

Committee Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2009/2010

Meeting 12 – Thursday, 11 March 2010

Edinburgh, 11 March 2010 - At a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council.

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable George Grubb

COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken
Ewan Aitken
Robert C Aldridge
Jeremy R Balfour
Eric Barry
David Beckett
Angela Blacklock
Mike Bridgman
Deidre Brock
Gordon Buchan
Tom Buchanan
Steve Burgess
Andrew Burns
Ronald Cairns
Steve Cardownie
Maggie Chapman
Maureen M Child
Joanna Coleman
Jennifer A Dawe
Charles Dundas
Cammy Day
Paul G Edie
Nick Elliott-Cannon
Paul Godzik
Norma Hart
Stephen Hawkins
Ricky Henderson
Lesley Hinds
Allan G Jackson

Alison Johnstone
Colin Keir
Louise Lang
Jim Lowrie
Gordon Mackenzie
Kate MacKenzie
Marilyne A MacLaren
Mark McInnes
Stuart Roy McIvor
Tim McKay
Eric Milligan
Elaine Morris
Joanna Mowat
Rob Munn
Gordon J Munro
Ian Murray
Alastair Paisley
Gary Peacock
Ian Perry
Cameron Rose
Jason G Rust
Conor Snowden
Marjorie Thomas
Stefan Tymkewycz
Phil Wheeler
Iain Whyte
Donald Wilson
Norrie Work

1 Condolences – 3rd Battalion The Rifles and the Royal Scots Borderers – Motion by the Lord Provost

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item be dealt with as a matter of urgency in order that it be considered timeously.

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 27:

"Council expresses its sympathy to the families of the following dedicated and brave soldiers, based in Edinburgh, who have lost their lives in service of their country:

Private Sean McDonald, from Edinburgh, serving with The Royal Scots Borderers, who died as a result of an explosion near Sangin, Helmand Province on 7 February 2010;

Corporal Johnathan Moore, serving with The Royal Scots Borderers, who was killed in the same explosion in Helmand Province on 7 February 2010 as Private McDonald;

Corporal Richard Green of 3rd Battalion The Rifles who died as a result of small arms fire near Sangin, in Helmand Province, on 2 March 2010;

Rifleman Jonathon Allott of 3rd Battalion The Rifles who died following an explosion which occurred near Sangin, in Helmand Province, on 5 March 2010; and

Rifleman Liam Maughan of 3rd Battalion The Rifles who died as a result of small arms fire near Sangin, in Helmand Province, on 6 March 2010.

Council records its condolences for the 3rd Battalion The Rifles and the Royal Scots Borderers as they mourn the loss of their colleagues."

Decision

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

2 Deputation Requests – Grant Aid to Third Parties

The Council heard the following deputations on the Council's grant aid to third parties for 2010/2011 (see item 4 below):

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The Broomhouse Centre – The deputation stated that Broomhouse was one of the most deprived areas within the city and the country. The Broomhouse Centre had for 20 years provided a range of community services to local residents. The deputation gave examples of the services provided and the number of people who directly and indirectly benefited from them. The Centre had been attempting to build up and maintain adequate reserves to ensure the running of the Centre but these were fragile and, in order to continue, they asked the Council to continue to fund the Centre at the same level as 2009/2010.

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) - The deputation worked with over 1,000 organisations providing local services to local people. Protecting social value and high quality services was vital and voluntary organisations provided a crucial buffer to those who required help. The deputation was concerned that a large number of the organisations affected had not yet been advised of what their grant for 2010/2011 would be. They gave details of what today's proposals would mean to the many organisations they worked with, over half of whom would have to reduce the service they provided. They pointed out that short term decisions would lead to long term problems; any reduction in resources may lead to the need for crisis intervention in future years. The deputation asked the Council to be conscious of the wider and longer term impact of any decisions they made.

Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) - LAYC provided support to local youth organisations. The services these organisations provided helped in preventing future intervention by social services. The proposed funding reductions did not appear to support early intervention and they urged the Council to look to the future. The deputation asked that a proper and fair impact assessment be carried out before any decision was made on any funding and all relevant information shared with the organisations affected.

Link Up Women's Support Centre - Link Up Women's Support Centre was a major women's health project dealing with women's mental health issues and provided preventative help which had minimised admission to hospital. The deputation's main concern was the lack of communication from the Council. The project had received no visits from the Council for a considerable time and had not had a link officer for over a year. Link Up had originally been targeted for a 100% reduction in grant from Children and Families and they had been made aware of this through an article in the Evening News. They had not received information from the Council itself. Their grant had since been reinstated for which they were grateful but they asked the Council to consider how decisions were made and to carry out a cost benefit analysis in future years.

Forth Voluntary Sector Forum - The deputation detailed the importance of the work they provided as a local voluntary agency. Their work involved local workers and volunteers who interacted with local children and young adults to provide intervention when problems arose. If their services were taken away due to lack of funding the local experience built up over the years would be lost.

(References – e-mails dated 10 February and 1, 2, 2 and 9 March 2010, submitted.)

3 Proposed Closure of Community Learning and Development Establishments

The South West Neighbourhood Partnership had referred recommendations following consideration of a motion on the proposed closure of Community Learning and Development establishments in Edinburgh and the South West Neighbourhood Partnership area in particular.

Deputation requests on the matter had been received from:

- Friends of The Number Shop
- Colinton Mains Community Centre
- Longstone Community Centre
- Management Committee of the Gorgie Memorial Hall

The Lord Provost ruled that this matter was not technically relevant based on the fact that the motion approved at the South West Neighbourhood Partnership stated that the Council “has agreed to close ... six Community Centres at the beginning of this coming April”. This statement was inaccurate as no decision had yet been taken on this issue and consultation was ongoing. In his view, the motion was premature. Therefore, in accordance with Standing Order 55(3), as the issue would not be considered, the deputations were not heard. The deputations had been advised that their requests could be forwarded to the Education, Children and Families Committee and had been given details of the consultation exercise.

(References – deputation requests dated 8, 9 and 10 March 2010; report no CEC/123/09-10/SWNP by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

4 Deputation Requests – Portobello High School

The Council heard the following deputations on the proposals for the delivery of a new Portobello High School (see item 6 below):

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Portobello High School Parent Council – The deputation strongly agreed that the new Portobello High School should be built on Portobello Park and that any loss of open space would be more than compensated for by the provision of a high quality educational and sporting facility. They understood the concern about the proposals on open space but believed that the proposals for the school would be a significant improvement and of real benefit to the local community. The Parent Council looked forward to being included in the consultation on the open space proposals but asked that it did not delay the process of building a new school. They therefore asked the Council to maintain momentum on the new school in tandem with developing a policy for enhancing open space.

Portobello Park Action Group – The deputation stressed that the decision in 2006 to build a new school for Portobello on open park land had been contentious. The Council had made that decision conditional on alternative open space being found but were now being asked to go back on this decision. The deputation also claimed that there had been no clarification on the issue on whether the area of land concerned was Common Good land. They indicated that there was a health and safety issue with the route the children would take to the new school and felt that the loss of the park was a major loss to the local area as it was used for sporting activities, children playing, the elderly and dog walkers. They claimed the Council was riding roughshod over the local community and did not feel they could trust the Council on this issue.

(References – e-mails (2) dated 9 March 2010, submitted.)

5 Grant Aid to Third Parties: Performance and Outcomes 2008/09 and Funding Proposals 2010/11

The Council considered the following:

- an overview of the varied programme of Council grant funding to third parties;
- outcomes and performance for 2008/09 of third party organisations receiving grant aid from the Council;
- high level statistics for voluntary sector activity and an update on the implementation of the quality assurance framework;
- results of the application and assessment process for grant aid to third party organisations for 2010/11;
- recommendations for the disbursement of the Council's grant aid to third parties in 2010/11, including movement of some larger grants to Service Level Agreements.

The Council had heard deputations on the matter (see item 2 above).

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Motion

- 1) To note the contents of the reports (3) by the Director of Corporate Services and to commend officers on their hard work in presenting a wide range of recommendations for consideration.
- 2) To note the investment through 3rd party payments in the National Outcomes from the Edinburgh Single Outcome Agreement as detailed in report no CEC/129/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To note the successful operation of a wide range of services through 3rd party grants in 2008/09, with strong leverage of resources into the city and high achievement against funding objectives.
- 4) To note the successful introduction of the Quality Assurance Framework, coupled with the implementation of an electronic system for performance management and quality assurance.
- 5) To recognise the benefits that the implementation of the framework would bring in working in partnership with organisations to deliver shared objectives.
- 6) To note that a number of recommendations in the appendices to the Director's report no CEC/131/09-10/CS resulted from amendments made by the Administration during the budget process.

For the avoidance of doubt these recommendations related to the awards to:

- Alzheimer Scotland (Core Service)
 - Bingham and District Over 50s
 - Currie Youth Club
 - Edinburgh Area Scout Council
 - Epilepsy Scotland
 - Eric Liddell (CAiRE)
 - Gorgie/Dalry Community Association
 - Granton Information Centre
 - Link Up Women's Support Centre
 - Munro Community Centre
 - The Queen's Hall
 - Water of Leith Conservation Trust
- 7) To approve the grant recommendations detailed in appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4d (Culture and Sport) to the Director's report no CEC/131/09-10/CS, subject to the following amendments:

• Cavalry Park	£4,760
• Citadel Youth Project	£159,500

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• Eric Liddell Centre (CAiRE)	£40,596
• Edinburgh Community Food Initiative (ECFI)	£19,472
• Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	£27,144
• Gorgie City Farm	£122,600
• Granton Youth Centre	£31,677
• Link Up	£63,885
• Tall Oaks Youth Club	£775

- 8) To note the decisions taken under delegated authority listed in appendices 4 and 5 to the Director's report.
- 9) To note the influencing factors for the grants programme and the ongoing Compact action on strategic issues for the third sector.
- 10) To note the consistent progress with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Review of Funding to Third Parties.

- moved by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Elliott-Cannon (on behalf of the Administration).

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the successful operation of a wide range of services through 3rd party grants in 2008/2009, with strong leverage of resources into the city and high achievement against objectives.
- 2) To express the Council's heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all the organisations who provided services in this city and the work that they did for the residents of this city.
- 3) To place on record the Labour Group's wholehearted support of the voluntary organisations in this city.
- 4) To note that the Labour Group budget proposals presented to the Council last month took NO cuts from grants to the voluntary sector and to note that the Liberal Democrat/SNP Administration had made the choice to take these cuts.
- 5) Not to approve the grant recommendations detailed in appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4d to report no CEC/131/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 6) To condemn the Administration for a complete lack of communication with organisations on the grants process.

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- 7) To condemn the Administration for the potential unintended consequences of making these decisions without having meaningful dialogue with organisations, leaving many with the threat of closure or significant service reduction.
- 8) To note that Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) monies were being used to determine the overall funding of organisations to calculate a reduction in the Council's core contribution, therefore confusing specific FSF project funding with core grant funding from the Council.
- 9) To continue these reports to the next Policy and Strategy Committee to find a financial mechanism for not taking any of the proposed reductions in grant funding.
- 10) To call for an additional report to this Council on the process and criteria used whereby some projects were funded and not others.

- moved by Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor Ewan Aitken (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Amendment 2

- 1) To note report no CEC/129/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services and within this report to note that:
 - (a) the report agreed that "a healthy voluntary sector remains an important part of the city economy, providing excellent social value and significant leverage of additional funding for the city"; and
 - (b) consultation with the both the Compact partners and individual organisations on the effects of severe resource limits was still not adequate.
- 2) To note report no CEC/130/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services and within this report:
 - (a) To note that, for every £1 of Council grant, grant aided projects delivered over £9 worth of services, and that volunteers added about 18% to the resources of paid staff.
 - (b) To commend highly the organisations and volunteers for delivering such a valuable service to the city.

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- (c) To express regret that there was little information about social capacity building, including how it was created and developed, or about the sustainability of the organisations within their respective communities.
- 3) To note the funding proposals in report no CEC/131/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) To note that most of the grant recommendations detailed in the appendices to the Director's report no CEC/131/09-10/CS were standstill or reduced allocations, representing funding cuts in real terms for the organisations involved, and that this would mean loss of services and/or poorer conditions for third sector employees.
- 5) To express regret that these recommended awards were still only for one year, despite Council's earlier commitments to move to three year funding in line with the SCVO/COSLA/Scottish Government partnership agreement signed in October 2009, and that other agreed partnership guidelines were also not being met, namely:
 - (a) awards including at least inflation-based increases for salaries; and
 - (b) social value impact assessments being conducted to ensure social capacity building, and including public benefit clauses in all contracts.
- 6) To regret the poor communications and mixed messages between the Council and organisations about the grants process, and the lack of information provided about the long term consequences of the proposed cuts.
- 7) To continue these reports to the next Policy and Strategy Committee and find a way forward that did not result in grant reductions.

- moved by Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Burgess (on behalf of the Green Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	40 votes
For amendment 1	-	15 votes
For amendment 2	-	3 votes

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Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Wheeler.

(References – Act of Council No 6 of 15 October 2009; reports no CEC/129/09-10/CS, no CEC/130/09-10/CS and no CEC/131/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Members declared a non-financial interest in the above item because of connections with a grant applicant as follows:

Councillor Elaine Aitken	Festival City Theatres Trust
Councillor Ewan Aitken	Cavalry Park Sports Club
	Edinburgh International Science Festival
	Link-Up Women's Mental Health Project
	The Ripple Project
Councillor Balfour	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Councillor Beckett	Dance Base
Councillor Brock	Edinburgh Leisure
	Edinburgh International Film Festival
	Festival City Theatres Trust
	Royal Lyceum Theatre Company
Councillor Buchan	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Councillor Burgess	Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust
Councillor Cairns	Edinburgh International Science Festival
	Edinburgh Leisure
Councillor Coleman	Imaginate
	Lifecare
Councillor Dawe	Edinburgh International Festival Council
	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Councillor Edie	Edinburgh International Film Festival
Councillor Elliott-Cannon	The Audience Business
Councillor Godzik	Edinburgh Leisure
	Festival City Theatres Trust
	Royal Lyceum Theatre Company
Councillor Hart	Management Committee of Gracemount
	Youth & Community Centre
Councillor Hawkins	Edinburgh International Science Festival
Councillor Hinds	North Edinburgh Arts Centre
Councillor Lang	Festival City Theatres Trust
	Milan Senior Welfare Organisation
	Queen's Hall
	Women Onto Work
Councillor Kate MacKenzie	Royal Lyceum Theatre Company
Councillor McInnes	Eric Liddell Centre
Councillor McIvor	Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

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Councillor Milligan	Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival
Councillor Mowat	Edinburgh International Festival Council Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Councillor Munn	Citadel Centre
Councillor Munro	Citadel Centre
Councillor Rust	Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival
Councillor Snowden	Edinburgh International Science Festival Edinburgh International Science Festival Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Councillor Thomas	Edinburgh International Festival Council Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival
Councillor Whyte	Edinburgh Leisure
Councillor Wilson	Edinburgh Leisure Broomhouse Centre Management Committee Gorgie City Farm Edinburgh International Science Festival

6 Portobello High School

An update was given on the project to deliver a new Portobello High School. Approval was sought for a change in the open space compensatory measures associated with the move to Portobello Park.

The Council had heard deputations on the matter (see item 4 above).

Motion

- 1) To note the contents of the joint report by the Directors of Children and Families and City Development and the progress made on the project to deliver a new Portobello High School.
- 2) To approve the revised approach to open space compensation set out in the Directors' report with the exception of the matter of the provision, or otherwise, of alternative open space. This would be considered by the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership in assessing the implementation of the Open Space Strategy in the local area.
- 3) To agree that any funding relating to the provision of alternative open space land which might be desired would not require to be met from the project budget to build a new Portobello High School.

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- 4) To note that, in the event that any alternative compensatory measures (to those identified within the report) would be required to secure planning consent which could not be accommodated within the current project budget, the matter would be referred back to Council.
- 5) To ring-fence any receipt from the disposal of the site of the existing Portobello High School for future reinvestment into the Children and Families estate.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Beckett (on behalf of the Administration).

Amendment

To approve paragraphs 1 and 4 of the motion and:

- 1) To express concern that the conditions in earlier reports on this issue, ensuring that appropriate land would be identified and secured in compensation for loss of greenspace, remained unmet.
- 2) To regret the lack of detailed information in the report regarding the provision of compensatory green space and the inclusion of hard landscaped areas, such as Portobello Promenade, in calculations of local open space.
- 3) To call for a report to the next Council meeting on 29 April 2010 on the location, size, quality of, and access routes to the 210.48 hectares of open space cited in the report that was being used as justification to disregard the commitment to fully and appropriately replace this important designated parkland and for this report to identify local available land for green space provision in compensation for the loss of Portobello Park.

- moved by Councillor Johnstone, seconded by Councillor Burgess (on behalf of the Green Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	54 votes
For the amendment	-	4 votes

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Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor MacLaren.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 23 February 2010 (item 2); Education, Children and Families Committee 17 March 2009 (item 5); Act of Council No 10 of 12 March 2009; joint report no CEC/126/09-10/CF&CD by the Directors of Children and Families and City Development, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Bridgman declared a non-financial interest in the above item as his daughter was a pupil at Portobello High School.

7 Questions

Questions put by members to this meeting, written answers and supplementary questions and answers are contained in Appendix 1 to this minute.

8 Minutes**Decision**

To approve the minutes of meetings of the Council of 28 January and 11 February 2010 as correct records.

9 Placing in Schools Appeal Committee – Re-appointment**Decision**

To re-appoint Charles Meehan to Panel 2 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee.

(Reference – report no CEC/125/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10 Leader's Report

The Leader presented her report to the Council. The Leader drew attention to the Scotland Tribute Award won by Edinburgh's Hogmanay at the National Outdoor Events Association.

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The following questions were raised:

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| Councillor Burns | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Modernising Pay – progress report- Refuse collection dispute – report on costs |
| Councillor Whyte | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Edinburgh Tram- concessionary fares- completion date |
| Councillor Perry | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Edinburgh Tram – negotiations with contractor |
| Councillor Cardownie | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Edinburgh Tram |
| Councillor Rose | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- “The Hockey Stick Illusion” – book on climate change |
| Councillor Balfour | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sporting excellence – recognition of success of independent schools |
| Councillor Henderson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scotland United march |
| Councillor Murray | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Edinburgh Tram – press comments by the Deputy Leader |
| Councillor Munn | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- “Edinburgh Inspiring Capital” clipper – young crew member from Citadel Centre |
| Councillor Hinds | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scotland United march- Care and Support Tender – involvement of disability groups in consultation process |
| Councillor Buchan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community Learning and Development Review – Strategic Review Group membership |
| Councillor Mowat | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) scheme – effect of possible takeover of Forth Ports plc |
| Councillor Hart | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Round the World Yacht Race – cost of travel to the USA to meet Edinburgh clipper- International Women’s Day |

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| Councillor Buchanan | - FDI Magazine awards – Edinburgh best small city of the year for second year running |
| Councillor Munro | - “Edinburgh Inspiring Capital” clipper – distribution of booklets |

(Reference – report no CEC/128/09-10/L by the Leader, submitted.)

11 National Eligibility Framework for Adult Social Care

The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee had referred recommendations, in terms of Standing Order 53, on the eligibility framework used by the Department of Health and Social Care for adult social care groups.

Motion

- 1) To adopt the new National Eligibility Framework, issued by the Scottish Government and COSLA on 28 September 2009, subject to the amendments proposed to the national definitions of risk and urgency (set out in Appendix 2 of the Equalities Impact Assessment attached to Annex 3 to report no HSC&H/58/09-10/H&SC by the Director of Health and Social Care) and to ask the Director to draw these to the attention of the Scottish Government.
- 2) To note the revised Equalities Impact Assessment (attached to the Director’s report) and to approve the application of the new Eligibility Framework to all Adult Social Care client groups.
- 3) To continue the current eligibility thresholds set at the critical and substantial level, pending further work to develop Council policy on preventative services and affordable responses to needs that were below the eligibility threshold for adult social care.
- 4) To ask the Directors of Health and Social Care and Services for Communities to establish an inter-departmental group to develop Council-wide policy on preventative services for people in need, for subsequent discussion with Community Planning partners.
- 5) To note that full implementation, including staff guidance and communications to partner agencies, care providers, service users and carers and the general public, would be achieved by April 2010.

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- 6) To review the operation of eligibility criteria for adult social care within 12 months in the light of further progress on personalisation and in light of information collected on the numbers assessed under each category of risk and how many of those low and moderate groups were able to access preventative services.

- moved by Councillor Edie, seconded by Councillor Work (on behalf of the Administration).

Amendment

To approve the motion and to add:

- 7) To ask for a report on how the Council could set up a structure which would ensure engagement with the groups who had been involved in this report. The structure should include elected members.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Munro (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	40 votes
For the amendment	-	18 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Edie.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 2 March 2010 (item 8); report no CEC/127/09-10/HSCH by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

12 Assembly Rooms Refurbishment

The RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage D development proposals relating to scheme design and planning to fully refurbish and upgrade the Assembly Rooms were detailed. Approval was sought to progress the project through RIBA Stage E (detailed design) to Gateway 5 seeking approval to appoint a contractor.

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Motion

- 1) To note that the full refurbishment and business plan for the Assembly Rooms continued to be realistic despite the economic downturn and subject to the outcome of the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) submission.
- 2) To note that the project was important to the city's successful participation in Cultural Olympiad 2012 and for ongoing full public access to an internationally significant civic building.
- 3) To note the reprogramming of the existing Corporate Services capital programme, as described in paragraph 3.9 of the joint report by the Directors of City Development and Corporate Services.
- 4) To approve the progress of the project as per Council procedures from RIBA Stage E (detailed design) through Gateway 5, seeking approval to appoint a contractor, subject to a positive outcome for the HLF submission.
- 5) To approve the preparation of a schedule of essential works, as described in paragraph 3.8 of the Directors' report, to be reported in due course to Committee, should the HLF submission be unsuccessful.

- moved by Councillor Brock, seconded by Councillor Cairns (on behalf of the Administration).

Amendment

To approve the motion subject to the insertion of the following new paragraphs after paragraph 3 and renumbering the subsequent paragraphs:

- 4) To note previous assurances that the refurbishment of the King's Theatre would not be affected by the Assembly Rooms project.
- 5) To regret the effect that reprogramming had had on the funds available to the King's project and to call for a report on how the King's Theatre refurbishment would now be progressed.

- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Murray (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	29 votes
For the amendment	-	29 votes

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There being an equal number of votes for the motion and the amendment, the Lord Provost used his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Brock.

(References – Culture and Leisure Committee 6 May 2009 (item 6) and 3 February 2009 (item 3); joint report no CEC/124/09-10/CD&CS by the Directors of City Development and Corporate Services, submitted.)

13 Revenue Budget 2010-2013: Increase/Amendments to Fees and Charges

Approval was sought for price increases to be applied to Children and Families charges from 1 April 2010.

Motion

To approve the price increases to be applied to Children and Families charges from 1 April 2010 as detailed in Appendix 2 to this minute.

- moved by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Elliott-Cannon (on behalf of the Administration).

Amendment

- 1) To approve the revised Children and Families charges for residential care and day services as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Finance.
- 2) Not to approve the revised Children and Families charges to Category 6 and 13 Lets as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Director's report and to refer these to the Finance and Resources Committee to consider other ways of achieving these savings.

- moved by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Perry (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	29 votes
For the amendment	-	29 votes

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There being an equal number of votes for the motion and the amendment, the Lord Provost used his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Wheeler.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 11 February 2010; report no CEC/120/09-10/F by the Director of Finance, submitted.)

14 Annual Treasury Strategy 2010/11

The Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/11 was presented. It included estimates of funding requirements, an economic forecast, borrowing and investment strategies and other treasury issues.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/11.
- 2) To approve the revised Treasury Policy Statements.
- 3) To remit the report by the Director of Finance to the Finance and Resources Committee for its scrutiny.

(References – Act of Council No 16 of 17 September 2009; report no CEC/121/09-10/F by the Director of Finance, submitted.)

15 UK Parliamentary Election 2010 – Polling Places

A schedule of polling places for use at the forthcoming UK Parliamentary Election was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the scheme of parliamentary polling districts and polling places as amended and contained in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive and Returning Officer, for use at the forthcoming UK Parliamentary Election.
- 2) To note that a full review of the scheme of polling districts would be undertaken in 2010/11.

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- 3) To use the scheme for any other election that might take place prior to the general review being completed and subject also to any changes of a minor or emergency nature being made by the Chief Executive and Returning Officer, after consultation with the ward members.

(Reference – report no CEC/122/09-10/CE&RO by the Chief Executive and Returning Officer, submitted.

16 The Gathering 2009 – Motion by Councillor Godzik

The following motion by Councillor Godzik was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council recognises the on-going speculation surrounding The Gathering 2009, and possible future Gathering events in Edinburgh; believes that a number of confused and conflicting statements have been issued by the Scottish Government, CEC and DEMA on this issue; notes the recent admission by the Council Leader that at the time of the original announcement on 15 October that "due diligence had not been completed"; also notes that the Scottish Government now claim to have "no direct discussions with DEMA" on this matter (S3W-28342).

Further notes that CEC have now been referred to the Information Commissioner after they refused to publish correspondence in response to a Freedom of Information request on the matter, and also that the Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee look set to investigate the circumstances around The Gathering 2009, including the proposed CEC/Scottish Government 'bail-out'.

As such believes that the on-going speculation and lack of transparency on this issue is damaging to the reputation of this Council, and therefore calls for a report by the Chief Executive outlining:

- 1) why the announcement on this matter was made given that due diligence had not been completed
- 2) the role CEC played in discussions with DEMA and the Scottish Government regarding The Gathering 2009, including a record of any meetings
- 3) confirmation of how the debts incurred by The Gathering 2009 will be settled
- 4) details of any plans for future Gathering events

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- 5) a full timeline of discussions between CEC, the Scottish Government, DEMA, the Gathering 2009 Ltd and any other parties involved.”

Decision

- 1) To acknowledge that there had been speculation about The Gathering 2009 Ltd but that this Council, and the Council Leader in particular, had made it clear that, while sympathising with creditors, it had no responsibility for debts and liabilities of The Gathering 2009 Ltd, the private company behind The Gathering 2009.
- 2) To recognise that The Gathering 2009 Ltd had gone into administration and that it was not within the Council’s competence to comment on how debts would be settled, that being a matter for the appointed administrators.
- 3) To note that the Council was not in a position to comment on plans for any future Gathering events.
- 4) To agree:
 - (a) that the offer made to the Leader of the Labour Group for a meeting with senior Council officials to discuss this matter be repeated and extended to all Group Leaders; and
 - (b) that a briefing note on The Gathering 2009 to all Councillors was the most appropriate way to deal with this issue.

17 Mark Beaumont – Cycling Challenge – Motion by Councillor Buchan

The following motion by Councillor Buchan was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

- i) congratulates Mark Beaumont on his latest cycling challenge, having cycled from Anchorage in Alaska through to Ushuaia in Southern Argentina, following the American Cordillera mountain range;
- ii) welcomes the positive impact that Mark's cycle challenges have on inspiring people to become more active;
- iii) agrees to hold a suitable reception to welcome Mark back to Edinburgh.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Buchan.

18 Edinburgh International Magic Festival – Motion by Councillor Buchan

The following motion by Councillor Buchan was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

- i) notes that the first ever Edinburgh International Magic Festival is due to be held between 7th and 11th July;
- ii) notes that organisers hope to attract 3000 people to the Festival;
- iii) welcomes this new opportunity to expand the cultural offering of the city;
- iv) agrees to provide help and assistance to the organisers of the Festival where practical and within budgetary constraints.”

Decision

To approve paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of the motion and:

To note:

- 1) that officials from Culture and Sport had been in contact with the Edinburgh International Magic Festival which would have magic activities/events across a number of smaller venues from 7 to 11 July 2010 with one larger event potentially in the Lyceum Theatre to increase profile.
- 2) that the Magic Festival had a loyal audience base that would attend events and a robust business plan.
- 3) that officials had offered the Magic Festival contacts for the Arts and Learning Unit in Children and Families in terms of getting advice on sharing information with schools and contacts with venues who might be able to assist with targeting audiences, and had advised them on the membership criteria for Festivals Edinburgh.
- 4) further, that officials would continue to liaise with the organisers and offer appropriate assistance.

19 Rough Sleepers in Edinburgh – Motion by Councillor Munro

The following motion by Councillor Munro was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes that a number of organisations delivering services for homeless people in Edinburgh have questioned the reported decrease in numbers of rough sleepers in Edinburgh as being counter to their experience. Council calls for a robust reporting system, including information from service providers, to be put in place so that the true figures of rough sleepers in Edinburgh are known.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Balfour declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Director of the Bethany Trust.

20 Homeless Services for People with Addictions – Motion by Councillor Munro

The following motion by Councillor Munro was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes the responses from Streetwork, Bethany Christian Trust and Gowrie Care to the Health, Social Care & Housing Committee on 2 March, indicating that there is a gap in Homeless Services for people with addictions who are sleeping rough, in insecure accommodation or in need of support in their tenancies. Council calls for an urgent report on how this gap can be tackled.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Balfour declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Director of the Bethany Trust.

21 Discretion to Waive Letting Charges for Schools and School-Related Organisations – Motion by Councillor Johnstone

The following motion by Councillor Johnstone was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“That this Council recognises and appreciates the massive contribution Parent Forum fundraising makes to education in Edinburgh, raising many thousands of pounds each year, enabling, for example, the purchase of equipment from sports strips to smart boards, and the funding of school trips and camps.

Notes that parent bodies were previously entitled to 16 hours of free lets in schools and that this has now been reduced to 8 hours.

Agrees that Council officers be given discretion to waive charges where the event is raising funds for the school.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Education, Children and Families Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

22 20 mph Zones – Motion by Councillor Burgess

The following motion by Councillor Burgess was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“That Council:

Notes that Edinburgh has 20mph zones in residential areas across almost half the city which reduce vehicle speeds and reduce casualty numbers;

Notes the intention in the Council’s ‘Transport 2030 Vision’ to extend 20mph zones to other residential areas;

However, notes that limited funds are available to implement further 20mph zones and because of this the introduction of 20mph zones in remaining residential areas may not even be achievable by 2030;

However, notes that Portsmouth for example, has introduced a 20mph speed limit, but without expensive traffic calming features, to over 85% of its road network at an approximate cost of £500,000;

Therefore, calls for a report on introducing lower cost 20mph zones with fewer traffic calming features in order that 20mph zones can be rolled out to remaining residential areas as soon as possible.”

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Decision

- 1) To note that:
 - on 3 February 2010 the Convener of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee had requested the Director of City Development to provide a report for the Committee on this issue; and
 - that a Workshop, to which representatives of all parties would be invited, was being scheduled for May 2010.
- 2) To take no further action on the grounds that a report had already been requested by the Convener and would be brought to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee later this year.

23 Policy on Domestic Violence – For Remit to the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee

The following motion by Councillor Blacklock was submitted in terms of Standing Order 29:

“Following agreement at the Policy and Strategy committee on 23 February to the Council's policy on domestic abuse, Council agrees to bring forward a further report on the implementation of a city-wide policy on domestic violence to include the wider community of Edinburgh, as well as Council employees.”

Decision

To remit the motion to the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee, subject to competency.

Appendix 1
(As referred to in Act of Council No 7 of 11 March 2010)

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Rust answered by the
Convener of the Transport,
Infrastructure and Environment
Committee**

Question **(1)** What provisions were made for clearing/salting pavements used by school walking bus routes during the recent inclement weather?

Answer **(1)** As in the past, no specific provisions for the walking bus routes were made.

Question **(2)** Will consideration be given to prioritising such routes in the review being undertaken?

Answer **(2)** The review will take account of this issue.

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QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Buchan answered by
the Leader of the Council**

Question

Will the Leader of the Council indicate how important her Administration considers participation in the Neighbourhood Partnerships?

Answer

This Administration is committed to promoting local democracy and has significantly empowered residents and communities to determine priorities and guide resources in their area. Neighbourhood Partnerships are a key forum for the Council, its partners and the community to participate in identifying and agreeing how to tackle issues of local concern, and hold mainstream services to account.

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QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Buchan answered by
the Convener of the Transport,
Infrastructure and Environment
Committee**

Question

What plans does the Council have to deal with vehicles rat-running from Craiglockhart Avenue through to Colinton Road via the residential streets to the west of Craiglockhart Avenue?

Answer

Traffic calming was introduced into this area in the mid 1990s in the form of speed humps on Craiglockhart Loan and Craiglockhart Drive South to deter rat running traffic. Periodically, since then, the Council has updated information in relation to collisions across the city and conducts speed and volume traffic surveys, where concerns are identified.

In the latest available 5 year period to the end of August 2009, statistics show one collision on Craiglockhart Road at its junction with Craiglockhart Park, where a cyclist sustained a slight injury in a collision with a car in October 2008.

A recent speed and volume survey carried out outside No42 Craiglockhart Road revealed a 7 day average speed of 25.4mph and average daily traffic flows of 547 vehicles northbound and 789 vehicles southbound.

I have asked Council officers to conduct additional local surveys in order to provide evidence of the extent of the problem in the area and will make arrangements to present the information to ward members and local residents when it is available. Subsequently, Council officers from the Neighbourhood Partnership will support local members and residents in developing options to address problems which are evidenced. The appropriate prioritisation criteria will be applied in consideration of any funding requirement which emerges from this activity.

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- Supplementary Question** (1) Within the Convener's answer, he indicates that there is traffic calming in Craiglockhart Loan and Craiglockhart Drive South. To be honest this is only very, very short sections of both roads that there are traffic calming devices and at maximum there are maybe five traffic bumps in total in those sections and they really don't act as a deterrent to rat-running through the residential areas of Craiglockhart. I was wondering if the Convener could perhaps put a bit more pressure on the Department to see if there are other options that it could come up with to take care of this residential area where the streets aren't designed for large capacity flows.
- Supplementary Answer** (1) In the answer what I was suggesting was getting together with local Councillors and residents to discuss options and that would be supported by the staff in Services for Communities. Is that what you are looking for? That seems to me to answer the point that you are putting there. You talk about putting pressure on; you get the local community to work out what it is in that community that works for them.
- Supplementary Question** (2) If we could perhaps, just to clarify, get City Development and Services for Communities working together that would be fine.
- Supplementary Answer** (2) Absolutely.

QUESTION NO 4

**By Councillor Balfour answered by
the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

- Question** (1) What criteria have been used to identify those Community Centres that have gone out to consultation for potential closure?
- Answer** (1) The Strategic Review group considered: the number of users, the cost per head, the range of the programmes, their relevance to departmental priorities, property costs, the condition of the buildings and projected capital costs, the proximity of alternative community facilities and the ability to relocate the programme locally.
- Question** (2) What savings will these potential closures generate? Please disaggregate by centre and further subdivide by savings from staff costs and savings from other running costs.
- Answer** (2) A total of £120,000 has been agreed as part of the savings in Community Learning and Development. The breakdown is as follows:
- the Number Shop - £11,000 (non staff costs);
 - Colinton Mains - £5,000 (non staff costs);
 - Gorgie War Memorial - £41,000 (£25,000 staff and £16,000 non staff costs);
 - Longstone - £4,000 (staff costs);
 - Platform Adult Learning Project - £7,000 (non staff costs);
 - Sighthill - £52,000 (£20,000 staff and £32,000 non staff costs.)
- Question** (3) Will information of a range and quality similar to that distributed to support consultation on school rationalisation (eg costs, usage levels, geographical reach, identification of alternative facilities) be made available to members of the public to support this consultation process?

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Answer (3) The criteria detailed above have been taken into account and the information gathered for that purpose will be made available.

Supplementary Question Would the Convener agree with me that it has been slightly disappointing in the way that this has been leaked to the media and the uncertainty that this has now caused certain members of Community Centres. Could we look at a way of how we are going to consult before a decision is made by Children and Families in May and if that is still her intention to bring it to that Committee on that date?

Supplementary Answer I am a little bemused by that question because the consultation process is underway and there has been a number of evening meetings with stakeholders. In fact I was at one last night and it was a packed hall, so I am completely bemused by that question. The consultation process is underway and, yes, we hope to bring forward a report in May on these six centres. I would perhaps add that the CLD redesign and the consultation on that is continuing throughout the year. They really need to be decoupled; it is not the same thing. I hope that is helpful.

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QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Hinds answered by
the Convener of the Health, Social
Care and Housing Committee**

Question

Following the decision of Council on 11 February 2010 not to proceed to award the care and support contracts as originally proposed, what action has the Convener taken to express regret at the distress and uncertainty that has been caused to users, families and carers?

Answer

My Administration colleagues and I placed on record our regret for any anxiety caused to service users, parents and carers through the motion agreed by Council last month.

The only consideration of this Administration and I throughout the Care and Support tender has been to try and find the best quality service at the best value for our current service users and to identify resources to increase the number of service users.

The Chief Executive is now working on a "lessons learned" report which will come back to Finance and Resources Committee on 1 June 2010. I am sure we, collectively, will consider any proposed actions.

**Supplementary
Question (1)**

The Convener says in his answer that his Administration colleagues and he have placed on record regret for any anxiety caused to service users, parents and carers in the motion agreed by Council last month. I do not know if he has looked at the motion; there is nothing within the motion on page 78 of the minutes of the Council meeting which records any anxiety caused to service users, parents and carers in that motion. I certainly do remember Councillor Dawe and Councillor Wheeler putting down their regret regarding distress and uncertainty caused for the care and support. So could you tell me as the Convener where and when has he actually stated, voiced or put on record his regret for any anxiety caused to service users, parents and carers for the care and support tender?

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- Supplementary Answer** (1) Certainly that formula of words I think was a straight lift from the motion that was agreed. My colleague behind me is telling me that it was the previous full Council that that form of words was agreed and I will go and I will investigate that further but certainly my understanding was that we had agreed that certainly at a full Council.
- Supplementary Question** (2) If I could pursue the Convener because he has stated in his answer that he himself as Convener, and perhaps he would like to actually state whether he does today apologise for the stress that he the Convener has caused to the care and support tender and the clients and carers that were involved with that. Simple question do you regret it and do you apologise?
- Supplementary Answer** (2) Can I draw Council's attention to page 77, item 3, the very last sentence says "express regret and distress at the uncertainty that's been caused to users, families, carers and to take full cognizance of the representations made on this matter". So Councillor Hinds again is making assertions that are not correct. It is there, my answer is absolutely correct. I have nothing further to add to that Lord Provost.
- Supplementary Question** (3) Sorry Lord Provost if you look at page 77 [*of the previous Council minutes*] it is the report by the Finance and Resources Committee.
- It does not record you as Convener of the Committee and it also records Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Dawe who had the dignity to stand up and apologise for the hurt they caused and you the Convener have not done this. I am asking directly will you do this now?
- Supplementary Answer** (3) No because I was at the full Council where we subsequently agreed it.

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QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Hinds answered by
the Convener of the Health, Social
Care and Housing Committee**

Question (1) What are the circulation figures and cost of 'Involve', the magazine of the Health and Social Care Department, and how has the nationally as well as locally significant issue of care and support tendering been covered in that publication?

Answer (1) 3,000 copies of *Involve* are printed bi-monthly (6 issues per year) at a cost of approximately £11,000 for printing and distribution. Most of the distribution is to staff in Health and Social Care. The monthly Health and Social Care e-newsletter *Emerge* and the Council's website have been the principal communications channels used to inform staff about the care and support tender, together with more targeted information to those staff who have been supporting service users and carers.

Question (2) Following Council's decision to not proceed to award the care and support contracts as originally proposed, when will this important matter be reported in 'Involve'?

Answer (2) The March issue of *Emerge* and direct communications from managers to targeted staff will be used to inform HSC staff about the care and support contracts. Information is, of course, also available on the Council website.

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Supplementary Question (1) Since I have not got an answer to my question, obviously the Convener does not think it is appropriate to make any comments or to be able to actually regret the distress that he has caused. I was also interested to get, and the reason why I asked the question of the Convener, is about the cost and the figures of Involve, the magazine for Health and Social Care Department. I am aware that those copies do not just go to staff but they go to care homes, go to organisations all over the city and it is quite a large number - 3,000 copies. I was somewhat surprised to see no mention at all of the care and support tender and the outcome of that care and support tender. Could he tell me as the Convener of Health, Social Care and Housing Committee and the person who writes a piece in that Involve magazine, as does the Director, will you be reporting the issue on the outcome of the care and support tender and the way forward for that?

Supplementary Answer (1) I have no editorial control over that magazine. It is dealt with by Corporate Communications so I am not in a position to answer that question. I am not even sure if there is going to be another issue of Involve. That is, I believe, up for discussion, so I cannot give you a yes or no. I do not pull the editorial strings in Corporate Communications. It would be completely inappropriate for a politician to do so.

Supplementary Question (2) The bit I was asking about - Convener you might not like the questions but we are in a democracy and we are allowed to ask - so I am asking directly, because the Convener of Health, Social Care and Housing writes an article keeping staff and organisations up to date with the current issues in the Health and Social Care Department and obviously the care and support tender was a very big issue for this Council and for many people and he did not report it. I am just asking is he going to report it and to give the outcome?

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Henderson answered
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

Question

At the Council meeting of 17 December 2009 at which the decisions were taken to close Burdiehouse, Drumbrae, Fort and Royston Primary Schools, the Administration moved an amendment which incorporated the following clause, relating to each closure:

“An additional supplement would be made to the school budget at (receiving) Primary for up to two years after closure to facilitate the implementation of support measures as might be deemed beneficial by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Children and Families Neighbourhood Manager.”

Could you please advise how much the “additional supplement” to each school’s budget will be and what progress has been made in quantifying the “support measures” referred to above?

Answer

No decisions have yet been taken about the amounts of any supplement to be provided to receiving schools.

The level of additional support required cannot be ascertained until we know how many pupils from closing schools are going to which receiving schools.

Although some parents may not make their choice until the end of session, we are currently reviewing current known preferences and we anticipate that this information will allow officers to begin discussions about any additional support needs at the beginning of next term.

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**Supplementary
Question**

Given that the Convener has reminded us that some parents from the closing schools have yet to make decisions about where their children will go, can I ask whether the additional supplement, referred to in the Administration's motion of 17 December 2009 and now enshrined in the minutes, will apply to any receiving school or pupils from the closing schools?

**Supplementary
Answer**

This additional help is to go to those pupils who are leaving the closing schools and it will follow the pupil if those pupils require it.

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QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Henderson answered
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

Question

Prior to the February Council Budget meeting it was reported in the media that no further school closures will take place, with an Administration source quoted as saying "we've gone through a school rationalisation programme and enough is enough".

Could you please clarify what the Administration's current policy is on school closures?

Answer

I can confirm that there will be no further school closures during the term of this Administration.

**Supplementary
Question**

I thought it was a strange way to announce a major policy decision through an unattributable quote in the pages of the Evening News but, nonetheless, I am grateful for the clarification. Can the Convener also confirm that in addition to there being no further school closures during the term of this Administration, can she confirm that there will be no nursery school closures or amalgamations?

**Supplementary
Answer**

No

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QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Henderson answered
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee**

Question

Within the Administration's budget motion, moved by you at the Council meeting of 11 February 2010, Appendix 2, "Efficiency and other Savings" "Children and Families" there are two broad headings as follows:

Various savings in services to children and young people -
£849,000
Additional savings – school and community services -
£506,000

Could you please provide a breakdown of what these "Various" and "Additional" savings actually are?

Answer

The breakdown of the two aggregate savings approved in the Children and Families budget 2010/11 is as follows. Details of these individual savings were shared with all political groups as part of the budget process.

Savings in Schools and Community Services	£'000
Review of Community Learning & Development	85
Sports Unit	
Dr Bell's running costs	16
Swimming Instructor post – retirement	13
Sports Unit management restructuring	48
Music School – 10% reduction non staff budgets	9
Hire of venues for spring concert series	15
Parental involvement funding	11
Devolved Resources Management cost – reduction in central team	28
Information Learning and Resources	31
Development Officer posts	<u>250</u>
Total savings	<u>506</u>

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Savings in Services for Children, Young People and Families	£'000
Family and Community Support	
Reduced funding to third party providers	183
Reduced Staffing in Integrated Community Support	57
Disabilities	
Remove action group funding	20
Reduce Direct payments to individuals	30
Remove funding for ME services. NHS responsibility	43
Professional Support Services	
5% reduction in Speech Therapy	32
5% reduction in ASL (Additional Support for Learning) funding	55
5% reduction in funding in EAL (English as an Additional Language)	77
5% reduction in funding in Hospital and Outreach Teaching Services	82
5% reduction in funding in Visiting Teaching Services	95
Reduce funding for neighbourhood coordinators	45
Remove funding for HYPE	<u>130</u>
Total savings	<u>849</u>

Supplementary Question

Again can I thank the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee for the detail that has been supplied and I agree that information was provided to all political parties in terms of details of proposed cuts. However, I would point out that within the Administration's motion on budget day it was not made clear which of those cuts were being taken and which were not. That information was only provided now. So I would like to ask him, if I had not submitted this question, how and when would he have communicated this information and to whom?

Supplementary Answer

This information obviously Lord Provost would have been available for anyone who had cared to ask the officers concerned.

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QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Child answered by
the Convener of the Transport,
Infrastructure and Environment
Committee**

Question

Given that the target for recycling of municipal waste is 40% by the end of 2010, and that the City of Edinburgh Council is currently reported to be recycling around 34% of the waste it collects, what confidence does the Convener have that the 2010 target will be met?

Answer

The 40% target set for the end of 2010 is a national target. Each Council has its own individual targets to contribute to this, within the published Single Outcome Agreement with the Government. Edinburgh's targets are:

2009/10	32.65 %
2010/11	38.65 %
2011/12	43.60 %

Edinburgh's recycling performance is at a record high and we are currently on track to improve on this and to outperform our current target of 32.65% for 09/10.

A significant annual increase in recycling will be required to meet the Edinburgh target of 38.65% in 10/11 and although a number of initiatives are planned to both increase the range of materials recycled and to increase participation, achieving this step change in performance will be a challenge.

**Supplementary
Question**

Can I just have a little bit of clarification. The national targets are for the end of December whereas the Single Outcome Agreement targets are presumably for the financial year in which these things fall. I just wonder if there is an adjusted figure for the end of December this calendar year?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

I am not aware of an adjusted figure. The figures that we are working to are those that we have in front of us, our own individual Council target, which also then links into the national target of 40%.

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QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Child answered by
the Convener of the Health, Social
Care and Housing Committee**

Question (1) Why did it take from 8 December 2009 until 9 February 2010, two whole months, to produce the agreed briefing note on garden aid which was intended to inform the budget process, just two days before the budget meeting of 11 February?

Answer (1) The paper was produced for early January. An administrative error meant that this was not circulated until 9 February 2010 and for this the department apologises. However as members will know from the briefing note very little was added to the report which was submitted to Committee on 8 December 2009.

Most political groups sought briefings on the Services for Communities budget and the Director drew the proposed changes to Garden Aid to the attention of those groups during the meetings.

Question (2) Please can you provide details on the types of people who were getting free garden aid before the budget decision but will now have to pay for it, or will lose out, in the new financial year?

Answer (2) The groups who will be affected by the changes to the Garden Aid Service are:

- private homeowners and tenants who are aged over 80 years (provided there is no one in their household (over 16 years) able to maintain their garden); and
- private homeowners and tenants, who are aged between 60 and 80 years and are in receipt of a benefit (again, provided there is no one in their household (over 16 years) able to maintain their garden).

Garden Aid will continue to be covered within the rent of qualifying council tenants.

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**Supplementary
Question**

Again a point of clarification. In the very last sentence "Garden Aid will continue to be covered within the rent of qualifying Council tenants", does that mean it is covered within the HRA or does that mean that individual Council tenants who pay their rent are billed for Garden Aid within their bill?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Garden Aid for Council tenants has always been tagged on to the rents, that is my understanding.

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QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Ewan Aitken
answered by the Convener of the
Health, Social Care and Housing
Committee**

Question On what date was the Care and Support Commissioning Project Equalities Impact Assessment submitted to the Corporate Equalities Unit?

Answer The Equalities Impact Assessment was submitted to Corporate Services on 4 February 2009.

Supplementary Question I am going to ask you something that I know you will not have the answer to because I could not expect you to but I just ask you to give it to me in writing. Could you tell me who signed off the Equalities Impact Assessment from the Corporate Equalities Unit office and when did that happen?

Supplementary Answer My understanding is that it was emailed to a Gary Todd, that is the information that I have got here. If that is not enough for you I can get further information. I will try and do that.

QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Johnstone answered
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

Question (1) How much is the total projected saving to the City Council in 2010-11 from reducing Parent Councils' funding by £10 for communications and by £10 for each clerking session?

Answer (1) The reduction in the current allocations from £200 to £190 for communications and from £50 to £40 for clerk duties will save £10,880.

Question (2) How much is the total projected saving to the City Council in 2010-11 from reducing the hours of free lets for parent bodies from 16 hours to 8 hours a year?

Answer (2) The reduction of free lets from 16 hours to 8 hours per financial year will save £11,000.

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QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Johnstone answered
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

- Question** (1) How many children in P6 and P7 in City of Edinburgh primary schools are currently receiving cycle training? Please provide the response in actual pupil numbers, and as a percentage of all P6/7 pupils.
- Answer** (1) 1,113 P6/P7 pupils received cycle training in 2008-9. This is 16.2% of the total number of P6 and P7 pupils.
- Question** (2) Does the City of Edinburgh Council have a target number of pupils it aims to deliver cycle training to and a date by which it aims to reach this target?
- Answer** (2) The City of Edinburgh Council does not have a target number of pupils for cycle training, neither is there a national target. Each school decides whether or not to offer cycle training, taking account of safety issues and costs for parents.
- Supplementary Question** Does the Convener agree that aims to have 15% of all journeys in this city by bike by 2020 require an embedding of cycle training as part of our education system and not simply as an optional extra in those schools where hard working parent volunteers find the capacity to help provide this?
- Supplementary Answer** Well actually parents do enjoy doing this kind of work and I think it is indeed fitting that the work should be done in those schools which require it and which need it.

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Appendix 2
(As referred to in Act of Council No 13 of 11 March 2010)

Revenue Budget 2010-2013
Proposed Increases to Charges

	Current Price	Proposed Price	Effective From
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES			
Residential Care			
Seaview Special Needs Unit	£1,904.32	£1,948.20	1-Apr-10
Day Services			
Wellington School (weekly standard unit charge to other authorities)	£502.13	£702.68	1-Apr-10
Wellington School – 'Day Plus' (weekly charge standard)	£800.26	£1,119.86	1-Apr-10

The City of Edinburgh Council
11 March 2010

**Revenue Budget 2010-2013
Amendments to Charges**

	Approved 11 Feb-10	Revised Charge	Effective From
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES			
Letting Charges for Nursery, Primary and Special Schools from 1 April 2010			
Reduced Rates – All Facilities (Eligible Youth Groups) Category 6 – Use of gym hall, classrooms, GP rooms, playgrounds Open – Monday to Saturday	£10.50/hour	£10.50/up to 3 hours per hall/room	1-Apr-10
Category 6 – Use of gym hall, classrooms, GP rooms, playgrounds Open – Sunday	£10.50/hour	£10.50/up to 3 hours per hall/room	1-Apr-10
Category 13 – Meetings of recognised political parties, educational or recreational groups, residents' groups, community councils, gala or festival committees, ward consultancy for MPs or other Councils, first-aid or ambulance classes; church services or activities – Open	£20.00/hour	£30.00/up to 3 hours per hall/room	1-Apr-10
Processing Fee for each application except those from schools, parent councils or parent associations	£5.00	no charge	1-Apr-10
PPP schools (when closed) – Monday to Saturday	£45.00/hour	£26/hour	1-Apr-10
PPP schools (when closed) – Sundays and Public Holidays	£55.00/hour	£39/hour	1-Apr-10