checked and refilled on a cyclical basis. Areas that have had more frequent lower temperatures, usually the South West of the City, will be checked and refilled more frequently.
- Question** (5) Does the council have enough resources to act upon empty grit bins?

**Answer**

- (5)** The Council has sufficient resource to check and refill salt bins on a cyclical basis. In 2016/17, 2 staff were deployed on average for two to three days per week for part of the winter. This was sufficient and a similar resource is deployed for 2017/18.

## Item no 5.12

### QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Jim Campbell for  
answer by the Convener of the  
Planning Committee at a meeting of  
the Council on 23 November 2017

#### Developer Contributions

- Question** (1) Of all Developer Contributions that have been agreed, what is the total sum:
- a) outstanding due to the site works not yet being at a stage that would trigger payment?
  - b) outstanding, where the site is completed or where works have progressed beyond a trigger point?
  - c) paid, but held in escrow pending the Council completing its contractual obligations?
  - d) paid to the Council?
  - e) returned to developers?
- Answer** (1) a) £63.392m since 2007 recorded through the monitoring system.
- b) None. There are no outstanding payments overdue at the present time.
- c) As at 31 March 2017 the Council held £22.357m.
- d) £26.724m since 2007 recorded through the monitoring system.
- e) As repayments to developers have not been monitored on this the way in the past, calculating the total amount returned will involve an audit of payments over a period of time. The intention is to report this figure in the next report to Housing and Economy Committee on the LDP Action Programme.
- From 1 April 2018/19 repayments to developers, along with other aspects of S75 payments. will be reported annually as part of the performance management of the LDP Action Programme.
- Question** (2) Where is this information publicly available?



**Answer**

- (2)** Information regarding planning legal agreements is publicly held on the Council's Planning and Building Standards Portal. This is on an individual case basis.

## Item no 5.13

### QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for answer by the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### **Question**

What additional resources will the Council need to provide to maintain the assets that will transfer from EDI to the City of Edinburgh?

#### **Answer**

There are no immediate plans to change the current contract arrangements for the maintenance of assets currently held by EDI. These will continue. Longer term maintenance arrangements will form part of the development plans for each site.

## Item no 5.14

### QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Cook for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

**Question** (1) What preparations have been undertaken to ensure that the Council can effectively respond to incidences of severe winter weather, not only in the city centre and main thoroughfares but in primarily suburban areas of the city?

**Answer** (1) We closely monitor the weather situation based on detailed forecasts, data from our roadside weather monitoring stations and in communication with the Met Office, and have a number of gritting teams on standby ready to respond to severe winter weather.

We have night shifts on patrol overnight when necessary. Our gritting fleet have snow ploughs that are attached when snow is forecast and to deal with snow that drifts onto the roads in high winds.

Road closures are ready to be put in place where necessary.

Our salt stock levels are at around 80% of that used in 2010/11 and we can restock within three weeks if required. We have arrangements with contractors to help us treat the roads and clear snow and many staff across the Council with skills and experience to deal with situations like this.

We have 96 Edinburgh Roads Services staff to treat roads and 60 volunteer staff from across many departments in the Council to treat pavements and cycleways. They are rostered on three shifts (in addition to their normal work) and are on standby and available to come out over a three-week cycle for one week of days, one week of nights and then one week off.

This year, the service will benefit from new tracking technology enabling more efficient management of resources. Following a trial in 2016/17, telematics devices have been fitted to the entire winter weather fleet, allowing lorries and tractors to transmit their location and gritting

operation, meaning teams can respond more quickly to the public. In addition, the temperature of the city's road network will be digitally logged throughout winter to create a thermal map, allowing for better gritter route planning in years to come.

**Question** (2) Does the Convenor have full confidence that preparations undertaken thus far will be sufficient to comprehensively meet the challenges posed by winter weather, including in suburban areas?

**Answer** (2) Yes, in accordance with the Council's priority based treatment. Preparations undertaken are sufficient to deal with average freezing/snow conditions and periods of more severe weather. Preparations have been made in discussion with the Met Office but forecasting is not an exact science and we are not able to accurately predict all unusual weather events.

## Item no 5.15

### QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Doggart for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

- Question**           **(1)** Could the Convenor inform council how many artificial sports pitches are operated by Edinburgh Leisure?
- Question**           **(2)** Could the Convenor provide a breakdown of how many of those pitches are available for football, hockey and rugby?
- Question**           **(3)** Could the Convenor inform Council which of those pitches are floodlit, broken down by sport?
- Question**           **(4)** Could the Convenor provide an analysis of the proportion of available bookings that are utilised?
- Question**           **(5)** Could the Convenor indicate any ways in which Edinburgh Leisure is looking to increase the utilisation of each pitch?
- Answers 1-5**           **included in attached report**

## QUESTION 15: By Councillor Doggart to the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee

### Introduction

The artificial pitches operated or managed by Edinburgh Leisure form various models of delivery. These include Edinburgh Leisure facilities, School facilities that have transferred to Edinburgh Leisure for operation of the sports facilities out with curriculum time and school facilities let by Edinburgh Leisure's School Team but have not as yet transferred to be fully operated and managed by EL out with curriculum time. There are also pitches that are also currently still operated and booked via CEC. The tables below detail the different operating models and answer the questions being asked.

Using the various models detailed above, Edinburgh Leisure and CEC currently operate:

- 12 Full size 3G football/rugby pitches
- 2 Seven a side 3G football pitches
- 13 Hockey 2G pitches
- 7 artificial cricket wickets

### ARTIFICIAL PITCHES – EDINBURGH LEISURE VENUES

	Venue	Football/ Rugby	Floodlights	Uptake	Hockey	Floodlight	Uptake
1	Bangholm				1 x 2G	Yes	5.5%
2	Meadowbank	1 x 3G	Yes	86%			
3	Meggetland SC	1 x 3G	Yes	71%	1 x 2G	Yes	64%
4	Saughton SC	1 x 3G	Yes	68%			

- Saughton, Meggetland & Bangholm close 6pm Saturday & Sunday

There is also a 7 a side artificial pitch at Saughton which attracts **75%** use each week.

Meadowbank Sports Complex closes on 3 December 2017 for redevelopment and will reopen in the summer of 2020. Some regular let holders have already transferred to other facilities in preparation for the closure. These clubs and individuals have been supported by Edinburgh Leisure to secure appropriate facilities for them to continue to play.

### ARTIFICIAL PITCHES – SCHOOLS

School facilities 'operated' by Edinburgh Leisure in community time:

	School	Date of Transfer	Football/ Rugby	Floodlights	Uptake	Hockey	Floodlight	Uptake
1	Gracemount	21/08/17				1 x 2G	Yes	68%
2	Firrhill	28/08/17	1 x 3G	Yes	47%			
3	Portobello	07/11/16	2 x 3G	Yes	81%			
4	Holy Rood	01/05/17				1 x 2G	Yes	12%
5	Drummond	04/09/17				1 x 2G	Yes	23%
6	Broughton	11/09/17	1 x 3G	Yes	81%	1 x 2G	Yes	33%
7	Tynecastle	18/09/17				1 x 2G	Yes	36%
8	Royal High	14/08/17	1 x 3G	Yes	75%			

9	Craigroyston	30/10/17				1 x 2G	Yes	0%
10	Craigmount	14/08/17				1 x 2G	Yes	94%
11 /12	Forrester & St Augustine's (joint campus)	11/09/17	2 x 3G	Yes	90%	1 x 2G	Yes	54%

**School facilities – bookings only through Edinburgh Leisure:**

	School	Football/ Rugby	Floodlights	Uptake	Hockey	Floodlight	Uptake
13	Leith Academy				1 x 2G	Yes	26%
14	Currie				1 x 2G	Yes	21%
15	Balerno	1 x 3G	Yes	98%			

**School facilities – bookings and operations still with CEC:**

	School	Football/ Rugby	Floodlights	Uptake	Hockey	Floodlight	Uptake
16	Braidburn	1 x 3G 7s	Yes	Unknown			
17	Castlebrae	1 x 3G	Yes	Unknown			

There are also artificial cricket wickets at:

Bangholm Park (1)	Duddingston (2)	Gyle Park (2)	Inverleith Park (1)	Meggetland (1)
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These are operated during the summer for approximately 18 weeks for cricket matches.

The above uptake details are a 'snapshot' of a typical week at peak operating times. These are Monday to Friday 6.00pm to 10.00pm and 9.00am to 6.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. For the school facilities, Wednesdays and Fridays are the least popular days, as well as, last slots after 8.30pm. Edinburgh Leisure have only recently been responsible for community time bookings (from August 2017).

Edinburgh Leisure are looking to maximise the use of all artificial pitches and promote these through clubs, via the Edinburgh Leisure web site and via the Edinburgh Leisure Booking app for Edinburgh Leisure venues. The artificial pitches are used for a variety of sports and all are supported by appropriate changing facilities. Pitches can be booked at any time for a regular weekly slot, club training sessions or occasional play. The Edinburgh Leisure artificial pitches are maintained on a regular basis to ensure the high quality of the playing surface.

## Item no 5.16

### QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Hutchison for answer  
by the Convener of the Housing and  
Economy Committee at a meeting of  
the Council on 23 November 2017**

**Question** (1) Can the Convener provide confirmation that all tower blocks in Muirhouse have been inspected to confirm that all building materials, doors and windows conform to current fire safety regulations?

**Answer** (1) Yes. Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Towers all Council managed tower blocks were inspected by a joint team from the Council and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). These inspections were in addition to regular fire safety inspections by both the Council and (SFRS).  
A detailed report was considered at Housing and Economy committee on 7 September 2017.

**Question** (2) Can the Convenor provide a timetable for planned improvement works for the tower blocks in Muirhouse?

**Answer** (2) See Table 1.

**Question** (3) Does the Convenor acknowledge that the lack of gas central heating in the Muirhouse tower blocks contributes to significantly higher energy costs for residents and as such leads to additional financial pressure on low income households?



**Answer** (3) The heating systems in these blocks have been replaced in the last two years with modern energy efficient SMART storage systems. Efficient heating systems are one of a range of measures, alongside insulation, energy supplier switching and controls, the Council takes when considering improvement measures to reduce energy costs for tenants. Other factors taken into account such as the availability of existing infrastructure and health and safety. These factors include the capital costs of different heating systems as these costs are ultimately borne by tenants through the rent charge. When installing new heating systems include health and safety, capital costs of installation, existing infrastructure in buildings.

A research project, managed by Changeworks – an independent environmental charity - is underway to evaluate the effectiveness of these heating systems. This will energy cost and usability. It will report later in 2018.

This is part of broader programme of research being managed with Changeworks, to ensure Council keeps pace with innovation in energy and insulation systems.

**Question** (4) Can the Convenor confirm if there any future plans to install gas central heating in the Muirhouse tower blocks?

**Answer** (4) There are no plans to install gas central heating in these tower blocks.

**Question** (5) Can the Convenor provide details of the councils service level agreement for carrying out repairs to the fabric of council housing property and more specifically how this is impacted where hazardous materials e.g. asbestos are involved?

**Answer** (5) Repairs, maintenance and improvements are carried out by the Council's in house repairs or maintenance service or by contractors procured in accordance with the Council's approved Standing Orders. All contractors are required to have an asbestos management policy in place.

All works carried out follow the Council's Asbestos Policy.

## Appendix

### Table One – Outline Lifecycle Programme of work for Muirhouse Tower Blocks

Location	Tower Block	K&B	Heating	Windows	Doors	External Fabric	Roof	Lift upgrade
Muirhouse	Birnies Court	2029/30	2026/27	2025/26	2025/26	2040/41	2037/38	2025/26
Muirhouse	Fidra Court	2029/30	2026/27	2025/26	2025/26	2039/40	2020/21	2025/26
Muirhouse	Gunnet Court	2030/31	2026/27	2026/27	2028/29	2035/36	2021/22	2022/23
Muirhouse	Inchcolm Court	2028/29	2027/28	2018/19	2025/26	2023/24	2024/25	2021/22
Muirhouse	Inchgarvie Court	2028/29	2027/28	2018/19	2025/26	2023/24	2024/25	2021/22
Muirhouse	Inchmickery Court	2033/24	2026/27	2026/27	2031/32	2023/24	2021/22	2022/23
Muirhouse	May Court	2030/31	2026/27	2026/27	2028/29	2035/36	2021/22	2022/23
Muirhouse	Northview Court	2030/31	2027/28	2028/29	2026/27	2038/39	2023/24	2018/19
Muirhouse	Oxcars Court	2036/37	2026/27	2027/28	2031/32	2023/24	2022/23	2022/23

## Item no 5.17

### QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Hutchison for answer  
by the Convener of the Planning  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 23 November 2017

- Question** (1) Can the Convener please provide the number of breaches of planning control which have been identified in the year to date?
- Answer** (1) Between April and October 2017, 443 new cases have been opened for enforcement investigation. 294 cases have been closed as either there has been no breach, the breach has been resolved or it is not in the public interest to take enforcement action. 142 cases are still pending consideration, two cases have led to planning applications being submitted and a further two cases are being registered. The remaining three cases have had enforcement notices served.
- Questions** (2) Of the breaches identified in the answer to question 1, how many have led to planning enforcement action?
- Answers** (2) Of the 443 cases identified above, three enforcement notices have been served. These numbers are annually reported within the Planning Performance Framework and publically available.

## Item no 5.18

### QUESTION NO 18

**By Councillor Johnston for answer  
by the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### **Question**

Will the Convener commit to weekend monitoring of road works in areas that experience higher volume of traffic on a Saturday and Sunday?

#### **Answer**

The Council has a statutory responsibility to co-ordinate roadworks and to ensure that wherever possible roadworks are carried out overnight, when traffic is least disrupted. However the duty to monitor road works lies with the utility company (to comply with the conditions placed on them by the Council as roads authority) or developers (to comply with permit conditions).

For major road works, the Council's City Wide Traffic Management Group review proposals in the context of other planned works and knowledge of existing traffic flow data to minimise disruption.

As a result of concerns regarding the perceived lack of activity on some road work sites, utility providers have recently been asked to improve performance by increasing activity on site, including weekends where required.

## Item no 5.19

### QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

**Question** (1) Can the Convener confirm whether schools are taking into account the teacher shortage in certain subjects when planning their course offerings for the next academic year?

**Answer** (1) A survey of secondary headteachers has revealed that, while schools are not yet at the stage of detailed planning for course choice options for session 2018-19, a number are reporting that they will be looking at potential national teacher shortages when deciding on specific subjects for inclusion. Of those who responded thus, the likely areas in which there might be restrictions on option choices were Computing/IT, Business Education and Home Economics.

A working group made up of Communities & Families and HR-related staff has been set up to initiate a more strategic approach to teacher recruitment campaign planning. The group tasked will now meet weekly until Christmas. A timeline has been produced in terms of co-ordinating recruitment campaigning with standard procedures around staffing returns, placing of surplus staff, identification of placements for probationers, etc. Elements of centralised recruitment, already practised in the primary sector, will be investigated for the secondary sector. Primary HTs will be consulted at their meeting on 28th November and secondary HTs at theirs on 29th November 2017.

**Question** (2) Is the Council aware of any current courses where pupils are not being taught by subject specialist teachers due to an inability to fill vacancies?

**Answer**

- (2) Subjects involved are Mathematics, Home Economics, Craft, Design and Technology, Business Education, English/Drama, Science and Music. Immediate steps taken in those schools where staffing shortage issues have led to a situation where not all lessons can be taught by subject specialists include increasing class sizes (still within agreed national limits), cross-setting, rotational arrangements and occasional recourse to Senior Leadership Team and Pupil Support staff. Certificate classes where pupils are aiming for National Qualifications have been prioritised in these approaches.

## Item no 5.20

### QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Rose for answer by the  
Convener of the Finance and  
Resources Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 23 November 2017

**Question** (1) How much has Edinburgh Council spent on pension costs in each of the last 10 years?

**Answer** (1)

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Non-Teaching staff</b>	<b>Teaching staff</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	66,158	21,798	87,956
<b>2015/16</b>	71,420	20,212	91,632
<b>2014/15</b>	61,838	18,846	80,684
<b>2013/14</b>	62,235	18,493	80,728
<b>2012/13</b>	61,617	18,478	80,095
<b>2011/12</b>	65,162	18,670	83,832
<b>2010/11</b>	61,781	19,078	80,859
<b>2009/10</b>	57,806	19,073	76,879
<b>2008/09</b>	53,319	17,242	70,561
<b>2007/08</b>	52,038	17,022	69,060

**Questions** (2) What is the breakdown of:  
a) employer contributions and  
b) redundancy, efficiency retirements and other "strain" costs?

**Answers****(2)**

Financial Year	Non-teaching staff		Total
	Employer contributions	Pension strain, added years and ex-gratia payments	
	£000	£000	£000
2016/17	52,689	13,469	66,158
2015/16	55,446	15,974	71,420
2014/15	54,843	6,995	61,838
2013/14	53,537	8,698	62,235
2012/13	51,427	10,190	61,617
2011/12	52,052	13,110	65,162
2010/11	51,310	10,471	61,781
2009/10	49,343	8,463	57,806
2008/09	46,117	7,202	53,319
2007/08	45,044	6,994	52,038

Financial Year	Teaching staff		Total
	Employer contributions	Pension strain, added years and ex-gratia payments	
	£000	£000	£000
2016/17	21,315	483	21,798
2015/16	19,715	497	20,212
2014/15	18,335	511	18,846
2013/14	18,002	491	18,493
2012/13	18,002	476	18,478
2011/12	18,223	447	18,670
2010/11	18,640	438	19,078
2009/10	18,635	438	19,073
2008/09	16,823	419	17,242
2007/08	16,673	349	17,022

**Questions****(3)** How does the increase in contribution rates relate to:

- a) the rate of inflation and
- b) the number of employees for each of the last 10 years?



Answers

(3)

Financial Year	Teaching staff		Year-on-year change in FTE numbers
	Year-on-year change in employer contribution rates	RPI rate as of December in each year	
	£000	£000	£000
2016/17	0.0%	1.8%	0.9%
2015/16*	15.4%	0.5%	1.1%
2014/15	0.0%	0.7%	-0.3%
2013/14	0.0%	1.9%	0.1%
2012/13	0.0%	2.4%	-0.2%
2011/12	0.0%	3.7%	-0.5%
2010/11	0.0%	3.1%	-5.5%
2009/10	10.4%	2.1%	-1.4%
2008/09	1.5%	3.0%	-1.0%
2007/08	6.4%	2.3%	0.4%
<b>Cumulative change</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>

\* Note: the employer's contribution rate for teaching staff increased from 14.9% to 17.2% in September 2015.

Financial Year	Non-teaching staff		Year-on-year change in FTE numbers
	Year-on-year change in employer contribution rates	RPI rate as of December in each year	
	£000	£000	£000
2016/17	0.0%	1.8%	-8.9%
2015/16	0.0%	0.5%	-3.5%
2014/15	0.0%	0.7%	1.6%
2013/14	0.0%	1.9%	3.0%
2012/13	0.0%	2.4%	-0.3%
2011/12	3.4%	3.7%	-4.3%
2010/11	3.0%	3.1%	-5.2%
2009/10	3.1%	2.1%	-1.1%
2008/09	2.1%	3.0%	-3.0%
2007/08	1.6%	2.3%	-1.1%
<b>Cumulative change</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>-21.0%</b>

**Questions**

- (4) What are the figures in relation to:
- a) Lothian Pension Fund Members and
  - b) teachers?

**Answers**

- (4) The analyses are presented by individual scheme in the tables above

## Item no 5.21

### QUESTION NO 21

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

In 2017 Cabinet Secretary for Education announced Pupil Equity Funding allocation. The funding (£1200 per qualifying pupil) is to be spent at the discretion of Headteachers working in partnership with each other and their local authority.

Scottish Government guidance indicates (among other things):

- Headteachers must have access to the full amount of the allocated Pupil Equity Funding
- Headteachers can work at an individual school and local community level or collegiately in wider school clusters and beyond at local authority level to address common interests
- The Headteacher will be accountable to their local authority for the use of Pupil Equity Funding within their school
- To ensure transparency, schools will be expected to incorporate details of their Pupil Equity Funding plans into existing reporting processes to their Parent Council and Forum. These reports should be publicly available so that parents can understand what is happening at their school.

**Question** (1) Have there been any cases where the decision of the headteacher, or group of headteachers, to allocate the Pupil Equity Fund has been overruled or in any way diluted by the Director of Children and Families or his staff?

**Answer** (1) No, however there may have been cases where a delay in accessing requested provision has been necessitated owing to the need to abide by procurement regulations. Where this has been the case schools have been advised to apply for a waiver as an interim measure and asked to encourage

the provider to apply to become part of the PEF Framework list which has been established by the Council in order to facilitate access to a wide range of provision.

The Open Framework which will be re-opened for all new providers at the end of November. This opportunity will be advertised via Public Contracts Scotland to give all new providers the same opportunity to join the Framework. The PEF Open Framework allows teachers the choice to decide which providers and services meet their school's requirements.

The criteria for joining the PEF Open Framework are based on the providers' meeting financial and business probity checks, clear and transparent pricing and also a quality evaluation based on the following criteria:

- the service provision – how and what they will deliver, how they will engage pupils and a case study including resulting outcomes (50%);
- how the service will close the attainment gap, ie a method statement detailing how the service will lead to improvements in pupils in literacy, numeracy and/or health and wellbeing (30%);
- details on how the provider will communicate with the school(s) (20%).

The Open Framework allows for new providers to be added twice yearly therefore it can grow to meet demand.

Further details of the process can be gleaned from the Pupil Equity Fund Open Framework, Finance and Resource Committee Report which was approved on 7 November 2017:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4268/finance\\_and\\_resources\\_committee](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4268/finance_and_resources_committee).

**Question** (2) If so, please list the cases and schools.

**Answer** (2)

**Question** (3) If so please clarify what justification has been used.

**Answer** (3)

## Item no 5.22

### QUESTION NO 22

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

Please list instances where, in relation to Edinburgh Council, there has been a

- a) Finding of maladministration
- b) Breaches of data protection legislation or Freedom of Information (Scotland) rules noted or recorded by the Information Commissioner (including directions to the City of Edinburgh Council) overturning decisions already taken by the Council
- c) Adverse findings by the Ombudsman over each of the last 10 years.

#### Answer

- a) Four findings of maladministration have been made:

2015	1 - Reported to Council in November 2015
2016	1 - Reported to Council in June 2016
2017	2 – One reported to Council in June 2017 and one will be reported to Council in December 2017

- b) Compliance with data protection legislation was centralised within the Information Governance Unit in 2014 so statistics are only available from that date. The following breaches have since been referred to the UK Information Commissioner:

2014	2
2015	3
2016	4
2017	3

One case, in 2016, overturned a decision taken by the Council.

The following decisions have been made against the Council by the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) in relation to freedom of information requests. As an indication, in the last three years, these cases represent less than 0.01% of the total number of requests dealt with by the Council under this legislation.

2007	2
2008	5
2009	3
2010	5
2011	7
2012	14
2013	10
2014	8
2015	5
2016	6
2017	2

(Note: These figures do not include decisions made against the Council for failing to respond to a request within the statutory 20 working days.)

- c) Information relating to decisions made by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) is held by financial year. The following cases have been determined in favour of the applicant either wholly or in part for the period requested.

2007/08	17
2008/09	4
2009/10	5
2010/11	7
2011/12	10
2012/13	11
2013/14	10
2014/15	9
2015/16	15
2016/17	21

As an indication, in the last three years, these cases represent less than 0.001% of the total number of complaints received by the Council.

## Item no 5.23

### QUESTION NO 23

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

- Question** (1) How many broken streetlights/columns are waiting for the required maintenance?
- Answer** (1) There are currently 4,218 street lighting faults (including 123 Scottish Power faults).
- Question** (2) If there is a backlog, what are the reasons for this?
- Answer** (2) There are two main factors which have caused the backlog. There are currently five vacancies for Street Lighting Electricians which we are in the process of recruiting for. Our agency partner has been able to supply two staff and we are progressing a framework service contract to supply Street Lighting Electricians on a labour-only basis, as well as exploring the use of a contractor to assist us dealing with the current faults.
- In addition, we discovered a fault with a lighting unit that meant we then inspected 1,100 units and have programmed follow-up work identified during those inspections. This is additional unplanned work which has had to be accommodated on top of routine repair works.
- Question** (3) What is the average waiting time for a repair?
- Answer** (3) The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault in October 2017 is 18 days.
- Question** (4) What is the date of the oldest outstanding repair?
- Answer** (4) The oldest fault is for a street lighting column that needs replaced in Boswall Gardens dated 29 April 2014. Light is still working.
- Question** (5) How are repairs being prioritised?
- Answer** (5) Repairs are prioritised by risk and then by age of fault.



**Question**

**(6)** Does the (Lighting) Department have sufficient staff to service unlit light issues as winter approaches?

**Answer**

**(6)** Once recruitment at full staffing establishment, and with the use of agency and framework contractor labour (where required), there will be sufficient resource.

## Item no 5.24

### QUESTION NO 24

**By Councillor Rose for answer by the  
Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

- 1 In July the bus stops were repainted with yellow paint.
- 2 Around August the relevant section of Blackford Avenue was resurfaced – missing out areas where there were parked cars and covering the recently painted yellow lines.
- 3 Subsequently, yellow lines were again painted (repainted).
- 4 On or around 20<sup>th</sup> October more resurfacing work was done – covering areas where yellow lines had been recently repainted.
- 5 Markings have recently appeared in the areas of resurfaced roadway suggesting further post resurfacing repairs are about to be done.

Does the Convenor consider the lack of sequencing and co-ordination is good value?

## Answer

- 1 No bus stops within the site extents were marked prior to the surface dressing works. One bus stop marking to the south of the surface dressing site on Blackford Avenue was re-marked and three bus stops on Grange Loan to the north were re-marked.
- 2 Some areas were missed due to the presence of parked cars. NSL (our vehicle recovery contractor) were otherwise engaged moving cars within the city centre and were unable to attend Blackford Avenue before the contractor had completed the available area. Significant waiting time charges would have been incurred if the contractor was instructed to wait for the cars to be moved, as the issue was outwith the contractor's control. The surface dressing contractor was booked to undertake works for another Council immediately after the works in Edinburgh were complete, so were unable to finish off the missed areas. These locations have been recorded and will be completed during next year's surface dressing programme.
- 3 As stated in answer one the road markings within the surface dressing area were re-marked for the first time at this point.
- 4 A number of defects were recorded by the contractor and our Clerk of Works. These were repaired around 20 October. Some short sections of road markings were removed by these repairs
- 5 Following reports of issues for cyclists, our Clerk of Works recorded some additional defects which will be able to be completed during week commencing 20 November. On completion of all the repairs, the missing road markings will be reinstated.

There will be no additional cost to the Council from rectifying these defects and reinstating the road markings.

## Item no 5.25

### QUESTION NO 25

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

In order to prepare for and to seek improvements in education within our schools in line with the Education Scotland Inspection regime it is helpful for Headteachers to be able to seek evidence of best practice through visits and engagement with their peers. On occasion, the very best practice may not be evident in schools in Edinburgh or in our surrounding collaborative authorities through Regional Boards

What options for learning visits or collaborations for Headteachers are in place to “best in Scotland” schools and how can these be extended, especially when our schools are seeking to make tangible improvements for their pupils at the higher levels of inspection grading (e.g. from good to very good)?

#### Answer

All schools in Edinburgh are using Self-Evaluation to inform, compare and improve their practice in line with the national expectations set out in Education Scotland’s *How Good is our School? 4* and *How Good is Our Early learning and Childcare*. This requires looking *inwards* and evaluating their own practice, looking *outwards* to learn from elsewhere and using this to *look forward* to plan for improvement. Effective collaboration between schools is also recognised as an essential part of school improvement.

In Edinburgh, a wide number strategies are in place to enable groups of schools and HTs to learn from each other and share best practice. For example, HTs meet in small Joint Practice groups across the year to learn from each other and improve practice. This self -improving approach, where schools collaborate support and challenge each other is backed by research evidence and recognised as

best practice. Most recently, HTs have worked in small groups to challenge and learn from each other's practice in raising attainment supported and challenged by the QIEO team.

There are currently schools in Edinburgh identified by HMIE with excellent or very good practice and the QIEO team also works with these schools to share their best practice with all colleagues across Edinburgh schools – for example at the sector HT or cluster school meetings that are held regularly throughout the year, by or through specific sharing practice visits to a school.

Several QIEOs and HTs are also Associate Assessors with HMIE and as a result bring innovative practice and understanding of standards nationally from the training they receive and from the schools they have inspected across Scotland back to share at these meetings. For example, at the most recent secondary HT meeting, one school shared their innovative work on middle leadership development and the rest of the session focussed on developing leaders' understanding of the national standards assessed by inspectors under the heading Leadership of Change in *How Good is Our School? (4)*. Associate Assessors' expertise is also used to support and challenge schools prior to and following inspection. They are also able to moderate how well our schools are improving in Edinburgh with schools across Scotland.

Leadership of Change is also a key focus for all QIEOs working across all establishments and is a key driver in the National Improvement Framework and all Edinburgh School Improvement Plans. Also looking outwards to drive improvement, we seek to learn about best practice in other local authorities, for example officers will soon make a visit to Fife and East Renfrewshire to look at how they track and monitor attainment across the authority. Officers and schools also look outwards to compare the progress of our children and young people at national, authority and school level to identify practice that is effective and can be used to inform improvement locally.

School leaders and officers also participate in – and contribute to - ducation Scotland conferences, where best practice across the country is shared, most recently a national conference for Scottish Attainment Challenge Schools. This is then disseminated to colleagues across the city. There are many other organisations that offer similar opportunities to hear about innovative educational practice that are open to school leaders and other practitioners. Last week for example, several secondary school leaders visited Larbert High School, which received the highest inspection evaluations for a secondary school in Scotland last session, to learn about a whole range of practice and this has since been shared with all secondary HTs.

The primary sector is further developing the self-Improving school system to enable the sharing of practices across schools. As part of Leadership improvement, all head Teachers were offered the opportunity to attend Columba 1140. On retirement, one of our HT colleagues, having received the recent Scottish Award for Leadership, will be further supporting colleagues develop Leadership skills in this respect.

Opportunities are also available for schools to visit and collaborate with establishments internationally. For example, European Union Comenius funding has been successfully sought by Castlebrae HS to establish a partnership with a high school in a deprived area of Paris while schools in the James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir cluster have externally funded partnerships with schools in China. Gracemount PS has a partnership with Finland and Dean Park with Japan.

## Item no 5.26

### QUESTION NO 26

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017

**Question** (1) How many visits by environmental wardens has there been to the communities of Queensferry, Dalmeny Kirkliston and Ratho Station, for the purposes of monitoring responsible dog ownership in public places? Please provide figures broken down by month since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

**Answer** (1) We do not have a recording system that holds this type of information. Our system holds information relating to complaints and enquiries received and not for ad hoc daily/additional patrols carried out in the area.

I can inform you that the Environmental Wardens visit the Queensferry area at least 3 - 4 times per week, not only for dog fouling but other environmental complaints/enquiries received. Breakdown of complaints/enquiries:

#### Enquiries

##### **South Queensferry**

- 1 x Open Space Dog Fouling
- 1 x Idle Engine Enforcement
- 1 x Domestic Waste
- 1 x Accumulations/Rubbish

##### **Dalmeny**

- 1 x Flytipping

## **Complaints**

### **South Queensferry**

1 x Not in our remit  
2 x Animal and Birds  
10 x Vehicles Abandoned  
3 x Open Space Dog Fouling  
4 x Littering  
4 x Flytipping  
1 x Trade Waste  
2 x Open Space Accumulations  
1 x Idle Engine Enforcement  
1 x Tables and Chairs, Street Furniture  
3 x Domestic Waste

### **Dalmeny**

2 x Flytipping

### **Ratho Station**

1 x Other Public Health Nuisance  
2 x Vehicles Abandoned  
1 x Open Space Dog Fouling  
1 x Flytipping

### **Kirkliston**

13 x Vehicles Abandoned  
1 x Open Space Dog Fouling  
1 x Common Land Dog Fouling  
6 x Flytipping  
1 x Open Space Accumulations  
1 x Idle Engine Enforcement  
2 x Domestic Waste  
1 x Control of Dogs

**Question** (2) To detail (again split by community and by month) how many warnings or fines, have been made since 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017

**Answer** (2) Kirkliston – 1 x Dog fouling FPN.



## Item no 5.27

### QUESTION NO 27

**By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### Question

What statutory duty sits with the Council to ensure footbridges are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005?

#### Answer

Much of this information is available online and I have provided a link to a Government Publication for your information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-quick-start-guide-to-the-public-sector-equality-duty>).

The Equalities Act 2010 replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act and this includes the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

It is Bridge Design Guide 29/17 which details the design criteria for footbridges and this has due regard for the disabled and those of reduced mobility. When providing a new bridge, the Council fully complies with this guidance.

However, there are many existing bridges that do not comply with the guidance. Typically, the bridges have inadequate width and do not have solely ramped access. When maintenance work on such bridges is to be undertaken consideration is given to making appropriate improvements where practicable.

## Item no 5.28

### QUESTION NO 28

**By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 23 November 2017**

**Question** (1) TRO/15/48 seeks to install parking restrictions on Barnton Avenue West, near to Cargilfield School. Of the 27 objections received, please provide (where known) the breakdown of numbers from:

Residents on Barnton Ave West

Residents on surrounding streets

School staff

Parents of school pupils

**Answer** (1) 47 Objections have been received following the public advertisement of the proposal.

Analysis of the responses has not been carried out yet, however, it is anticipated a review of valid objections will be carried out by 30 November 2017. Once complete the North West Roads team will consider whether to continue with the proposal, revise the suggested waiting restrictions or withdraw the scheme. Should the proposal continue the North West Roads team will make contact with each objector and prepare a report for the Transport and Environment Committee if appropriate.

**Question** (2) What is the current status of implementing this TRO and when is it due to be considered by the Transport Committee?

**Answer** (2) The proposed Traffic Regulation Order has recently completed the public advertising stage.

## Item no 5.29

### QUESTION NO 29

By Councillor Neil Ross for answer  
by the Convener of the Finance and  
Resources Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 23 November 2017

- Question** (1) Three recent changes on employment matters have implications for the Council
- Employment Tribunals no longer charges fees for bringing claims.
  - Following a recent ruling at the Employment Appeals Tribunal, employers are required to include all earnings when calculating holiday pay.
  - Gender pay gap reporting came into effect on 6 April 2017.

Since these changes, has the Council seen an increase in the number of claims made against it on employment matters?

- Answer** (1) The Council has not seen a material increase in the number of claims made against it on employment matters arising from the 3 changes outlined.

- Question** (2) Has any action been taken to reduce the likelihood of claims being made and, if so, what

- Answer** (2) The Council wishes to resolve employment disputes at the earliest possible opportunity to maintain a positive employee relations climate.

By applying our Council employment policies and procedures consistently and fairly, as well as providing assurance upon the operation of these we ensure the effective management and mitigation of such claims. Additionally, by working in partnership with the recognised trade unions representing both teaching and non-teaching staff, we also seek to address such issues effectively.

## Item no 5.30

### QUESTION NO 30

**By Councillor Neil Ross for answer  
by the Convener of the Finance and  
Resources Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 23 November 2017**

#### **Question**

At the Finance and Resources Committee on 7 November, you accepted an addendum from me to insert the word 'Administration's' into the 2018/19 budget report recommendations in order to tie the budget proposals to the administration. I was assured at the meeting that the public consultation materials would also reflect this. What specific changes were made to give effect to this?

#### **Answer**

Following the decision of the Committee, the consultation documents and promotional materials were reviewed and references to 'Council proposals' were removed.