

ITEM No 4

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 3

30 JUNE 2005

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Hunter to be answered by the Executive Member for Human and Corporate Resources at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2005

Question (1) What is the budgeted staff complement of the City Archives and what is the present staffing?

Answer (1) The employee costs provision for the City Archives within the realigned budget for the Department of Corporate Services is sufficient to fund the following four posts:

- City Archivist
- Assistant City Archivist
- Archivist
- Archival Assistant

Currently, the posts of City Archivist and Archival Assistant are filled.

Question (2) What steps are being taken to improve the staffing situation and have any temporary arrangements been considered?

Answer (2) The post of Assistant City Archivist was advertised earlier this year. There were three applications, of whom only one was a qualified applicant and withdrew shortly after the closing date. It is not considered that a temporary appointment would be any more successful.

Question (3) What plans are being made with regard to the Archives' heating system?

Answer (3) The Capital Investment Programme approved by Council in February 2005 includes provision in 2007/8 for improvements to the repository at Murrayburn Road which would include heating. A project to improve conditions in the City Chambers Muniment Room was among the precluded bids.

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Gilchrist to be answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Public Realm at a meeting of the Council to be held on 30 June 2005.

In connection with the proposal to penalise motorists who park more than 30 cm from the pavement.

Question (1) In which other towns or cities has this or a similar proposal been operated?

Answer (1) London boroughs under the London Local Authorities Act 2000. The five boroughs consulted as part of this exercise apply the legislation to single parked as well as double parked vehicles. There may be others of which we are unaware.

Question (2) Presumably research was carried out before arriving at this recommendation. How many motorists is it anticipated/estimated will be fined in Edinburgh under this arrangement?

Answer (2) For the sake of clarity there will be no change in enforcement regimes for single parked vehicles. The 30 cm distance is chosen rather than, say, 1 metre as the latter would legalise parking 99 cms from the kerb. The operating instructions within the parking enforcement contract would specify that a vehicle must also be double-parked. The normal photographic evidence would illustrate this. Legislation can not be easily drafted to specify double parking.

It is intended to publicise the use of these powers to minimise this type of parking. No estimate of numbers can be made.

Question (3) How much additional revenue is expected to be raised by this measure?

Answer

- (3) Given the answer to question 2, no significant revenue is expected. Availability of those powers will allow enforcement around night time parking of the type that recently obstructed fire appliances reaching a tenement fire. Further deployment of Parking Attendants outwith normal hours may therefore affect net revenue.

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Mackintosh to
be answered by the Executive
Member for Environmental
Services at a meeting of the
Council to be held on 30 June
2005**

- Question** (1) When was the decision made to discontinue the Greenwatch pilot where volunteer members of the public report the cleanliness of streets and open spaces to the Task Force?
- Question** (2) Who made that decision?
- Answer** (1) The decision was taken by Ian Hunter, Chair of the & South Local Development Committee Joint Officers
(2) Working Group and Chair of the Keep Edinburgh Clean Working Group, after consultation with Environmental and Consumer Services Officers on the 27 April 2005.
- Question** (3) To which Committees of the Council were progress reports on the Greenwatch scheme made during the life of the project?
- Answer** (3) None. An evaluation report was circulated to the Keep Edinburgh Clean Working Group on 27 March 2005.
- Question** (4) To which Committees of the Council were the results of the Greenwatch pilot reported prior to the decision made to discontinue it?
- Answer** (4) None – see Answer (3) above.
- Question** (5) What has happened to the digital cameras issued to Greenwatch Volunteers now that the scheme has been discontinued?

Answer (5) Six digital cameras were issued. One is being kept by a volunteer who also participates in the pilot graffiti treatment kit project. Two have negotiated that they keep their cameras in the short/medium term as they are actively using them to support other environmental/community activity. One has already been returned and two are due for return to the department.

Question (6) Why was the Greenwatch Scheme discontinued?

Answer (6) While the trial has shown that the pilot scheme could provide useful information, the Department was of the view that only a City-wide scheme, with appropriate officer support and IT investment would be sustainable in the longer term. At the moment limited resources are being prioritised for the development of graffiti removal kits in certain parts of the City.

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Gilchrist to be answered by the Executive Member for Environmental Services at a meeting of the Council to be held on 30 June 2005

Question (1) How many litter bins have been removed from the City Centre in recent weeks?

Answer (1) During the last six weeks no litter bins have been removed from the City Centre under the authority of this Department.

Question (2) Why have they been removed?

Answer (2) The only litter bins removed recently have moved temporarily to accommodate security measures requested by the Police (eg VIP visits to the city). Following the security measures these bins are returned to their original locations. It should be noted that since April 2004, 15 litter bins have been replaced in the City Centre as a result of vandalism or accident and 12 bins have been resited to alternative locations due to alterations to the streetscape.

Question (3) What arrangements have been made to clear up the increased litter which will arise from the removal of these bins?

Answer (3) On each occasion that litter bins are removed temporarily, the City Centre Task Force is advised that additional cleansing will be required at the location. A total of 67 additional litter bins have been sited at new locations identified in the City Centre since April 2004.