

Leader's Report

City of Edinburgh Council
30 June 2011

1 Summer Festivals 2011

Edinburgh's summer festival period is upon us. The Edinburgh Festivals Impact Study demonstrates the Festivals' enormous economic impacts (£261 million for Scotland) and further confirms the huge contribution they make to the quality of life that Edinburgh offers. It identifies the Edinburgh Festivals' starring role in the promotion and appeal of Edinburgh and Scotland and also illustrates the compelling role of the festivals in creating local pride, defining national identity, widening access to the arts and increasing children's imaginations. You can download a copy of the full report at www.festivalsedinburgh.com/downloads. It's well worth reading.

2 Six Cities Sign up to Shared Vision for Scotland

Scotland's cities are the economic, cultural, social and intellectual powerhouses of Scotland. They are distinct and different but their success is essential to Scotland's long-term future.

Edinburgh and Glasgow have demonstrated for several years that working collaboratively is a potent recipe for success and this approach is now being extended to all cities across Scotland in order to enhance the nation's international competitiveness. Last month the Leaders from Scotland's Six Cities joined forces to sign a pledge in support of a shared vision of success for Scotland.

The Vision focuses on shared economic ambitions and priorities and identifies six key areas for partnership with the Scottish Government to deliver long-term and sustainable growth, namely:

- Building infrastructure that delivers economic impact;
- Developing innovative finance & investment models;
- Developing cities as the creative centres of productivity, knowledge and innovation;
- Placing cities at the heart of Scotland's sustainability; Recognising the cities' economic contribution to Scotland; and
- Creating international trade and tourism strategies which recognise the cities as gateways to Scotland

The cities will work in partnership with the Scottish Government, Scotland Office and civic Scotland to move forward with this joint economic agenda. A copy of the pledge is attached at Appendix (i).

3 Edinburgh Loses Out on Nearly £100m Business Rates

Edinburgh is Scotland's economic powerhouse, making the greatest contribution to our national wealth. Edinburgh's pivotal role in driving Scotland's economic recovery has been widely acknowledged. The unaudited financial statements for 2010/11 demonstrate that Edinburgh generated over £97million for the rest of Scotland through its contribution to the business rates pool from the £285.8 million collected from business rates in the city. Only £188.7 million was redistributed to Edinburgh through the grant funding system.

For Scotland's future prosperity we must reward, rather than penalise, economic growth. The introduction, with effect from April 2011, of an incentivisation scheme offers the potential for at least an element of the additional income raised in Edinburgh to be retained within the city.

4 Making Scotland's Case for High Speed Rail

I was delighted to speak alongside Councillor Alastair Watson, Glasgow's Convener of Regeneration and the Economy, to make the case for Scotland to be included from the outset in the UK's High Speed Rail Network at a conference held within Edinburgh City Chambers on 21 June.

The potential economic benefit to Scotland of inclusion in the UK High Speed Rail Network is estimated to be in the region of £20billion. Scotland's participation in the network delivers the greatest cost/benefit ratio and thus the maximum return for the public investment required. Only through the network extending from Scotland to London will journey times be reduced to below 3 hours, the tipping point for high speed rail delivering real modal shift to rail from short-haul aviation.

Ensuring that the network includes Scotland is vital in terms of economic competitiveness, providing maximum value for taxpayers' money and reducing carbon emissions. Scotland must do all that it can to advance the compelling case for extending the network here. I was therefore delighted that Keith Brown, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, stated that Scotland must clearly demonstrate that it is ready to be part of the network by announcing a pan-Scottish partnership to scope route alignments and potential rail termini in Scotland.

The City of Edinburgh Council will play a central role in developing the single voice and single vision required to deliver a high speed rail link to Scotland.

5 Scottish Parliamentary Election and UK Referendum

The results may remain a cause for celebration or despair but the logistics of the election of 5 May will now be fading from most memories. Before we move on too far I wish to record my appreciation for the huge amount of work from the Returning Officer, Sue Bruce, and her staff. This ensured that Edinburgh citizens could have full confidence that the voting process was efficient, secure and transparent. The addition of the Referendum to the Scottish Parliamentary elections brought with it additional complexities. Staff in Edinburgh provided valuable support to the Returning Officer for the Referendum in Scotland.

Managing an event of this scale is not the work of a single person. Nearly three thousand count and polling staff processed a million ballot papers with hundreds of other staff involved in supporting roles. While the bulk of the effort came from Council officers seconded to the Elections Team, without the support of partner organisations their job would have been much more difficult. I would like to record my thanks for the contribution of BT who managed the IT provision and for the staff of the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston who provided excellent support.

Due to the scale of this election count the Returning Officer had to use more staff than usual and appeals for assistance to partners in the city resulted in staff being recruited from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament, the NHS and RBS.

Elections demonstrate what this Council can do in terms of cross-departmental working. Tasked with a clear goal, a deadline and enthusiastic leadership, elections see all departments of the Council joining together to deliver in creative, energetic ways that are focused on putting the citizen - the voter - at the centre of the process. This is an example of the Council at its best.

6 Clipper Crew Prepare to Fly the Flag for Edinburgh

Crew members from Edinburgh's Clipper Round the World Race enjoyed a weekend in the city on 11 and 12 June to 'learn the ropes' ahead of their departure from Southampton in a few weeks.

As part of a city familiarisation exercise, the group spent time enjoying the very best of Scotland's Capital, getting to know one another in preparation for the world's longest ocean race. Thanks to the generosity of various city organisations, the 52-strong crew – 17 of whom are Scots - visited the Royal Yacht Britannia and Edinburgh Castle, tested their team work at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena and braved Mary King's Close.

Led by skipper, Gordon Reid, the team navigated their way around the city with GoEdinburgh unlimited travel tickets, which were donated by Lothian Buses. With a strong local presence on board the *Edinburgh Inspiring Capital*, crew members such as Callum Todd, a student from Corstorphine in Edinburgh, were able to give the insiders' view on the city.

The *Edinburgh Inspiring Capital* crew were clearly excited about representing Edinburgh in the race. Edinburgh's continued involvement in Clipper will strengthen our city's international reputation as a dynamic, vibrant destination and the crew's support and energy are key to these efforts.

7 Protecting Public Finances

Delivering on Budget

Last year for the first time since the Council's creation in 1996, all Departments came in within budget. I am delighted to note that the unaudited financial statements for 2010/11, included on the 30th June Council agenda, indicate that every Department has once again contained expenditure within budget. This has been achieved despite increased demand and reduced income across a wide range of our services. This has allowed the Council to make an additional contribution to unallocated reserves in 2010/11. As a result, the target of re-establishing these funds to a level consistent with the risks faced has been reached one year earlier than scheduled.

While Council approved a two-year balanced budget in February 2011, a number of risks remain. The surplus of £4.7 million for 2010/11 has therefore been earmarked to support further initiatives to deliver efficiencies and priority outcomes within the Council, thereby maximising the resources available for frontline services.

Making Energy Savings

Since August 2010, considerable savings on our energy and utility expenditure have been made. Through reassessing rateable values, drainage charges and reviewing billing, we have recovered £329,903 from our water supplier and an ongoing annual saving of £88,493 has been negotiated. We have also recovered a total of £52,379 from gas and electricity suppliers over the same period. Additional annual savings through tariff and changes worth £12,235 have also secured and work is continuing to identify further savings.

8 Providing Excellent Public Services

Recognised for Excellence

I attended the Scottish Awards for Business Excellence 2011 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, at which the Council received the Recognised for Excellence 3 star award. Following on from receiving the Committed to Excellence Award in 2010, this is significant recognition of the Council's progress in introducing continuous improvement based on the EFQM model.

Transport Awards

At the Scottish Transport Awards earlier this month, the Council came first in the Award for Excellence in Walking and Public Realm for the Grassmarket Project. This is the latest prize the Grassmarket has received since its completion; the scheme is a great example of effective joint working between the Council and local stakeholders, and is encouraging for this to be recognised nationally.

Lothian and Borders Police- Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Tom O'Brien and John McNeill from the Public Safety team in City Development who have both been presented with Force Excellence Awards by the Chief Constable for their invaluable contributions to Operational Planning at major events across the city. Tom and John both work very effectively behind the scenes to ensure public safety at events such as marches, processions, concerts and festivals. Their input at the planning stage of these events ensures that we seek a way of safely accommodating the sometimes conflicting requirements of residents, businesses and visitors so that we are seen as a "can do" place in which to stage them. It is very encouraging to see the efforts of our staff recognised by such a significant stakeholder.

9 Looking After our Young People

Opening of Fort Early Years Centre

The new integrated early years centre in the old Fort primary school has opened. Closing the old school was an emotional event for all those involved but it is always heartening to see new facilities moving in to buildings which have closed. The Council took the opportunity to bring together Fort Nursery Class and Victoria Park Child and Family Centre to establish a new Fort Early Years Centre. Along with the other users who will be moving in to the building we will have created a vibrant community resource which, I believe will add to the community's well being in the years to come. This centre adds to Craigmoynton early years centre which was opened last year as a result of the move by West Pilton Child and Family Centre to Craigmoynton High School.

Investment in School Buildings

Much of the first tranche of repairs and maintenance work which was announced earlier this month is to be completed during the summer break. The £7.5million investment will, among other things, replace boilers, refurbish toilets, repair flooring, windows and doors, improve playgrounds and school security and complete some re-wiring. This will make a huge difference with nearly two thirds of schools benefiting.

National School Sports Week

The lead up to the London Olympics is now in full swing and as part of this the Bank of Scotland National School Sport Week ran from 6 to 10 June. It involved 89 schools across the city and culminated in an athletics event at Meadowbank Stadium where the newly unveiled London 2012 torch prototype was on show together with the official mascots Wenlock and Mandeville. Katherine Grainger, the Olympic rower was in attendance to encourage the participants achieve their personal best.

This was the fifth and final event of a P4 road show organised by the Children and Families Department. Over 1200 children took part in these events, also staged at Meggetland, Inverleith Park, Saughton Park and Inch Park. Earlier in the week Meadowbank resounded to the joyous noise of the primary school Inter-Scholastics where over 1800 P6 & P7 pupils took part in many athletic events.

Cowgate Early Years Centre

I am very pleased to note that the Cowgate under 5s centre is the first educational establishment in Scotland to gain 'Investors in Children' status. This award is concerned with the human rights of children. In particular, Investing in Children works to ensure that children have a voice, and are able to influence the services they use. This is a fitting tribute to the staff and to the relationships they build with children.

Community Learning and Development Stakeholders' Consultation

A consultative group for CLD stakeholders has been established. This mirrors the successful engagement with parents through the Consultative Committee with Parents and is a pioneering model of consultation. The idea came out of the consultations for the review of CLD services where it was felt that sharing good practice and discussing common issues in a wider forum would be very beneficial. The group will meet three times a year to give feedback on how services are developing and to improve feedback with CLD participants.

10 Developing Edinburgh's Economy

Helping People Into Work

Over 3467 people with barriers to employment have been helped to a positive outcome by our Employability and Skills Team in less than two years. This has surpassed the Team's target over one year ahead of schedule.

Destination Promotion

An evaluation of the Edinburgh Sparkles campaign concluded that total revenue for shopping, food and drinks, recreation and transport in November/December was £116.9m. This figure is up 4.1% from 2008 (before the launch of Edinburgh Sparkles). This confirms the belief that seasonal promotions provide our businesses with essential support, especially during challenging economic circumstances.

11 Looking After Edinburgh

Acheson House

Edinburgh World Heritage Trust has been given a five year licence to occupy the first floor of Acheson House, Canongate, and to share the use of a ground floor meeting room with the Council. Acheson House, an A listed 16th century building, located next to the Museum of Edinburgh, will eventually form part of a Museums Hub. In the meantime, the upper floors of Acheson House are unoccupied and require significant investment to bring them into use. Edinburgh World Heritage Trust has agreed to provide £120,000 towards this restoration and refurbishment. Having the Trust on site will ensure that the building is kept in use by an organisation with specialist knowledge of the conservation of historic buildings. This is a very positive outcome for the Trust, the Council and, most importantly, the building.

Riddles Court

Proposals have also been approved to develop Riddles Court, a 16th Century building located in the Old Town, just off the Lawnmarket. The grade A listed building is of major historical significance and has links with Patrick Geddes, the pioneering educationalist and town planner.

The Council approved a lease of Riddles Court to the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT) which will enable them to secure funding to renovate and develop the building as a centre for learning and conservation based upon the principles and philosophy of Patrick Geddes.

West End Lighting

Traditional lighting columns have been installed on William Street and Alva Street. The new lighting is a demonstration of cross-service working within the Council with Edinburgh World Heritage providing valuable input into the choice of column. The new lighting will help reinforce the unique identity of the West End and is part of our ongoing commitment for local businesses in the area.

Hindu Mandir Temple

The re-opening of the Hindu Mandir Cultural Centre in Leith was celebrated at the official launch earlier this month. The refurbishment of this listed building included much needed repairs, improved accessibility, new heating and redecoration. The project has been part-financed through the Leith Townscape Heritage Initiative coordinated by the Council with the project financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and the Hindu Mandir Community. This is the third priority building to be refurbished through the Leith Townscape Heritage Initiative. The launch event brought together the city's Hindu community and provided an opportunity to showcase some of their cultural and dance activities. This new space will be open to a variety of community and cultural activities from all parts of the city.

Major Developments

The Council continues to deal with a number of planning applications for major developments across the City. Planning permission in principle has been recently granted for up to 300 new homes at the Fairmilehead Water Treatment Works. This site will become available for redevelopment once new water treatment works are operational at Glencorse, Midlothian. The Council has also granted planning permission for a new hotel use, extension and clubhouse as part of the existing Raeburn House Hotel and Edinburgh Academical Sports Centre.

Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings Interactive Map

The Planning service has launched an interactive map which allows you to find out if you live in a conservation area or listed building. The map also provides information on the characteristics of the city's conservation areas and detailed descriptions of listed buildings in your area. The map is available on [the Council's website](#).

12 Connected City

Transport Resilience

The very high winds and volcanic ash from the Grimsvotn eruption at the end of May impacted on the city's transport network, testing its resilience. Edinburgh Airport had to respond to the uncertainty and changing forecasts on the advisability of flying and Lothian Buses ran additional Airlink services to cope with fluctuating demand.

The disruption caused by 100mph winds meant that the Forth Road Bridge had to close, and many train services were cancelled. Edinburgh Bus Station had to close for over a day following damage to the building's fabric, but the Bus Station and Parking Operations teams responded well by adapting St Andrew Square to host arriving and departing buses and Lothian Buses provided temporary bus stops and moved one of their stances to alleviate the pressure in the vicinity of the bus station. The Council worked hard to ease problems by providing travellers with up-to-date information across several media platforms.

Bustracker Enhancements

A new-look Bustracker website will be launched next month, with improved reliability and increased capacity to meet the growing demand from the Edinburgh public. The new system will allow use by smartphone apps and integration into other websites.

The Council is now also sharing its real time planning information with Traveline Scotland, to assist them in developing realtime information provision as part of their nationwide service. Traveline Scotland has recently launched a new android app to join its iPhone app for journey planning.

Mercx Project

The Council has obtained European funding to promote cycling in the city. We form part of a consortium that is taking part in the Managing Energy Reduction through the Cycling eXcellence Project, which will start in October and run through to September 2014. As part of this consortium, Edinburgh has been awarded just under €110,000 to fund the promotion of cycling through the development of marketing publications; the delivery of workplace initiatives, such as travel planning and mobile bike mechanics; and promoting the use of a new Quality Bike Corridor from George IV Bridge to the King's Buildings. Edinburgh has contributed €47,000 towards this project; and over the next three years we will be collaborating with thirteen European partners, led by Traject Mobility Management in Gent, Belgium.

Edinburgh Airport

Congratulations to the staff and management at Edinburgh Airport which has been voted Best European Airport of its size at an award ceremony in Lisbon. The judges cited the "dedication of its management and staff" and "excelling in all the key areas of operations".

13 Cleaner, Greener Safer City

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020

As Scotland's capital city, we are committed to leading on sustainable development. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face. Addressing it involves adapting to its inevitable impacts and taking action to reduce carbon emissions.

The Council has recently published [Sustainable Edinburgh 2020](#), our vision and policy framework for a low carbon, resource efficient city that delivers a resilient economy, ensures a high quality of life and sustains vibrant local communities. It is about more than just 'being green' - it is about balancing social, economic and environmental issues in an efficient and equitable way, building on our strengths and challenging our weaknesses to develop a sustainable city of the future.

We now want to engage with residents, communities, businesses and wider stakeholders in Edinburgh, as well as with our own staff to seek views on how the city can achieve this vision. I urge you to read [Sustainable Edinburgh 2020](#) and make use of the electronic response facilities to share your views on how the city can best develop sustainably, what the priorities should be, and how the Council works with all sectors to make this happen.

Water of Leith

Work on the construction of Phase 1 of the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme is now underway. Lagan Construction has been awarded the contract, and has met with the local community to advise on the work programme, which will run until autumn of 2012. Access platforms have been constructed in the river at the Stockbridge Colonies and at Bonnington so that the contractor can start building the new flood walls.

This is an important piece of work, as it will provide protection to approximately 480 properties against major flooding and will also form the foundation for the next phase of work, which will provide protection for a further 166 properties. The work has been designed so that implementing flood protection in one area will not increase the risk in any other area.

Community Initiative Week - Moredun

From 23 May the Council, Police and other key partners participated in a Community Initiative week in Moredun to make the area cleaner, greener and safer and address the concerns of the local residents. Community Safety Officers provided information to all 560 residents on how to raise concerns about issues such as antisocial behaviour or crime and also distributed Fire and Home Safety packs. Direct action was taken to deal with problems like graffiti, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles. Of course, these services are delivered on a daily basis but a focused initiative such as this helps to raise awareness of the wide range of services that are available and to build relationships with the local community.

Storm Damage

Following the high winds which started on 23rd May 2011, the Forestry Service has responded to over 350 emergency tree incidents involving hundreds of fallen and damaged trees. With the support of Roads Services, Ranger Services and neighbourhood task force teams, roads and pedestrian walkways were kept open and safe throughout this period. We are now in a major tidy up phase which should be completed by the end of June.

City Centre Refuse Collection

Modifications to refuse collection are being piloted for up to 8 months in the city centre to tackle the street littering and gull and vermin problems associated with black bag collection. These pilots are part of a wider public consultation which the Council undertook in January, looking at how to modernise the service in this historic area. Working with local residents, businesses and community groups, the Council used the feedback from the consultation to develop the trials. The methods being trialed include on-street communal bins and recycling points, gull proof bags, wheelie bins and evening collections. The city centre is also participating in the food waste collection pilot. We will evaluate all these and consult again before proposing which methods could be introduced permanently.

Food Waste Collection

Following the introduction of pilot kerbside collections of food waste for 15,000 households in April, the service has already collected 69 tonnes. Work is now underway to introduce communal bins for 5,000 flats over the summer.

Eco-Schools Celebration

The annual Eco-Schools celebration took place at Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus. The event celebrated the efforts of pupils and staff for their Eco-Schools achievements and provided an opportunity to share experiences. Presentations were given by St Margaret's RC Primary, St Catherine's RC Primary, Gracemount High School and Kaimes Special School.

Schools that had achieved a Green Flag during the last year received certificates to recognise their achievement and all schools attending had the opportunity to pick up useful environmental resources and ideas at an eco-market place, involving a wide range of organisations.

Eurocities Photo Competition

Well done to 15 year old Tynecastle High School pupil, Jack Brown, who won EUROCITIES 'Your City – Your View' photography competition. This is an excellent way to broaden our understanding of the way young people interact with our city, capturing what makes Edinburgh special in new and exciting ways.

Gardening Scotland

Going there purely for pleasure for the first time in several years, Gardening Scotland at Ingliston provided a wonderful range of gardening ideas. Special congratulations to the Edinburgh schools who exhibited witty and thoughtful mini-gardens on pallets.

14 Providing Warm, Affordable Homes

21st Century Homes

The 21st Century Homes development at Gracemount has been awarded its second industry award this year at the Scottish Home Awards. The 215 home development won the Community Partnership category for the Council's work with Cruden Homes in the delivery of new council homes as part of a sustainable mixed tenure development. The Gracemount development was also a runner up at the Homes for Scotland Awards in the category of Local Authority and Key Agency Working.

Council Bids for Affordable Homes

In April the Scottish Government invited bids for a share of a £50m "Innovation & Investment Fund" to boost the supply of affordable homes. There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in Edinburgh with an average of 147 people bidding for every Council or housing association home that becomes available.

The Council is bidding for funds to build new homes at Fort House in North Edinburgh and Greendykes in East Edinburgh. In both cases, Council homes will form part of larger housing developments. The Council has also submitted funding bids for essential infrastructure at Greendykes, a mortgage indemnity guarantee scheme to support first time buyers and a Scottish Government funding guarantee to enable the Council to lend funds to housing associations to build more affordable homes. It is anticipated that the Scottish Government will announce the projects that it plans to support through its "Innovation & Investment Fund" in August.

Commissioning Plan

Preventing homelessness is at the heart of the consultation on the new draft commissioning plan for advice, support and accommodation services for people threatened with homelessness. Getting the right help at the right time can help people get their lives back on track.

This plan was prepared following consultation in March and April 2011. Nearly 400 service users, service providers and front line workers took part in surveys, seminars and focus groups. There is now a consultation period before the proposed final plan is reported to Health, Social Care and Housing committee in August. More information is available on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/helppreventhomelessness. The closing date for responses is 6 July 2011.

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership

The Forth Neighbourhood Partnership hosted a public meeting at Telford College in June, covering regeneration in its widest sense. Speakers provided updates on the 21st Century Homes for Edinburgh Programme, development opportunities in the Waterfront and work towards a healthier Forth ward including discussion on the proposed North West Edinburgh Partnership Centre. Over 70 guests enjoyed the speakers before visiting the 'marketplace' where more than 20 local stakeholders had set up stalls to show off their work and discuss a wide range of important issues.

Support for Ex- Service Personnel

Many leaving the armed forces find it difficult to find a home. The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee has agreed to consult on a proposal to include time spent in armed forces accommodation when ex- service personnel make an application. The housing options service will be extended to include ex-service personnel and the Council has committed to working with armed forces charities and housing associations to identify plots of land for future housing development.

15 Promoting Culture, Leisure and Sport

Cuddlebook Corner

On 11 May Portobello Library opened the specially-designed Cuddlebook Corner. Over 100 parents and children came to see Bookbug take part in the library's weekly rhymetime, a singing and rhyming session for toddlers under three. The multi-use zone features bright, comfortable furniture and a special logo encourages people to relax. Bookbug Rhymetimes is a free activity which takes place in various libraries. The Library Service plans to install similar spaces in libraries across the city, with Cuddlebook Corners planned for Craigmillar, Morningside and Drumbrae in 2012. Libraries will also be entertaining children over the summer by running fun events up to 28 August with the Circus Stars Summer Reading Challenge. More information is available on The [Circus Stars webpage](#). All events and performances are free.

Health Information Point

A Health Information Point has been launched in Muirhouse Library. *Your Community Your Health* is a partnership between the Council, the NHS and Pilton Community Health Project. This will deliver better quality health information in Muirhouse/Pilton to help build communities that are active, engaged, informed and educated.

16 Chernobyl Visit

Chernobyl Children's Life Line, (CCLL), a charity which aims to improve the health of children from Belarus and Ukraine, is calling for volunteers to host children on their next visit to Edinburgh. The call comes after nine children enjoyed a break in the city during which time they were guests of honour at a reception in the City Chambers.

The children, who range in age from nine to 13, spent three weeks in Edinburgh and the Lothians. They enjoyed a variety of activities such as go-karting, climbing and swimming, and visits to attractions including Edinburgh Castle, the Zoo and Mary King's Close. They also attended local dentists and opticians and attended local schools. The children were hosted by local families, who provided a 'home from home' during their stay.

If you are interested in finding out more about the charity, or in hosting a child during the next visit, please contact edinburgh@ccll.org.uk

17 John Jenkins

John Jenkins, the City Development Business Manager, has decided to take the opportunity afforded by the Council's Voluntary Early Release scheme to move to pastures new. John, who does not like to dwell on the past, has been in local government for, as he puts it "long enough for no one to need to be bothered". John's wealth of experience, plain common sense and calm, considered approach has seen him support the Directors of City Development through many difficult situations, and has been invaluable to successive Council Leaders.

John was recognised in 2008 in the Staff Awards in the Inspiring People category. I would like to wish John the best of luck in whatever he decides to embark on.

18 Donald McGougan

Donald McGougan, Director of Finance, retires after 40 years of service to local government. Starting in 1971 as a Trainee Accountant in Midlothian County Council, Donald had a short spell at Edinburgh District Council before moving on to Falkirk District Council. Returning to Edinburgh in 1987, Donald was appointed Depute Director of Finance with Edinburgh District Council. He remained in this role until reorganisation, when he was appointed Director of Finance for the City of Edinburgh Council. Donald has demonstrated excellent leadership and stewardship of the Council's finances. He has also provided invaluable advice and support to a wide range of partnership organisations, for example through his roles as Treasurer of the Lothian and Borders Police and Fire and Rescue Boards, Forth Estuary Transportation Authority and as Director and Honorary Treasurer of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Donald's contribution to local government finance in Edinburgh and Scotland has been significant, and was deservedly recognised in 2001 when he was awarded public sector Finance Director of the Year.

I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Councillor Jenny Dawe
Council Leader