

Leader's Report

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2005

LEADER'S REPORT – JULY 2005

- 1 **G8 – Risk of disruption on Monday 4th July**
 - 1.1 Planning is well in hand for the G8 Summit. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the efforts of Council staff, Lothian and Borders Police and for the organisers of the major events taking place during G8 week.
 - 1.2 There is a tense atmosphere in the city, an atmosphere that is very reminiscent of the run up to the year 2000 and fears of the millennium bug. Anyone wishing to speculate as to what may happen and of course many people are taking the opportunity to do just that.
 - 1.3 I am pleased to report that the co-operation between the public agencies and the organisers of the two largest events (Saturday 2nd and Wednesday 6th) has been excellent. Our staff whilst acknowledging that there can be no guarantees, are increasingly confident that in addition to the March going smoothly the Live 8 concert at Murrayfield will go well. The police are currently gathering the most up to date information on the numbers of people set to travel to the city, and they are comfortable with the information that they are receiving.
 - 1.4 Arrangements for the campsite at Craigmillar are well in hand. This site was chosen because it is the best site available. Set in the stunning grounds of the Jack Kane Centre/Hunters Hall Park, the site is well served by public transport and can be properly segregated from the neighbouring community.
 - 1.5 However, I do feel it necessary to highlight the growing concern that there is about Monday 4th. On the Monday there are events that we have been advised of, but as yet there is no identifiable organiser for any activity. That is a major concern. Residents or businesses who wish advice, or have a concern should visit the G8 Website or contact the advice line. (www.edinburgh.gov.uk or 0731 200 2343).

- 1.6 It is our intention to circulate further information on the G8 in due course and we are circulating regular updates to the Craigmillar community at the campsite.

2 CBE for Chief Executive

- 2.1 Tom Aitchison, Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council, has very recently been awarded a CBE for his services to local government. This award is thoroughly well deserved. Tom has made a huge contribution to local government in his career and an important contribution to the renaissance currently being enjoyed by the city. Tom would be the first to acknowledge that this should also be attributed to all the staff at the Council who work so hard for the good of Edinburgh.
- 2.2 Tom Aitchison has worked in the public sector since 1975 and was appointed to the position of Chief Executive of Lothian Regional Council in May 1994 and then Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council in May 1995.

3 Waterfront Edinburgh

- 3.1 I recently had a site visit to the Granton Waterfront with Stephen Izatt, Chief Executive of Waterfront Edinburgh. I was extremely impressed, not only with what has been achieved, particularly in the past twelve months, but also the world class vision they have to create a destination for Edinburgh.
- 3.2 Waterfront Edinburgh, is a joint venture between the City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh & Lothian to regenerate the Granton Waterfront.
- 3.3 It is less than 3km from the city centre and yet Edinburgh is not recognised as a waterfront city. This is about to change with Waterfront Edinburgh playing a key part in creating a waterfront destination for people to live, work and play at Granton waterfront. It will be transformed from industrial brownfield land into a new, sustainable mixed use waterfront community and will reconnect the city to its waterfront and the waterfront to the city.
- 3.4 The substantial investment to date in infrastructure is starting to pay dividends. The past twelve months have been significant for the Company with the sale of three plots of land. These sales will result in the development of almost 700 residential units and 30,000 sq ft of commercial space. All three have planning consent and the first phase of construction has commenced. Missives have also been concluded for a further sale of land with a planning application submitted (or about to be) for almost 170 residential units. In addition, the new Centrica (Scottish Gas) HQ is complete and looks stunning and Telford College are at an advanced stage of construction of their new campus.

- 3.5 Waterfront Edinburgh will provide a mixed use development of circa 5,000 residential units, 1.1M sq ft of commercial space, 290,000 sq ft of retail, leisure facilities as well as hotels, numerous cultural attractions and an integrated external and internal transport system. There will be more than 35,000 people living and working at Granton waterfront and public transport will play a key role in moving this amount of people around the city. Tram Line 1 will link Granton to the City and Leith.
- 3.6 Waterfront Edinburgh was established primarily as a land developer. They invested in infrastructure and master planning to enable plots of land to be sold. However, the Company's role has evolved and in fact they have submitted a detailed planning application for circa 50 residential units and 7,000 sq ft of commercial, which they plan to develop themselves. The rationale behind this is to ensure the provision of appropriate mixed use development.
- 3.7 I have to say that I was amazed at the transformation that is being achieved. Waterfront Edinburgh now has real momentum and those involved from the company, the Council and SEEL who have worked so hard to realise the vision are to be congratulated.

4. DOUBLE PARKING

- 4.1 Not one resident will be fined for parking more than a foot from the kerb. If any warden makes the mistake of issuing such a ticket it will be cancelled. I wish to make it absolutely clear that the proposals have been put forward are to enable wardens to ticket double parked vehicles, and for no other reason. I am happy to clarify the situation and to remind members that the purpose of the exercise is to ensure that emergency vehicles are not obstructed.

5 Central Edinburgh Traffic Management

- 5.1 The next step in the project to make Edinburgh city centre a safer and more pleasant place in which to work, shop, live and visit took place on Sunday 19 June when buses were diverted from George Street to Princes Street.
- 5.2 From this date, South St David Street will also be closed to traffic, while the Frasers' Corner junction between Queensferry Street and Shandwick Place will be re-opened.

5.3 Passengers will see a significant improvement in bus services along Princes Street, with less congestion and quicker journey times. This means that the public can get in and out of the city centre quicker and have better access to shops and businesses. I know that this project has its critics but to my knowledge not one politician of any party has advocated putting cars back onto Princes Street (heading east) since there were removed in 1996, and I am confident that the same will be true of the latest changes.

6 Lothian Buses

6.1 New passenger figures from Lothian Buses confirm the fact that we have the best bus services in Scotland and in the UK, outside London and certainly proves demand for public transport is constantly increasing in the Edinburgh area.

6.2 In the first 20 weeks of 2005 (January to May) Lothian Buses saw a 1.3% increase in passenger numbers. This means the projected total number of passengers for 2005 is 104 million – a 27% increase in the 7 years from 1998 to 2005, an average of 4% per year.

6.3 A recent statistical report from the Scottish Executive shows that residents of the area served by Lothian Buses make more than double the national average number of bus journeys. During 2003/2004 the average bus use per person in Scotland was 89 trips but for greater Edinburgh this jumps to 188 trips per person. In total Lothian Buses services account for 23% of all passenger journeys by bus in Scotland.

6.4 At their recent AGM, Lothian Buses highlighted just how cheap bus travel is in Edinburgh. They showed the cost of a four mile bus journey in the four main Scottish cities:

Edinburgh: 80p
Glasgow: £1.25
Aberdeen: £1.40
Dundee: £1.10

6.5 Lothian Buses are introducing a number of service changes on 17 July. The service 24 will increase in frequency, the service 31 to Bonnyrigg will double in frequency and a new Night Bus service N31 between East Craigs and the City Centre, Bonnyrigg and Mayfield will be introduced. All three services are part-funded with Scottish Executive Bus Route Development grants.

7 PARK AND RIDE

7.1 To coincide with the opening of the new Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters at Gogarburn the services 2, 12, 21, 24 will be extended to the site and a new peak time express service X12 will be introduced.

- 7.2 I was pleased to receive confirmation from Midlothian Council that Tod Hills Park and Ride will be complete by the end of the calendar year. This site will service the Bridges corridor, and importantly the new Royal Infirmary at Little France. This will be an excellent addition to the Park and Ride network being created around the city, and I would vigorously like to commend the work of Midlothian Council in taking this work forward.
- 7.3 Both Park + Ride sites are nearly complete and will be officially launched jointly on Thursday, 14 July at Ingliston (A8) in front of the Lord Provost and 100 invited guests.
- 7.4 The sites open for operation on Sunday, 17 July when Lothian Buses will have specially branded Park + Ride buses running between the city centre and Ingliston site at least every 15 minutes, and a regular service every 10 minutes between the city and Hermiston. Two Park + Ride sites also open on the 17 July at Ingliston and Hermiston. New service X48 will provide an express shuttle between the City Centre and Ingliston Park + Ride and services 25, 34 and new X25 will serve Hermiston Park + Ride.
- 7.5 Motorists will now be able to bring their cars to the edge of Edinburgh and take advantage of free parking on Ingliston's 535 parking spaces and Hermiston's 470 parking spaces. An advertising campaign using press and radio will kick off from 18 July to inform the public that the sites are open.
- 7.6 Development work on Straiton Park and Ride continues, with the detailed design of the facility currently being undertaken. Unfortunately, negotiations with regard to securing the land, are still proving difficult to conclude. Delivery of the facility is now anticipated during 2006.

8. Forth Road Bridge

- 8.1 I was delighted to see that motorists will avoid two weeks of disruption after work on the Forth Road Bridge finished ahead of schedule. The first phase of the major maintenance programme, which was due to be completed on Sunday 19 June, was completed well ahead of schedule. Thanks go to the Bridgemaster, Alastair Andrew, and his team on this achievement.

9. Volunteering in Edinburgh

- 9.1 I was delighted to meet with nearly 200 volunteers in the City Chambers, when they were presented with certificates for their work on behalf of the city. We owe a great debt to all of these people who give their time to give service to others and to improve the city.
- 9.2 In addition we will be holding a reception to honour the work of Community Councillors in Edinburgh. Again we should be proud of the

work that is done to improve Edinburgh by such dedicated and hard working individuals.

10. Summer Festivals

10.1 It looks as though it will be another bumper year for Edinburgh's Summer Festivals and I hope that everyone takes the opportunity to enjoy some of the world's best events right on our doorstep.

10.2 Fringe Festival

This years Fringe Festival presents 1800 shows - 100 more than in 2004. Tickets went on sale on Monday 13 June - one week earlier than usual. Sales are already very encouraging as 40,000 tickets were sold in the first week. To book go to www.edfringe.com or telephone

10.3 Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Tattoo sold out more than four months before opening night - the fastest ever sell-out in the event's 55-year history. This marks the seventh successive sold-out season for the Tattoo. There are still a limited number of half-price tickets to go on sale for the Thursday, August 4th preview performance of this year's Tattoo at 10am on Monday July 25th from the Tattoo Ticket Sales Office at 33-34 Market Street. These tickets may also be obtained by telephone on 08707 555 118 or via the Internet at www.edintattoo.co.uk

10.4 Edinburgh International Book Festival

Edinburgh's International Book Festival sold an unprecedented third of all tickets by day three. The largest literary festival in the world with over 500 authors welcomes over 170 Scottish authors this year – another new record for the Festival. To book go to: www.edbookfest.co.uk or 0131 624 5050.

10.5 Edinburgh International Festival

The Edinburgh's International Festival has launched another quality programme. The Royal Bank of Scotland and Edinburgh International Festival will be continuing their innovative partnership with two new schemes for 2005 aimed at widening access to the Festival. Further details of these programmes will be available on www.eif.co.uk from Monday 27 June.

10.5 Only a limited number of Princes Street Gardens tickets are now left for the Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert on Sunday 4 September. There are two ways to get your tickets now - online from 11am Monday 25 July at www.eif.co.uk or in person from 10am Sunday 28 August at The Hub.

10.6 Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

This year, the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival Festival is the most comprehensive jazz festival ever presented with an even bigger range of quality musicians and innovative events. Ticket sales are looking extremely good and are 7% up on last year with quite a few sell out productions to look forward to. To buy tickets go to www.edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk or tel: 0131 473 2000/0131 467 5200

10.7 Edinburgh Film Festival

The Film Festival announces its programme on the 13 July and tickets go on sale on Friday 15 July. I am sure this will be yet another entertaining and thought provoking series of films for us to enjoy.

10.8 Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival

The Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival 2005 that took place in May presented 14 productions for children aged between 3 and 14 years, over seven days in venues around Edinburgh. Over 10,500 children, their families and teachers attended as well as delegates from all over the UK and abroad.

11 Gardening Scotland

11.1 This year's Gardening Scotland, which took place at the Royal Highland Centre between Friday 3rd and Sunday 5th June, was bigger and better than ever.

11.2 This year, visitors were enthralled by more glorious show gardens than ever (six) as well as ten stunning patio gardens. There were also over 400 exhibitors showcasing all that's best in horticulture, outdoor living, crafts, food and drink.

11.3 Gardening Scotland 2005 was also more accessible than ever. For the first time, a free bus service operated every ten minutes between Haymarket Train Station and the show.

12 Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland

12.1 It's a mark of the quality of Edinburgh's theatre when two of our Council funded organisations won 7 out of 10 categories at the recent Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland (CATS). The International Festival won five awards for their co-production *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, and the Royal Lyceum Theatre took two, including Best Actor, for David Tennant in *Look Back in Anger*.

13 New sponsor for Ceilidh Culture

- 13.1 It's always encouraging when a Council initiative such as Ceilidh Culture, the Spring celebration of traditional arts, achieves recognition from a sponsor. Glenkinchie, the Edinburgh malt, has recently announced their support of the event, starting in 2006. I regard this as a major breakthrough in the promotion of traditional arts and United Distillers are a very prestigious sponsor for such an event.

14 Usher Hall

- 14.1 The Usher Hall's new box office system is now able to sell tickets online. Go to www.usherhall.co.uk and you can book for the forthcoming Autumn season with artists as diverse as Paul Weller, Andre Previn, and the RSNO under the new artistic leadership of Stiphane Deneve.

15 UN endorsement of FutureSport

- 15.1 I am delighted to announce the United Nation's endorsement of the Culture and Leisure Department's FutureSport events programme. Mr Adolf Ogi, Under Secretary General, Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, has written to the Department to express his support for the FutureSport programme, and welcomed its contribution to the commemoration of the *International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005*. Mr Ogi also thanked the City of Edinburgh "...for hosting the third edition of the *Homeless Streetsoccer World Cup*, and for giving all participants a warm welcome. This event has already made a strong impact on the lives of its participants at the two previous editions. I am convinced that this shall also be the case in Edinburgh".

15 Sports Awards

- 15.1 Edinburgh athletes and sports teams were celebrated for their outstanding achievement in sport at an award ceremony organised by the Culture and Leisure Department and held at the City Chambers on Monday 6 June.
- 15.2 Sports clubs, governing bodies and members of the public were invited to nominate athletes or teams from Edinburgh who achieved particular success in 2004/05. The winners of the awards were:
- Coach of the Year – David Campbell (Athletics)
 - Disabled Sports Person Award – Ian Prime (Blind Golf)
 - Young Sports Person Award – Malcolm Kerr (Swimming)
 - Senior Sports Person Award – Finlay Mickel (Skiing)
 - Local Service to Sport – (3 winners) Anne Conrad (Volleyball), Danny Kaye (Basketball), Celia Peerless (Athletics)
 - Junior Team Award – Portobello High School Open Girls Basketball

- Senior Team Award – Team Edinburgh (Volleyball)
- Special Recognition Award – Stephanie Crolla (Golf)

16 GO4IT and PLAY4IT – SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

- 16.1 Young people in Edinburgh are once again in for a fun-packed summer thanks to the packed GO4IT and PLAY4IT summer activity programme. GO4IT is entering its fifth successive year and is aimed at secondary children up to the age of 18. PLAY4IT, now in its fourth year, provides activities for P4-P7 children. Activities range from cheerleading and white-water rafting to pizza making. There will also be the grand finale with the 'Final Friday' party in Princes Street Gardens on 12 August.
- 16.2 I was privileged to receive a tour of the Easter programme this year, which was an inspirational and humbling experience. To see so many young people involved in such high quality events and activities was great. To see the young people with special needs being catered for with the same level of commitment as everyone else was also tremendously encouraging.
- 16.3 Programmes for both schemes were distributed to all primary and secondary schools in Edinburgh. For further enquires or bookings, please call 0131 550 6824 or visit www.go4itedinburgh.com, www.play4itedinburgh.com

17 21st Century Region conference

- 17.1 Edinburgh's business and political leaders met in May to consider how the city region can best compete with rival cities, particularly those in the new EU countries. The "Achieving theVision" conference focused on the practical steps that politicians and businesses need to take if the Edinburgh region is to realise its potential as a leading European location for investment, prosperity and quality of life.
- 17.2 It was particularly pleasing to hear Tom McCabe refer to the 'confidence and dynamism of the city' and highlight the importance of the cities to Scotland's economic future.

18 Construction of New HQ Building

- 18.1 I was delighted to learn that our New Headquarters project was judged by the Scottish Property Awards to be the worthy recipient of "Scottish Property Deal of the Year".
- 18.2 This is, of course, a just and well deserved award for our innovative and highly successful Fit For Future team. I am sure that all elected members will wish to join me in congratulating Bill Ness, Ian McNicoll and the rest of the team for progressing this complex project and making this award possible. Well done.

- 18.3 The new HQ building's concrete frame has now reached the level of East Market Street. This is where the main entrance will be located. The third and final tower crane is now in place to allow construction works over the full site area. The main construction works remain on programme.
- 18.4 We are taking a lead in promoting sustainability. The construction programme continues to exceed our Waste Minimisation Plan targets with much of the redundant material re-used, rather than being sent to landfill sites. Planning consent for rooftop solar panels has been granted and proposals for rainwater harvesting are at a detailed design stage. Rainwater will be collected and re-used for toilet flushing, reducing the overall environmental impact of the new building.

19 Care of the elderly

- 19.1 In May, BBC Frontline Scotland highlighted a number of issues in which NHS care of older patients was called into question. One of the patients discussed was treated at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in March this year. No formal complaint had been made to NHS Lothian about the patient's care, but NHS Lothian carried out a full investigation as soon as it knew of these concerns. This resulted in a swift acknowledgement of certain failings in the care of the patient, for which NHS Lothian apologised unreservedly.
- 19.2 NHS Lothian and the Council are key partners in providing care of the elderly services and together we have made significant progress in achieving the delayed discharge targets for Edinburgh, often in challenging circumstances in a decreasing private care home market.
- 19.3 Care of the elderly continues to be a key priority for both the Council and NHS Lothian. A wide ranging review of services by NHS Lothian University Hospitals Division had already identified a series of improvements that should be made to the care of the elderly wards at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh before this programme was made. This resulted in a new rehabilitation unit (ward 104) opening in April, which includes the provision of personalised care for frail and elderly patients who do not require operations. In addition NHS Lothian has also augmented this by recruiting additional support staff to free up, and to provide assistance to, nursing staff to spend more time with patients. NHS Lothian has also recently announced the creation of an independent review group to advise on the care of older people.
- 19.4 A few weeks ago the Chief Executive and I met with some of the staff who are dealing with the challenge of delayed discharge. I was very impressed with the professionalism and commitment of the staff I met, and was encouraged by the progress being made. There is no question that the management of the NHS is a real and formidable challenge not just in Edinburgh, but across the country. Extra

resources have not yet led to all of the improvements that we would wish to see, but huge strides forward are being achieved.

- 19.5 The task we face is to further encourage and support the improvements that are being made in the quality of management and systems in the NHS. Where there are problems they must be tackled, but we should not lose sight of the progress being made.

20 Risk management in the Council takes big stride forward

- 20.1 Risk management is fundamental to managing our business efficiently and effectively. Good risk management assists Council departments to make informed decisions and achieve their objectives. Given the wide range of issues faced by the Council and the complexity of many of the major projects and initiatives being undertaken, a structured approach to risk management is essential. This will provide assurance to the public that their taxes are being safeguarded and address an important aspect of the Council's responsibility to demonstrate Best Value in the use of public funds.
- 20.2 To develop best practice throughout the Council, each Department's management team has just attended a risk management workshop organised by Internal Audit using an IT-based approach. Feedback from the workshops was very positive and action plans are being drawn up to demonstrate how the risks identified are being controlled. These will feed into departmental service plans and will provide increased confidence in the Council's corporate governance and ability to deliver. The conclusion of this exercise will put the Council at the leading edge of public sector bodies in risk management.

21 George Davies Centre for Retail Excellence at Heriot-Watt University

- 21.1 Leading fashion visionary George Davies has announced a unique new partnership with Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. The man who founded 'Next' in the eighties, 'George at Asda' in the nineties and the per una fashion collection for Marks and Spencer in 2001, is launching the George Davies Centre for Retail Excellence at Heriot-Watt, with the first postgraduate course in International Fashion Marketing running this autumn.
- 21.2 The Centre will provide students with a postgraduate education and training in the whole retail fashion business, with in-company projects and master classes from leading academics and retailers, including George Davies himself.
- 21.3 Specialist subjects will include strategic retail management, buying and merchandising, understanding the fashion consumer, fashion brand management and retail logistics.

22 AA Landlady of the Year

Scotland appears to have the friendliest bed and breakfasts, taking up half the spaces in the shortlist of nominees for the annual AA Landlady of the Year 2005 competition.

Now in its 12th year this award is about the people who run the establishments, celebrating their hard work, patience and good humour.

One of the nominees who is well known to the Council is Elizabeth Scott, who served for many years as a board member of E.L.T.B.. Congratulations go to Elizabeth and all at Ashcroft Farmhouse, East Calder for their achievement.

23 SCHOOL UNIFORM

- 23.1 I have to say that I am disappointed that greater progress has not been made in increasing the uptake of school uniform in our schools. Having seen the difference made at Gracemount High School, where children have been complimented on their smart appearance by members of the general public, I do believe that more should be done to extend its use.
- 23.2 I have asked Councillor Aitken and the Director Roy Jobson to bring forward a report on how best we can improve the situation.

24 POLICE UPDATE

- 24.1 This is an extremely busy time for our officers as they enter the final phase of preparations for G8-related events across the capital.
- 24.2 Force managers report that arrangements are progressing well with almost 12,000 officers from across the United Kingdom now being involved. Once the programme of events conclude, the city's 'A' Division and our own Housing Department will roll out the next tranche of Edinburgh's partnership policing posts. Three entirely new Youth Action Teams, consisting of four Police Officers, for the East, North and Leith and Pentlands areas will be launched in August. These will be modelled on the existing south Edinburgh team, which will itself be bolstered by the addition of a new Sergeant and two Constables posts.
- 24.3 As many readers will be aware, the south Edinburgh team –under the stewardship of Inspector Stephen Paul - has recently attracted national media attention after slashing youth calls in its area by over 20% in just 2 years.
- 24.4 Two new Safer Community Units will also come on stream in the south and central areas of the city. These teams follow in the footsteps of

four others, which have already made a massive impact on anti-social behaviour in their 'footprint' areas. In Broomhouse and North Sighthill for example, the team have received widespread praise and press coverage for reducing youth calls by over 50%. Similarly, the Drylaw team has recently received a prestigious partnership award for its efforts.

- 24.5 Meanwhile on a wider level, a number of specially selected Community Beat Officers have been appointed to cover each of 58 beats city-wide. The boundaries of each beat and are aligned with political wards and we are optimistic that these officers, one for each beat/ward, will provide a single point of reference for councillors and residents alike.
- 24.6 The remainder of the city's thousand or so officers have been redesignated Community Patrol Officers. They will resume working '24/7' shifts from all stations across the city and will be answerable to local line managers. This marks a refinement in policing style and re-emphasises that traditional link between local 'well-kent' police faces and their local communities.