

Committee Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2010/2011

Meeting 2 – Thursday 19 August 2010

Edinburgh, 19 August 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
Cammy Day
Charles Dundas
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
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 Deputations

(a) **Waste Dispute – Right to Work Campaign** (see item 2 below)

The deputation referred to the motion by Councillor Buchan on the waste dispute which would be considered later on the agenda. They expressed concern at the terms of the motion, particularly the criticism of the Trade Unions on the way the dispute had been handled. The introduction of a single status deal had been aimed at bringing equality into the workplace by raising women's pay to the same level as that of men employed in the same position but it had in fact been used to reduce pay. They warned that any attempt to privatise the service would cause an economic crisis for those on the lowest wages and would be met with resistance.

(Reference – e-mail dated 16 August 2010, submitted.)

(b) **Veolia Environnement – Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign** (see item 3 below)

The deputation sought the Council's support for the motions on Veolia Environnement by Councillors Chapman and Blacklock to be considered later in the meeting. They asked the Council to exclude Veolia Environnement and any of its subsidiaries from all Council contracts and to cancel any current contracts in which they were involved. Veolia Environnement was involved in providing services to illegal settlements in occupied Palestinian land. This was in violation of international and human rights law and, if the Council ignored this, the deputation said they would be complicit in these activities.

(Reference – e-mail dated 18 August 2010, submitted.)

2 **Waste Dispute – Motion by Councillor Buchan**

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

“Council:

- i) notes that the refuse collection industrial action is now approaching its 14th month without resolution;
- ii) notes that residents are becoming increasingly frustrated with the erratic and poor level of services that has been experienced in parts of the city;

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- iii) notes that the Director of Services for Communities and his management teams have been trying to manage the situation as best they can in face of work to rule by employees;
- iv) notes the lack of leadership shown by the Administration and trade unions in allowing this issue to continue for so long;
- v) calls for a report to next Policy and Strategy Committee outlining the full financial costs of the dispute as well as a strategy for settling the dispute and managing any further service disruption until the dispute is settled.”

The Council had heard a deputation on the matter from the Right to Work Campaign (see item 1(a) above).

Motion

To approve the motion.

- moved by Councillor Buchan, seconded by Councillor McInnes (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

Amendment 1

- 1) To note with disappointment the outcome of the ballot of refuse collection staff.
- 2) To welcome the fact that a large number of staff groups, including street cleaners, gardeners, gravediggers, etc, had ended their dispute following lengthy and constructive negotiations with the Council.
- 3) To reaffirm that the offer was the fairest which could be made in the context of Modernising Pay.
- 4) To reaffirm the Council's commitment to maintaining a high quality and dependable refuse collection service to the citizens of Edinburgh.
- 5) To note that tendering of the service at the outset of the dispute would not have achieved best value for Edinburgh residents.
- 6) To condemn the previous Administration of the city who had failed to address inequalities in pay and outdated and inefficient practices in the refuse collection service.

- moved by Councillor Aldridge, seconded by Councillor Buchanan (on behalf of the Administration).

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Amendment 2

To approve paragraphs i), ii) and v) of the motion.

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

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	11 votes
For amendment 1	-	29 votes
For amendment 2	-	17 votes

Decision

To approve amendment 1 by Councillor Aldridge.

(Reference – Policy and Strategy Committee 3 August 2010 (item 8).

3 Veolia Environnement

Two motions on Veolia Environnement had been submitted in terms of Standing Order 28.

(a) The following motion had been submitted by Councillor Chapman:

“Council notes that

- 1) Veolia Environnement is a leading partner in the consortium contracted to build a light railway system linking Israel to settlements in occupied East Jerusalem.
- 2) Veolia Environnement operates in illegally occupied Palestinian Territory, servicing bus routes built through Palestinian land for Israeli settlers, and operating the Tovlan landfill site which serves Israeli settlements.
- 3) The United Nations does not recognise Israel’s annexation and occupation of East Jerusalem and has repeatedly stated that the Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank contravene international law.
- 4) Veolia’s involvement in these projects is in contravention of the UN’s stated demand that Israeli settlement activities and occupation should not be supported.

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Council therefore agrees to follow the commendable example of Dublin City and Swansea City and County Councils and:

- 1) exclude Veolia Environnement and any of its subsidiaries (Veolia Transport, Veolia Environmental Services, Veolia Water, Onyx, Cleanaway, Connex, TMM) from all new Edinburgh City Council contracts;
- 2) not renew any existing contracts and/or ad-hoc arrangements that are in place that use services provided by Veolia Environnement or any of its subsidiaries.”

(b) The following motion had been submitted by Councillor Blacklock:

“On the basis that Veolia provides services to illegal settlements in Occupied Palestinian land and is therefore complicit in grave breaches of international and human rights law committed by the state of Israel, Council agrees to call for a report that outlines how:

- 1) Veolia Environnement or any of its subsidiaries – Veolia Transport, Veolia Environmental Services, Veolia Water, Onyx, Cleanaway, Connex, TMM – can be excluded from all Council contracts.
- 2) Any ad hoc arrangements that are currently in place to use services provided by Veolia Environnement, or any of its subsidiaries, can be cancelled.

The report also to include details of what ethical criteria, if any, are currently used to assess bids from external companies for Council contracts.”

The Council had heard a deputation on the matter from the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (see item 1(b) above).

Motion

To approve a composite of the motions as follows:

- 1) To note that:
 - a) Veolia Environnement was a leading partner in the consortium contracted to build a light railway system linking Israel to settlements in occupied East Jerusalem.
 - b) Veolia Environnement operated in illegally occupied Palestinian Territory, servicing bus routes built through Palestinian land for Israeli settlers and operating the Tovlan landfill site which served Israeli settlements.

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- c) The United Nations did not recognise Israel's annexation and occupation of East Jerusalem and had repeatedly stated that the Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank contravened international law.
 - d) Veolia's involvement in these projects was in contravention of the UN's stated demand that Israeli settlement activities and occupation should not be supported.
 - e) Dublin City and Swansea City and County Councils, among others, had recently excluded Veolia Environnement and its subsidiaries from all future contracts.
 - f) The Council's contract with Eden Springs had not been renewed for similar reasons of misconduct.
- 2) To call for a report within two cycles that:
- a) outlined whether Veolia Environnement and any of its subsidiaries (Veolia Transport, Veolia Environmental Services, Veolia Water, Onyx, Cleanaway, Connex, TMM) could be excluded from all new Edinburgh City Council contracts;
 - b) explored how any existing contracts and/or ad-hoc arrangements that were in place that used services provided by Veolia Environnement or any of its subsidiaries were not renewed; and
 - c) detailed what ethical criteria, if any, were used to assess tenders for Council contracts and what criteria could be developed in line with the previous decision taken on Eden Springs and the above position on Veolia Environnement.

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

Amendment 1

- 1) To recognise that:
 - Council must comply with all legislation, including the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, in carrying out its activities; and
 - if the Council was to remove Veolia ES (UK) Limited as a bidder from the tendering process for the Alternative Business Models (ABM) programme on the basis of the information available to Council officers at present, there was a significant risk of a legal challenge from Veolia.

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- 2) To agree, therefore:
- a) that further investigations be carried out and that a report on this matter be presented to Council by December 2010; and
 - b) that, should such investigations uncover any further information which altered the position outlined above in the interim, this would be reported to Council as soon as possible.

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

Amendment 2

To take no action on the matter.

- moved by Councillor Balfour, seconded by Councillor Mowat (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the composite motion	-	17 votes
For amendment 1	-	29 votes
For amendment 2	-	11 votes

Decision

To approve amendment 1 by Councillor Wheeler.

4 Questions

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

(References – Acts of Council No 10 of 24 May 2007 and No 9 of 28 May 2009.)

5 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of meeting of the Council of 24 June 2010, as submitted, as a correct record.

6 Appointments to the Licensing Board and Outside Bodies

(a) Licensing Board

Decision

To appoint Councillor Bridgman to the Licensing Board in place of Councillor Cairns.

(b) Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC)

Decision

To agree that Councillor Whyte should remain as the Council's nominee to the Board of the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC).

(References – reports nos CEC/19/10-11/CS and CEC/28/10-11/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Aldridge, Buchanan, Dawe and Hinds declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Directors of EICC.

7 Leader's Report

The Leader presented her report to the Council. The Leader commented on the gift from Hull of a "regal toad" in commemoration of that city's Philip Larkin Toad Parade.

Questions on the following issues were raised:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Councillor Burns | - Council budget packs
- timing of distribution to members
- scrutiny arrangements
- Participatory Budgeting Unit
- consultation |
| Councillor Ewan Aitken | - EICC additional space contract – apprenticeships |
| Councillor Munro | - Alternative Business Models |
| Councillor Hinds | - Alternative Business Models – efficiencies – shared services |

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- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Councillor Balfour | - Council funding – Council Tax freeze agreement |
| Councillor Paisley | - Edinburgh Outlook |
| Councillor Buchan | - Water of Leith Management Plan – congratulations to Water of Leith Trust |
| Councillor Johnstone | - Green Flag awards – appreciation for work of park wardens – support for parks service |
| Councillor Blacklock | - Green Flag awards – contribution by local communities |

(Reference – report no CEC/27/10-11/L by the Leader, submitted.)

8 Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan

The Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee had referred to the Council, in terms of Standing Order 35, adoption of the Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan which involved joint working with NHS Lothian and East, Mid and West Lothian Councils.

Decision

To adopt the Lothian Joint Public Health Protection Plan.

References - Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 27 July 2010 (item 22); report no CEC/20/10-11/TIE by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Edie declared a financial interest in the above item as a stakeholder Director of NHS Lothian.

Councillor Whyte declared a financial interest in the item as a non-Executive Director of NHS Lothian.

9 Delivery of Affordable Homes through the National Housing Trust

The Policy and Strategy Committee had referred to the Council for approval a proposal to revise the prudential borrowing authorised and operating limits to facilitate the delivery of affordable homes through the National Housing Trust initiative.

Decision

To approve the revision to the prudential borrowing authorised and operating limits by £55m.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 3 August 2010 (item 12); report no CEC/21/10-11/PS by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

10 Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2009-12 – Annual Report on Progress

An annual update was provided on progress towards the delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership 2009-12 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for approval and subsequent submission to the Scottish Government.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made towards the delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership's SOA Local Outcomes as outlined in the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To continue to consider an annual SOA monitoring report in August each year covering the progress made in the previous financial year.
- 3) To circulate the Director's report to the Edinburgh Partnership agencies for their approval.
- 4) Pending partner approval, to submit the report to the Scottish Government by the end of September.
- 5) To note that despite concerted and meaningful effort, the Council's performance in relation to looked after children remained poor.

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- 6) To call for the existing commitment to improve the Council's performance in this regard to be maintained and to instruct the Director of Children and Families to report improvements to the Education Children and Families Committee on a regular basis.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 19 January 2010 item 14; Act of Council No 10 of 17 September 2009; report no CEC/22/10-11 by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

11 Annual Efficiency Statement – 2009/10

Approval was sought for the 2009/10 Annual Efficiency Statement.

Decision

- 1) To approve the content of the 2009/10 Annual Efficiency Statement as detailed in the appendix to the report by the Chief Executive and its onward submission to COSLA for collation of the Scotland-wide position.
- 2) To note that the total level of efficiencies delivered in 2009/10 exceeded the 2% target applicable to the Scottish public sector as a whole.
- 3) To note, nonetheless, the importance of discussions concerning service prioritisation, as well as initiatives to deliver further efficiency measures, given projections of reducing overall resource availability and the substantial level of efficiencies already delivered by the Council.

(Reference – report no CEC/23/10-11/CE by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

12 Electoral Ward No 16 Liberton/Gilmerton – By-election Arrangements

Arrangements were detailed for the by-election in Liberton/Gilmerton Ward 16 following the election of Councillor Murray to the UK Parliament and his resignation from the Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the date of poll and count arrangements for the by-election in Ward 16 Liberton/Gilmerton.
- 2) To note the poll arrangements.

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- 3) To approve the fees proposed for staff.

(Reference – report no CEC/25/10-11/RO by the Returning Officer, submitted.)

13 Treasury Management: Annual Report 2009/10

Details of the performance of the Council's Treasury function were provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the Annual Report on Treasury Management for 2009/10.
- 2) To refer the report by the Director of Finance to the Finance and Resources Committee for its scrutiny.

(Reference – report no CEC/24/10-11/F by the Director of Finance, submitted.)

14 Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee - Membership

Decision

To note the resignation from the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee of Scottish Borders Councillor D Paterson and the appointment of Mr M Comeau to the vacancy.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 29 April 2010; report no CEC/26/10-11/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Balfour declared a non-financial interest in the above item as his wife was a Prison Visitor.

15 450th Anniversary of Leith Academy – Motion by Councillor Munn

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

“Council notes that 2010 marks the 450th Anniversary of Leith Academy providing education in Leith.

Council requests that this significant anniversary is marked by the Lord Provost and Council in an appropriate way.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Munn.

16 Craig McEwan – Motion by Councillor Rust

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

“Council:

- (i) notes that in his 13 years as an amateur boxer Craig McEwan notched up 376 fights, winning 10 gold medals in international tournaments and was a regular captain of the Scottish International Team and previously Craig broke Scotland's amateur boxing record by winning a hat trick of golds at international level;
- (ii) further notes that Craig has been crowned Scottish Champion at both junior and senior level, as well as being European Junior Champion and Senior British & Irish Four Nations Champion and has twice represented Scotland in the Commonwealth Games;
- (iii) congratulates Craig on his tremendous record as a professional boxer, having 19 professional contests with 19 wins, 10 by way of knock out;
- (iv) welcomes the positive impact that Craig's success has on inspiring young people to become active, especially in the Wester Hailes area;
- (v) agrees to hold a suitable reception to welcome Craig back to Edinburgh.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Rust subject to the replacement of paragraph (v) with:

- (v) to agree that Craig's success be marked by the Lord Provost in an appropriate way.

17 Edinburgh Airport – Motion by Councillor Dundas

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

“Council welcomes the success of Edinburgh Airport, Scotland’s busiest Airport. Council recognises the need for investment in infrastructure to secure the sustainability of this key gateway to Scotland.

Council notes that the Permitted Development Rights enjoyed by Edinburgh Airport do not allow Section 75 agreements to be attached to major operational development on-site; and has concerns that BAA’s Public Transport Levy Fund is wholly voluntary and in no way guaranteed.

Given the strain on the local transport infrastructure and the increasingly commercial approach adopted by BAA, Council calls for a report on how best to ensure Edinburgh Airport meets an appropriate share of the costs of providing high quality public access to the Airport before these Permitted Development Rights are considered for renewal.”

Motion

To approve the motion.

- moved by Councillor Dundas, seconded by Councillor Gordon Mackenzie (on behalf of the Administration).

Amendment 1

To approve the motion and:

- 1) Insert an additional paragraph between the first and second paragraph of the motion:

“To note that the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee’s role was “to advise the airport’s Managing Director about issues which concern the local communities, travellers and other users of the airport”. With this in mind, to express to Edinburgh Airport the Council’s deep concern regarding the proposal to charge for the drop-off facility at the airport.”

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2) Add as last paragraph:

“Further, to note that the issue of land ownership surrounding Edinburgh Airport had ensured that the Council had little control over access to the airport by both public and private vehicles and the charges which could be levied. The above report should also address the issue of land ownership surrounding Edinburgh Airport and what action could be taken by the Council to ensure public transport accessibility and choices for passengers.”

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

Amendment 2

To approve the motion subject to the deletion of paragraph 1.

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

The mover of the motion, with the consent of the seconder and the mover and seconder of amendment 1, accepted paragraph 2 of amendment 1 as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted)	-	29 votes
For amendment 1	-	14 votes
For amendment 2	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion (as adjusted) by Councillor Dundas.

18 Children and Families Staff – Motion by Councillor Rose

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

“Council:

- i) notes the Scottish Government’s pledge to reduce class sizes in P1-3 to 18, and their desire to legislate to cap class sizes at 25 for early years;

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- ii) notes that a reduction in the number of classes in certain schools has resulted in larger class sizes for pupils entering school this year;
- iii) further notes that in the Evening News of 29 February 2008 Councillor MacLaren was quoted as saying, "The Children & Families Department is overstaffed and over managed, so will be restructuring. We're hoping to get it slim and more efficient.";
- iv) instructs the Director of Children and Families to provide a report within two cycles outlining:
 - a) the class sizes of all P1-3 classes;
 - b) all non-school based employees within the Department who have teaching qualifications, along with their current post and duties and an indication of any additional or refresher training which would be required should a decision be taken to deploy each employee to front line teaching."

Motion

To approve the motion.

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

Amendment

- 1) To note:
 - a) the lobbying of the Scottish Government to introduce legislation to enable local authorities to limit class sizes in Primary 1 to 25; and
 - b) the reduction in central departmental staffing so that this now equated to only 2% of the schools and community services budget.
- 2) To refer Councillor Rose to the information on Primary 1 class sizes provided in the answer to Question 9 and to the information on non school based teaching staff provided in the answer to Question 15 as detailed in the appendix to this minute.

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

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Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	28 votes
For the amendment	-	29 votes

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor MacLaren.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Ewan Aitken declared a non-financial interest in the above item as his wife fell into the category described in paragraph (iv)(b) of the motion.

19 Former Councillor John Crichton – Motion by Councillor Munro

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

“Council notes that former Councillor John Crichton passed away peacefully on 21 June 2010 and expresses its condolences to his family on their loss.

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of John Crichton’s service to the City of Edinburgh and in particular Leith, from 1947 to 1982.

Council resolves to mark his significant contribution to the regeneration of Leith by naming a street in the Leith Docks development after him.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Munro subject to an amended paragraph 3:

“To mark his significant contribution to the regeneration of Leith, to refer the details of former Councillor John Crichton to the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership for discussion and forwarding to Planning’s “Bank” of potential street names.”

20 Surplus Resources from Closed or Vacant Council Buildings – Motion by Councillor Henderson

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

“Council notes the recent closures of Drumbrae, Fort, Burdiehouse and Royston Primary Schools.

Council agrees that surplus physical resources, furniture etc still within these schools and others, could be used by local community groups or charities.

Council therefore requests a report that proposes a process for allocating surplus resources from closed or vacant Council buildings to community groups and charities, including the possibility of establishing a relationship with the Surplus Educational Supplies Foundation which ships such equipment to countries in need.”

Motion

To approve the motion.

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

Amendment

To agree that, in view of the detailed and robust guidance provided to Head Teachers and Business Managers of closing and receiving schools regarding the disposal and dispersal of surplus equipment and furniture, there was no need for further action on this matter.

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

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	28 votes
For the amendment	-	29 votes

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor MacLaren.

21 Pakistan Floods

The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that it be considered timeously.

The following motion by Councillor Mowat was submitted in terms of Standing Order 27:

“Council:

- i. notes the news reports of the last few days revealing the full scale of impact of the floods in Pakistan;
- ii. notes the urgent need for emergency relief;
- iii. sends its condolences to the people of Pakistan and those members of the Pakistani community in Edinburgh whose families have been affected by the floods;
- iv. invites the Edinburgh Disasters Relief Committee to reconsider its recent decision not to activate the committee’s disaster response procedures.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mowat.

Appendix
(As referred to in Act of Council No 4 of 19 August 2010)

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Burgess answered by
the Convener of the Planning
Committee**

Question

Given the Council has withdrawn from the development for the Caltongate site as originally proposed by Mountgrange, what steps will be taken to bring the vacated buildings on East Market Street and the Canongate back into use to provide much needed housing and office space?

Answer

City Development has commenced work on an appraisal of the options open to the Council for all the assets that formed part of the Mountgrange development. This will include reuse of vacant property originally earmarked for the scheme and redevelopment of other surplus assets. A report on the options and recommendations will be submitted to the Economic Development Committee once the appraisal exercise is complete.

**Supplementary
Question**

I thank the Convener for this positive answer. Does the Convener have any indication of how long the appraisal and the report will take to come back to Committee. I am concerned that the Administration is proactive in ensuring the report comes to Committee as soon as possible to get the housing and office space back into use for the benefit of the local community.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Talks are ongoing with looking at developing one of the buildings into an office and there are other indications about the use of the Canongate Venture but I cannot give a timescale but we are moving this forward as quickly as we can.

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QUESTION NO 2

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

Question

What progress has been made on having Edinburgh's tram powered by a renewable source of electricity rather than climate-changing energy or nuclear power?

Answer

The Council is committed to increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

The procurement of the power supply for the first stage of the tram system is underway. Quotations have been sought from a variety of energy suppliers, including renewable sources; however the providers of renewable energy approached have thus far declined to provide quotes for supplies from renewable sources.

**Supplementary
Question**

Can I say to the Convener that I have had a personal communication from one major energy company to say that they would be delighted to power the tram from renewable energy. It is essential that this Administration is proactive in ensuring the tram reduces not increases environmental pollution and can I seek a reassurance from the Convener that he will be proactive on this matter?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes, happy to give that reassurance and also happy to pass on the details if you give them to me.

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QUESTION NO 3

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

Question

How is the environmental impact of the Winter festival in East Princes Street Gardens being reduced, specifically the damage to large grassed areas that puts the gardens out of public use for many months?

Answer

The company contracted to deliver the Winter Festival is currently in negotiation, on behalf of the Council, with prospective ice rink providers for this year's event and part of those negotiations include how the impact on East Princes Street Gardens will be minimised.

As part of this process, key trees, monuments and floral beds will be protected within exclusion zones. In addition, underground cables and electric pop-up boxes have recently been installed in the Gardens to minimise the amount of infrastructure plant required to service events taking place there. This is intended to reduce the amount of damage and also improves the look of the gardens as there are fewer cables required.

A carefully produced traffic management plan has also been introduced to ensure that on-site traffic and specifically larger vehicles will be kept to a minimum.

**Supplementary
Question**

Does the Convener realise that currently East Princes Street Gardens, the main grassed area, is out of bounds to the public for at least six months a year. I passed by in June this year after I had a communication from a constituent that the grassed area was out of bounds and people were all round the edges in fantastic weather. The Council needs to be doing all it can to make sure that that significant area of parkland in the city is protected from damage and brought back into use as soon as it can. So I would seek an assurance from the Convener that that will be done.

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**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes. As Councillor Burgess will be aware we did pass an Events Manifesto earlier this year which seeks to balance the use of our green spaces, particularly in the premier parks, between the need for events and also the protection of the green space. As the answer does intimate, negotiations are still ongoing with those who operate the Winter Festival in Princes Street Gardens to seek to ensure that we can return the grass as quickly as possible. I do understand what you are saying.

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QUESTION NO 4

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

Question

Does the Council routinely use recycled paper in its
photocopiers?

Answer

Yes.

QUESTION NO 5

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

Question

Given that the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena (EICA) currently requires an approximate £650,000 subsidy to operate, can the Leader of the Council confirm:

1. if she considers this level of subsidy sustainable in the current economic circumstances;
2. if her Administration has any objections in principle to alternative business models being introduced to secure the operation of the EICA; and
3. if she and Councillor Brock would be willing to chair discussions with private organisations and Edinburgh Leisure to identify how the EICA could be operated on a partnership basis between the public and private sector to ensure the centre remains open, whilst also reducing the level of public subsidy.

Answer

1.&2.It is not appropriate for me to comment as these matters are properly the responsibility of the Edinburgh Leisure Board.

3. I understand that Edinburgh Leisure already works in partnership with private sector organisations to deliver aspects of the business, for example in the retail outlet, the catering operation and the supply of corporate team-building packages.

I am also advised that Councillors Brock and Buchanan have been involved in discussions with Edinburgh Leisure and the private sector on further partnership working opportunities in relation to EICA.

**Supplementary
Question**

I am wondering if the Leader would be willing to consider meeting with individuals from private organisations on more significant options of securing the EICA future on a purely information basis, if she would be willing to meet with people to discuss potential options?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

I actually do not think it is appropriate for me to do that and yesterday evening I picked up a letter that I had received from the Chair of Edinburgh Leisure who points out that the continual questioning of the EICA's future is having a very adverse impact on income, performance, Edinburgh Leisure's investment, its planning abilities including future events, and on the staff who are perpetually being questioned as to whether it can exist. The level of subsidy that you refer to in your question is no greater than the level of subsidy which went to the Royal Commonwealth Pool in the year before its closure and is only a little bit more than Meggetland, Leith Waterworld and a whole range of other things. There was a decision taken by this Council in December 2009 that there would be a review of the operations of the Climbing Centre in 2011 and I am content to leave it until then. I think those that wish to raise issues about the Climbing Centre who are on the Edinburgh Leisure Board should do it through that route not through asking me to intervene in its operations.

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QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Kate MacKenzie
answered by the Convener of
Economic Development Committee**

Question (1) How many industrial units or other commercial premises are lying vacant in Almond Ward?

Answer (1) As of June 2010, there were approximately 109 vacant commercial units in the Almond Ward, 57 of which were industrial premises:

Category	No. of subjects on the valuation roll	Vacant subjects	% vacant subjects
Shops	128	9	7%
Public houses	19	0	0%
Offices	263	38	14%
Hotels	18	0	0%
Industrial premises	269	57	21%
Leisure & entertainment	35	2	6%
Garages & petrol stations	12	1	8%
Public service subjects	35	2	6%

Please note that:

- *The commercial valuation roll is still coded by pre-1997 wards, so the figures here are based on our best approximation to the multi-member Almond ward.*
- *Vacancy rates are based purely on the number of premises, and make no allowance for size or other characteristics.*

Question (2) Please specify where these units or premises are located and how long they have been vacant.

Answer (2) Details of the seven Council-owned properties in the ward which are vacant are provided in the table below:

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Use Type	Address	Date vacated	Comments
Workshop	Unit 21, Viewforth Bank Industrial Estate, South Queensferry	31 May 2002	In negotiation with prospective tenant to lease unit
Workshop	Unit 35, Viewforth Bank Industrial Estate, South Queensferry	30 June 2008	Report on proposed let submitted to Finance & Resources 24/8/2010
Workshop	Unit 37, Viewforth Bank Industrial Estate, South Queensferry	31 May 2002	Terms agreed to lease unit From 01/09/2010
Store	15/1 Port Edgar Marina, South Queensferry	31 December 2009	Part of proposed redevelopment proposals
Store	23 Port Edgar Marina, South Queensferry	31 July 2006	Part of proposed redevelopment Proposals
Workshop	7/3 Port Edgar Marina, South Queensferry	15-July 2004	Part of proposed redevelopment Proposals
Office	8/1 Port Edgar Marina, South Queensferry	31 March 1998	Part of proposed redevelopment proposals

It is not possible to provide the level of detail sought for properties not in Council ownership.

**Supplementary
Question**

I thank the Convener for his response. In this economic climate have you considered or will you consider looking at short lets for some of these properties at Port Edgar until they are eventually used because currently I would think nothing much is going to happen and people out there with no jobs are wanting to get started and this might be of some use to them.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes

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QUESTION NO 7

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

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

Answer (1) See Appendix 1 attached to this answer.

Question (2) What is the breakdown of a) employer contributions and b) redundancy, efficiency retirements and other 'strain' costs?

Answer (2) See Appendix 2 attached to this answer.

Question (3) How does the increase in contribution rates relate to a) the rate of inflation and b) the number of employees for each of the last 10 years?

Answer (3) See Appendix 3 attached to this answer.

Question (4) What are the figures in relation to a) Lothian Pension Fund members and b) teachers?

Answer (4) The percentage of eligible staff who are members of the Lothian Pension Scheme is approximately 75%.

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**Supplementary
Question**

I thank the Convener for the very extensive response to my question about the costs to this Council of pensions over the last 10 years. My follow-up question to the Convener is, bearing in mind that in Appendix 1 the figures indicate that over 10 years our pension costs have grown from something like £32m to £77m, that is about 140%, and bearing in mind the rate that we are currently paying on contributions as employer contributions has increased over these 10 years, and I talk about the percentage rate has increased 53%, bearing in mind the financial climate in which we are, have you or do you consider the Council should be making representation to the Hutton Commission or any other parts of government in relation to the current operation, statutory operation of our pension funds.

**Supplementary
Answer**

My understanding is that there is considerable amount of discussion going on about the future of local government pension schemes anyway and the possibility of combining those in Scotland into only a few rather than the varied number there are at present. I am not sure about the actual detail of whether a submission has been made to the Hutton Commission and I am not aware about that, I can find out about that and get an answer to you.

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Appendix 1

Answer (1)

Total Pension Costs (including employer contributions, strain costs, added years and ex gratia payments) paid in the last ten years are as follows:

Financial Year	Non-Teaching Staff	Teaching Staff	Total
	£000	£000	£000
2009/10	57,806	19,073	76,879
2008/09	53,319	17,242	70,561
2007/08	52,038	17,022	69,060
2006/07	49,175	15,110	64,285
2005/06	48,056	15,050	63,106
2004/05	42,847	14,566	57,413
2003/04	37,943	11,233	49,176
2002/03	32,888	8,963	41,851
2001/02	28,641	8,274	36,915
2000/01	25,736	6,440	32,176

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Appendix 2

Answer (2)

Breakdown of pension costs over headings requested is as follows:

(a) Contributions to Lothian Pension Fund and Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme

Financial Year	Contributions to Lothian Pension Fund		Contributions to Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme	
	£000	% of Pensionable Pay	£000	% of Pensionable Pay
2009/10	49,343	20.0	18,635	14.9
2008/09	46,117	19.4	16,823	13.5
2007/08	45,044	19.0	16,673	13.3
2006/07	43,036	18.7	14,800	12.5
2005/06	41,851	18.3	14,750	12.5
2004/05	36,890	17.4	14,275	12.5
2003/04	32,035	16.6	10,950	10.0
2002/03	28,322	16.2	7,500	7.2
2001/02	24,390	14.7	6,840	6.9
2000/01	20,719	13.0	6,200	6.9

(b) Pension Strain Costs, Added Years and Ex Gratia Payments to Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff

Financial Year	Added Years and Ex Gratia Payments		Pension Strain costs (Paid to Lothian Pension Fund)
	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	
	£000	£000	£000
2009/10	438	5,801	2,662
2008/09	419	5,602	1,600
2007/08	349	5,468	1,526
2006/07	310	5,272	867
2005/06	300	5,287	918
2004/05	291	5,052	905
2003/04	283	4,987	921
2002/03	1,463	3,741	825
2001/02	1,434	3,693	558
2000/01	240	4,679	338

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The above data would suggest that the coding applied to teaching staff in 2001/02 and 2002/03 differed from all other years as the total value of added years and ex gratia payments is consistent.

Prior to April 2009, pension strain costs could be paid over a period of up to five years, however, from April 2009 payments are made in full at the time of the employee's leaving, hence the significant increase in payments in 2009/10.

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Appendix 3

Answer (3)

(a) Comparison of increases in contribution rates to RPI increases

Financial Year	Lothian Pension Fund		Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme		RPI (%)
	Pensionable Pay (percentage contribution rate)	Increase (%)	Pensionable Pay (percentage contribution rate)	Increase (%)	
2009/10	20.0	3.1	14.9	10.4	4.4
2008/09	19.4	2.1	13.5	1.5	- 0.4
2007/08	19.0	1.6	13.3	6.4	3.8
2006/07	18.7	2.2	12.5	-	4.8
2005/06	18.3	5.2	12.5	-	2.4
2004/05	17.4	4.8	12.5	25.6	3.2
2003/04	16.6	2.7	10.0	39.2	2.6
2002/03	16.2	10.2	7.2	3.6	3.1
2001/02	14.7	12.5	6.9	-	1.3
2000/01	13.0	n/a	6.9	n/a	2.3
Overall		53.4		115.9	31.1

(b) Comparison of pension contributions and employee numbers

Financial Year	Employer's Contributions		Employee Numbers (FTE)		
	Lothian Pension Fund (£000)	Scottish Teachers' Scheme (£000)	Non-Teaching Staff	Teaching Staff	Total
2009/10	49,343	18,635	12,795	3,658	16,453
2008/09	46,117	16,823	12,937	3,709	16,646
2007/08	45,044	16,673	13,334	3,747	17,081
2006/07	43,036	14,800	13,478	3,733	17,211
2005/06	41,851	14,750	n/a	n/a	17,068
2004/05	36,890	14,275	n/a	n/a	16,817
2003/04	32,035	10,950	n/a	n/a	16,180
2002/03	28,322	7,500	n/a	n/a	15,621
2001/02	24,390	6,840	n/a	n/a	15,387
2000/01	20,719	6,200	n/a	n/a	15,320

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The Council's Key Facts and Figures booklet provides information on the number of employees from the joint staffing watch, although prior to 2006/07, teaching staff were not separately disclosed.

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QUESTION NO 8

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

Question (1) What is the total number of staff employed by the city Council for refuse collection and how many employees are engaged in a "work-to-rule" or otherwise not co-operating, resulting in a delayed/disrupted service?

Answer (1) The total number of staff engaged on refuse collection is 315. All permanent staff are engaged in the work to rule.

A small number of temporary refuse collectors continue to work normally and provide weekend cover for essential services.

Question (2) When did the dispute between refuse collection employees and the City Council commence?

Answer (2) The dispute commenced on 25 June 2009.

Question (3) Please list the dates of all meetings between the Council and UNITE or other trades union specifically in relation to the dispute.

Answer (3) The following meetings took place to discuss the dispute between the Council and Unite and other unions:
23 and 30 July 2009;
3 and 28 August 2009;
14, 22 and 29 September 2009;
5 October 2009;
22 December 2009;
8 February 2010;
5 March 2010;
12 April 2010; and
2 July 2010.

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In addition during the weekly meetings with the Council and Unions on Modernising Pay the dispute was also discussed.

- Question** (4) How many of these meetings did the Council Leader attend?
- Answer** (4) The Council Leader has repeatedly made clear to the trade unions that her door is open to them at all times. Three of the meetings referred to above relate solely to meetings between the Administration and the unions in which the Council Leader participated. In addition, the Council Leader also participates in Joint Consultative Group meetings at which the dispute has also been discussed. The Council Leader has never declined a request from the unions to meet to discuss this matter.
- Question** (5) Please list the dates of all scheduled meetings between the Council and UNITE or other trades union specifically in relation to the dispute which did not take place.
- Answer** (5) No meetings have been declined by the Council during the dispute.
- Question** (6) How many refuse collection employees have been off work "sick" since the commencement of the dispute and how does this compare with the level in the two years previous to the "work-to-rule"?
- Answer** (6) Full year information is not available at this time for 2008/09 due to the implementation of a new database for recording this information.
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| July 2008 - March 2009 | 4.70% |
| April 2009 – March 2010 | 8.45% |
| April 2010 – July 2010 | 8.75% |
- During the dispute sickness levels have averaged 9.39%.
- Question** (7) How many City Council refuse collection employees are undertaking additional work at time and a half or double time due to the service delays/disruptions?

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- Answer** (7) The work to rule has included the withdrawal of overtime by staff. A small number of temporary staff employed since the dispute started are not participating in the work to rule and are providing essential weekend working. Approximately 12 employees are used each weekend to cover essential services
- Question** (8) How many refuse collection staff are or have been subject to disciplinary proceedings by the Council since the commencement of the dispute?
- Answer** (8) 28 employees have been disciplined and 141 have been reviewed in relation to partial performance.
- Of the 141 staff reviewed in relation to partial performance 10 were also disciplined for other issues (included in the figure of 28 above). Some of the issues that staff have been disciplined for are, intimidating and threatening behaviour, threat of violence and refusal to obey management instruction.
- Question** (9) What is the longest period refuse has remained uncollected after scheduled uplift?
- Answer** (9) Call Centre records show that the longest period that we were unable to collect some garden waste routes was 3 cycles ie 6 weeks due to the dispute. There may however be isolated incidents where delays have been longer.
- Question** (10) Have any service routes not been affected by the dispute and if so, which ones?
- Answer** (10) Over the course of the dispute all routes have been affected but by varying degrees.
- Question** (11) When was the contingency backshift established?
- Answer** (11) The backshift contingency was established on 26 July 2010.

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- Question** (12) Have any additional security guards or other measures been taken to protect refuse collection depots during the dispute and what are the monthly costs for this additional security?
- Answer** (12) No additional security measures have been employed by the Council to protect refuse depots during the course of this dispute.
- Question** (13) How many calls or communications have the Council's Environmental Health teams received from residents or businesses in relation to uncollected refuse?
- Answer** (13) Complaints regarding uncollected refuse as a result of the dispute have not been separately recorded however there has been no noticeable increase in complaints about rubbish.
- Question** (14) Has Visit Scotland or any other public body been in contact with the Council Administration/officers in relation to the dispute or the effect thereof?
- Answer** (14) Visit Scotland contacted the Council to refer on enquiries about the cleanliness of the city.
- Supplementary Question** A supplementary in relation to question 12. A Council spokeswoman was quoted in the media as saying that in relation to the Seafeld Depot "it has been necessary to engage extra security detail to ensure the smooth running of our service" which obviously seems to be at odds with the response. I wonder if that could be revisited?
- Supplementary Answer** I think I can give you an answer already. Thank you for the forewarning for that even if it was at the reception at five to midnight last night. My understanding is that that particular reference may well have been to additional contractors used by private contractors who were using Seafeld during the early stage of the dispute but as far as I am aware the Council has not incurred any costs for private contractors in relation to that.

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QUESTION NO 9

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

Question (1) Please provide details of class sizes, composition and number of P1 classes for Primary 1 for all Primary Schools in the city for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 sessions.

Answer Information on P1 (and P1/2) class sizes and number of classes for 2009-10 is attached at Appendix 1 to this answer.

Precise information for 2010-11 will be available after the annual pupil census in September.

Question (2) How many teachers from the four schools closed (Burdiehouse, Fort, Royston and Drumbrae) have been reassigned to other CEC Primary Schools and to which schools have they been re-assigned?

Answer See Appendix 2 attached to this answer.

Supplementary Question Given the partial nature of the information that has been provided, obviously because the schools only go back today and you won't be able to finalise the figures until then, and the questions that I suspected might come out of the information, can I have another shot at this at this question when I have got that information?

Supplementary Answer I think the best thing to do is that when we have the census information, we make that available to yourselves and indeed to any other members who wish to have that information. That won't be until September.

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Appendix 1

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		CLASS ORGANISATION				COMPOSITE CLASSES		
		<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1_2</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>
	2009							
1	Abbeyhill	21						
2	Balgreen	23	22			24	6	18
3	Blackhall	25	25					
4	Bonaly	24	25					
5	Broomhouse	16						
6	Broughton	22	24			24	11	13
7	Brunstane	19	17					
8	Bruntsfield	22	24	20				
9	Buckstone	25	25					
10	Burdiehouse	20						
11	Canal View	14	14					
12	Carrick Knowe	24	23			20	14	6
13	Castleview	15	15					
14	Clermiston	25				24	13	11
15	Clovenstone	19				20	10	10
16	Colinton	20						
17	Corstorphine	25	25			25	13	12
18	Craigentiny	20				22	5	17
19	Craiglockhart	23	24					
20	CraigourPark	21	22					
21	Craigroyston	15	16					
22	Cramond	25	25					
23	Currie	18	19					
24	Dalmeny					24	19	5
25	Dalry	20	21					
26	Davidson's Mains	23	23	22				
27	Dean Park	23	23	24				
28	Drumbrae	14						
29	Duddingston	24	25			23	5	18
30	East Craigs	25	23					
31	Echline	17	18					
32	Ferryhill	25				25	6	19
33	Flora Stevenson	22	23	21		24	9	15
34	Fort					16	11	5
35	Forthview	21	23					
36	Fox Covert ND	24						
37	Fox Covert RC	21						

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		CLASS ORGANISATION				COMPOSITE CLASSES		
		<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1_2</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>
	2009							
38	Gilmerton	18	20			20	10	10
39	Gracemount	20	21					
40	Granton	21	22					
41	Gylemuir	20	20	20				
42	Hermitage Park	22	24					
43	Hillwood	12						
44	HolyCross	24				23	10	13
45	James Gillespie's	30	30			25	6	19
46	Juniper Green	24	24					
47	Kirkliston	23	22					
48	Leith	22	20					
49	Leith Walk	23						
50	Liberton	24	23					
51	Longstone	25				24	5	19
52	Lorne	25				25	17	8
53	Murrayburn	27	24					
54	Nether Currie	15						
55	Newcraighall					25	15	10
56	Niddrie Mill	17	18					
57	Oxgangs	17	18	17				
58	Parson's Green	25	25					
59	Pentland	20	19	20				
60	Pirniehall	21				22	6	16
61	PrestonSt	25				25	18	7
62	Prestonfield	25						
63	Queensferry	20	20	23				
64	Ratho	19						
65	Roseburn	23						
66	RoyalMile	22						
67	Royston	22				24	6	18
68	Sciennes	20	20	30	27	25	11	14
69	Sighthill	18						
70	South Morningside	25	25	36				
71	St Catherine's	23						
72	St Cuthbert's	23						
73	St David's (Edin)	19				21	9	12
74	St Francis'	21						
75	St John Vianney	25				21	12	9
76	St John's	22	24			25	5	20
77	St Joseph's (Edin)	21				26	10	16
78	St Margaret's (SQ)	14						
79	St Mark's	25				23	7	16
80	St Mary's Edinburgh	21	21	18				

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		CLASS ORGANISATION				COMPOSITE CLASSES		
		<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P1_2</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>
	2009							
81	St Mary's (Leith)	30						
82	St Ninian's	16				21	5	16
83	St Peter's	30	29					
84	Stenhouse	21	21					
85	Stockbridge	29						
86	Royal High	22	23					
87	Tollcross	25	24					
88	Towerbank	24	24	23		24	10	14
89	Trinity	27	26					
90	Victoria	24						
91	Wardie	20	20	20				
	TOTAL CLASSES	88	51	13	1	29		

Appendix 2

All 37 teaching staff displaced from the Burdiehouse, Drumbrae, Fort and Royston Primary Schools have been redeployed to the following schools:

Abbeyhill Primary School
Blackhall Primary School
Broughton Primary School
Carrick Knowe Primary School
Clermiston Primary School (3)
Colinton Primary School
Corstorphine Primary School (2)
Craiglockhart Primary School
Dean Park Primary School
East Craigs Primary School (3)*
Ferryhill Primary School
Forthview Primary School
Fox Covert Primary School
Gilmerton Primary School (2)
Gracemount Primary School (2)
Hermitage Park Primary School
James Gillespie's Primary School
Liberton Primary School
Nether Currie Primary School
Pentland Primary School
Queensferry Primary School
Roseburn Primary School
Royal Mile Primary School
St Catherine's Primary School
Stockbridge Primary School
Towerbank Primary School (2)
Trinity Primary School (2)
Victoria Primary School

*Includes one Support for Learning teacher shared between East Craigs, Clermiston and Fox Covert

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QUESTION NO 10

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

Question

Given the recent launch of a cycle scheme in London following the launch of similar schemes in a number of other UK towns and cities, a scheme which London has been able to implement just over two years from the start of a new Administration:

1. Will the Convener join me in congratulating Boris Johnson for his success in launching this scheme with commercial sponsorship from Barclays?
2. What steps has he taken to seek commercial sponsorship for a similar scheme in Edinburgh?
3. What timescale does he now have for launching a scheme in Edinburgh given it is over three years since the Council accepted my motion calling for such a scheme?

Answer

1. The London scheme is funded to the tune of £115m (82%) by Transport for London. The balance, £25m, comes from Barclays. On this basis the Edinburgh Council taxpayer would have to provide approximately £2.3m each year to fund a scheme scaled to the needs of Edinburgh. However, I congratulate Transport for London on the launch of their London bicycle hire scheme. I wish them every success and will keep a close eye on its operation.
2. The Council investigated the possibility of funding a cycle hire scheme for Edinburgh through an on-street advertising contract as has been used in numerous continental cities. However, it was found that:

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- the addition of a cycle hire scheme could not be incorporated within the current advertising contract without breaching procurement regulations;
- terminating the current 15 year contract early would be likely to incur a significant cost to the Council; and
- the current contract excludes other potential operators from raising revenue through on-street advertising.

The existing contract is due to expire in 2014. Should a new contract be let there would be an opportunity to incorporate a bicycle hire scheme.

3. The Committee agreed to assess the feasibility of a bicycle hire scheme in Edinburgh. The work indicated that such a scheme would not be commercially viable and that the on-street advertising revenue is not currently an option to support it. Pending the re-letting of an advertising contract, the Council is exploring the supporting of external organisations in the development of their own schemes. Planning for these schemes has not reached a detailed stage and as such there is currently no projected implementation date.

Over the past 6 months, I have had discussions with Essential Edinburgh, the Bike Station and Edinburgh University Students Association on the issue of cycle hire schemes. It is clear that substantial subsidy is required for any such scheme over and above the potential income from advertising. Consequently, I do not wish to give a commitment at this time.

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**Supplementary
Question**

The Convener has given me some helpful answers which I had backed up by a discussion with officials and while I understand the difficulties here, I fear we are getting to the stage where we are in danger of not having a cycle scheme in Edinburgh because of finances and having missed the chance when finances were available in Councils for these kind of things. That said, I think there are one or two practical things. Is the Convener aware that the large scale scheme in London also includes a lot of things like bicycle super highways? So there is a lot of spending on that and the spending on the bikes themselves is only part of the scheme so it may not cost as much as he thinks. Also what has he done perhaps to look at sponsorship in the same way as Barclays have done in London. I think of RBS and I think of them possibly wanting to deflect the fact that a climate camp has arrived on their doorstep today by doing something that would be seen as environmentally beneficial and also beneficial to the city in which their headquarters sits.

**Supplementary
Answer**

Certainly, I am happy to look at the details of the scheme in London. Yes I do understand there is a lot more money going in to cycling in London because they have a far greater resource than we do and we know where a lot of that money comes from. In terms of sponsorship, yes officers have looked at sponsorship for a vast range of activities that the Council does, but I am happy to go back to them and say look is there a possibility of this. I know from speaking not just to Council officers but also to the likes of the bike station that they are very very dubious about the economics of a scheme like this and whatever approach we take, whether it is advertising or sponsorship, unless we know we get some sugar daddy or mummy it is going to have a hefty cost to the Council and I think we need to be quite upfront about these very substantial costs and if we are going to go down that road then we need to be looking at that in the budget process.

QUESTION NO 11

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

Question

What steps is the Council taking to ensure that sports hall provision in the new Portobello High School matches current capacity?

Answer

The plans for the £41.5 million new Portobello High School are currently towards the end of the pre-planning consultation. The design and configuration of the sports hall provision has been developed in full consultation with the school. The sports hall facilities will fully deliver on curricular requirements. The new Portobello High School also includes on-site external facilities which combine with the internal facilities to create a significantly more effective overall sports provision.

**Supplementary
Question**

Increasing community access to schools sport facilities makes great sense on many levels and, given that many pupils don't receive the recommended minimum amount of PE, a gap plugged by first rate clubs like the City of Edinburgh Basketball Club, will the Convener agree to meet with the Club who coach 27,000 volunteer player hours each season and assist with the high school's own very successful basketball teams. Because they would like to discuss how they can best be accommodated in the future as the fact remains that proposed sports hall capacity in the new Portobello High School will not match current capacity?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

Can I reassure you that the provision of the two three G pitches will allow Portobello to deliver two hours of PE and this is something that the Head Teacher is most especially concerned to do. On the size of the hall, there have been long standing conversations with the Basketball Club but you will realise that we have a financial envelope in the building of this school that we have to keep to, there is no extra money and that is the stumbling block of our ability to build a new sports hall that would accommodate all the desires of the basketball club but I have to say that discussions are still ongoing so there is as yet no final decision but it is a very difficult situation.

The City of Edinburgh Council
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QUESTION NO 12

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

Question

Can the Convener confirm that extra funds have followed those pupils requiring additional support to their new schools and can she confirm the amount of such funding, promised in the Administration motion of 17 December 2009, for up to two years following the closure of Drumbrae Primary School?

Answer

As indicated in the motion, additional resources for receiving schools have been agreed with the Head Teachers.

With reference to the closure of Drumbrae Primary School, resources have been allocated to the receiving schools as follows:

East Craigs Primary:

1 FTE probationer, 0.4 FTE Support for learning teaching hours;

Clermiston Primary:

1 FTE probationer, 0.1 FTE Support for learning teaching hours; and

Fox Covert Primary:

1 FTE probationer, 0.25 FTE Support for learning teaching hours.

The total additional funding to the schools is **£104,337 per annum.**

This support will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and adjusted as necessary to ensure the best possible outcomes for the pupils.

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**Supplementary
Question**

Can the Convener confirm that these resources are wholly additional to the receiving schools existing entitlement and that had the additional pupils from the now closed Drumbrae Primary School not been placed at East Craigs, Fox Covert and Clermiston Primaries then none of these schools would have received the probationer teacher or the three quarters of a support for learning practitioner shared between them. Can the Convener confirm that the £104,337 per annum is fully funded by this Council?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The question you ask Councillor Johnstone was additional resources to what would originally be given to these schools if there had not been a situation of nearby closing schools, so these are additional resources based on an assessment of the needs of the children who are expected to transfer from the closing schools to the receiving schools.

The City of Edinburgh Council
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QUESTION NO 13

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

Question (1) How many Equal Pay claims by Council staff remain outstanding?

Answer (1) 1,520.

Question (2) Of the outstanding claims how many are from male employees?

Answer (2) 291.

Question (3) Will all claims be settled simultaneously?

Answer (3) Not necessarily. The Council may defend claims where legal advice suggests that this is the most appropriate action.

Question (4) How much has the Council spent in the last three years on external legal fees defending Equal Pay claims?

Answer (4) £184,759.

Supplementary Question Can I also ask the Convener if he can tell us how long it will take for all outstanding equal pay claims to be settled and in the process how much additional expenditure will be incurred on external legal fees?

Supplementary Answer I am sure you realise that it is very much outwith my gift to answer that point. We cannot tell how long it will take the process to deal with the outstanding cases and therefore we cannot also project the legal fees at this point but obviously it is something that we need to keep an eye on.

QUESTION NO 14

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

- Question** (1) Please supply the names of the Edinburgh Council primary schools which are expected to have a school roll of more than 25 for any P1 class commencing August 2010.
- Question** (2) Please supply the number of pupils expected in each P1 class for each of these schools.
- Answer** Precise information on class sizes commencing in August 2010 will be available after the annual pupil census in September and will be circulated as soon as possible thereafter.

The City of Edinburgh Council
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QUESTION NO 15

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

- Question** (1) To ask what is the total number of employees currently within the Children and Families Department, including teachers.
- Answer** (1) 6870 FTE.
- Question** (2) To ask the total number of teachers currently employed in the City of Edinburgh's schools.
- Answer** (2) 5342 in Schools and Community Services (of which 3135 are teaching staff, 1561 are non-teaching staff working in schools, 135 are support staff in sports, outdoor education, arts and learning, 185 are in CLD and 108 are central support staff including quality improvement officers, education welfare officers, awards and placements staff early years and child care staff and administrative staff.)
- 1436 in Support for Children & Young People (of which 289 are teaching staff working with children with additional support needs).
- 92 in Resources and Planning & Performance including estate management, facilities management, PPP monitoring, ICT support, financial management, major capital projects, training, equalities, performance information and health and safety.
- There has been a 16% reduction in central posts since 2007.
- Question** (3) To ask how many qualified teachers are currently employed within the Children and Families Department in non-teaching roles.

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Answer **(3)** There are 43 qualified teachers working in the department in non teaching posts. Of these, 19 are in the Quality Improvement team and these staff are required to be registered teachers. 7 provide CPD for teachers and other staff. 9 are engaged in organising and providing additional learning support and the remaining 8 are in promoted managerial posts.

There will of course be other staff in the department who have qualified as teachers in the past but have opted not to pursue a teaching career.

Supplementary Question On 29 February 2008, Councillor MacLaren said to the Evening News that she wished the Children and Families Department to be slim and more efficient. She stated that the Department was overstaffed and over-managed. Given the figures before us show that there are 600 more non-teachers than teachers within the Department is she satisfied with that balance?

Supplementary Answer Councillor Godzik, unlike the previous Administration, we have reduced by 16% central posts. So when I made the assertion in 2008 that we were going to delayer a rather heavy and over bureaucratic department that is precisely what we have done and now only 2% of the schools and community services budget is taken up with support managers and what one might call back office staff. So that is a tiny tiny proportion of the total number of staff.

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QUESTION NO 16

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

Question

To ask what has been the cost of security for each school closed since May 2007.

Answer

School	Guarding costs
Bonnington PS	7,461
Burdiehouse PS	786
Drumbrae PS	501
Fort PS	345
Lismore PS	5,637
Royston PS	375
Westburn PS	15,281
Total	30,386

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QUESTION NO 17

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

Question (1) The Instrumental Service seems to be the only part of the Council services which has been divided into North and South divisions. Given the amount of disruption this will cause to pupils, schools and instructors, with most instructors being moved out of existing schools into new ones, why is it not possible to consider a more sensible and less disruptive way of dividing managerial duties as the division of managerial responsibility seems to be the prime motivator for this change?

Question (2) How can the Instrumental Service deliver the aim of expanding the service into all secondary schools whilst reducing the resources with which they can carry out this aim?

Question (3) Why were secondary schools consulted over their string allocation and allowed the option to refuse, whereas no such consultation took place over the allocation of keyboards?

Question (4) Why is the daily allocation of time to keyboard and voice so small in comparison to all the other instruments (half a day in each school)?

Question (5) Why are part-timers being favoured with choice when it comes to allocation of North and South divisions? Some part-time instructors appear to be allowed to roam between both, whereas the full-timers have been told they have to stick to their allocated areas?

Answer The review of the instrumental music service was approved by the Education, Children & Families Committee on 15 June 2010. In this review schools were organised into North and South with their management contact being one of the two principal officers, but instructors were not. Headteachers and most instructors have welcomed the introduction of this arrangement as it provides clarity for all in relation to management support.

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The review has resulted in a more equitable distribution of resources.

The only contact regarding strings was to ask those schools with no strings tuition if they were happy to continue on that basis.

Voice funding will be maintained at the current level. The provision of keyboard tuition is constrained by current staff numbers. Voice and keyboard will now be provided in every secondary school, enhancing pupil choice of instrument.

The intention is to locate all instructors in either North or South. In this initial stage of implementation, a small number of staff will continue to operate in both for operational reasons. Some part time staff may, of course, continue thereafter to work in both areas if they have more than one part time contract.

**Supplementary
Question**

Does the Convener recognise the concern of many instructors; they have been moved schools and some of those have taught in those schools for a number of decades. Also is she aware of a gagging order by management ordering instructors not to discuss this matter with their local councillors? Will she investigate this and will she ensure that management do not intimidate or attempt to silence staff and allow them the freedom to talk to their councillors as they see fit?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I would be very interested to see the evidence that you have that instrumental tutors are being treated in this way. I would ask you please to hand over this information in a written form. I am more than happy when you do this to investigate this as I certainly am not aware that there is any gagging instruction being given.

The City of Edinburgh Council
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QUESTION NO 18

**By Councillor Hinds answered by
the Convener of Culture and
Leisure Committee**

Question

I submitted a motion regarding a proposal to make the opening hours of Stockbridge Library full time a number of months ago and it was agreed that there would be a review of all opening hours for libraries across the city.

Has this review been carried out? If yes, when will a report be submitted to Culture and Leisure Committee? If no, when will the review be carried out?

Answer

The continuing review of opening hours in libraries is progressing. We are currently in consultation with UNISON about the working patterns and extending openings, as reported to Culture and Leisure Committee on 27 April 2010.

A further more detailed report will be submitted to the committee as soon as opening hours and shift patterns are finalised.

**Supplementary
Question**

As the Convener will be aware, as she opened the refurbished Stockbridge Library, it is a part-time library and has a brand new facility, a computer suite and a community room has all been refurbished. There are many people who would like to see it become a full-time library and there is an increase in numbers using the library following its refurbishment. She will also be aware that the motion I put up was actually in March 2009 to the full Council which was 17 months ago. So could I get an assurance that Stockbridge Library will be considered to become full-time in that review that she talks about and can she give me some indication as to when that review will come to fruition?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

I think it actually came to May 2009 Culture and Leisure Committee; it came to the Council and was then bumped on to Culture and Leisure. I think the point was made at the time of your motion Councillor Hinds that extending opening hours is just one element of the wider review of library services which covers a number of key areas such as service development, quality of service and support for communities amongst other things and which of course necessarily requires very detailed discussions with unions and staff. I understand your impatience Councillor Hinds, I share it of course, but presumably you would not be looking for these significant and important changes to be implemented without a full and proper discussion with staff and unions and of course a full and proper examination of our operations in the round in order that those changes be accommodated appropriately. There will be a report coming I think towards the end of this year. We had an update report in April on the libraries and I suggest that you perhaps look at that as well.

QUESTION NO 19

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

Question

Given the recent serious fire at one of the city's mothballed schools (Craigroyston High School) what measures are in place to ensure the same fire raising/arson attacks do not happen at Royston, Fort, Burdiehouse and Drumbrae Primary Schools?

Answer

Burdiehouse, Drumbrae and Royston PS

Every endeavour is being made to facilitate the earliest possible start date by the demolition contractors on all sites. The aim is that increased activity on site during the strip out period, prior to demolition, is a deterrent to vandalism.

The buildings have been emptied of all contents and were handed over to the Corporate Security Team on 23 July. A static Guard is on site between the hours of 7pm and 7am. All services are still operational to allow for full visual inspections and to provide welfare facilities for security staff.

A Type 3 asbestos survey has been completed and utility disconnection dates obtained.

Anticipated contractor start date is end of August/early September to ensure sites are cleared by Christmas.

Fort PS

A contractor is on site refurbishing the infant building as an early years centre. Phase one is due for completion before the nursery children return on 20 August. Phase 2, due for completion in October, will accommodate the Victoria Children & Family Centre removal.

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The Community Centre is still operating from the main school building.

The Janitor's house is on site and no additional security measures are therefore deemed necessary.

**Supplementary
Question**

Just briefly, could the Convener give an assurance to the communities of Royston, Burdiehouse and Drumbrae that security will be provided on site until the handover to the demolition?

**Supplementary
Answer**

My understanding is that the handover to the demolition contractor is imminent and there are security arrangements until this happens.

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QUESTION NO 20

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

Question

What are the current and long term plans for the Royston Primary School site?

Answer

Tenders for the demolition of the former Royston Primary School have been returned and are being checked prior to a contract being issued to the successful demolition contractor. The contractor is expected to take possession of the site at the end of August 2010, with demolition anticipated for completion by Christmas 2010.

The land will be sold at the most advantageous time on the open market.

**Supplementary
Question**

Just three quick points, are you aware that the promised alterations to Granton Primary School and the nursery to allow this move transition from Royston have not been completed as of today's return to school and nursery; and are you further aware that parents turned up at Granton Nursery this morning to be turned away with no alternative childcare provision and no opening date; and finally are you aware that only yesterday a Care Commission visit raised many concerns on the new nursery provision at Granton?

**Supplementary
Answer**

No I am not aware of any of those facts. I am very happy to look into it for you.

The City of Edinburgh Council
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QUESTION NO 21

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

Question

What advice and information has been given to the local community and user groups regarding the temporary closure of Royston Wardieburn Community Centre during demolition/rebuild?

Answer

Regular liaison meetings have taken place throughout the process with the local centre management and the Children and Families Service Manager to discuss the phased closure and re-instatement of the community centre operations.

A Management Committee meeting and subsequent public meeting was held on 23 June 2010 to advise and inform the community and users of the community centre of the continuity and/or temporary postponement of all the services available to the community during the demolition and rebuilding process.

A further meeting with the Granton Children and Families Centre takes place on 18 August to discuss the arrangements and co-ordination of activities during the demolition and rebuilding process.

**Supplementary
Question**

Can the Convener give an assurance that Stepping Stones for Young Parents project will be involved in these discussions alongside Granton Children and Families Centre?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes

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QUESTION NO 22

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

Question

To ask the Leader to confirm what plans, if any, are in place to remove Committee Services' support to Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Answer

Neighbourhood Partnership meetings are supported by a broad number of Council officers. From September 2010 the recording of discussions will be undertaken by a relevant Council attendee. This is consistent with the budget approved by Council on 11 February 2010. It also satisfies the preference for less formal proceedings expressed by Neighbourhood Partnership conveners and attendees.

**Supplementary
Question**

Does the Council Leader not accept that the call for less formality in meetings is a very different thing from the official recording of minutes and the work done by Committee Services to ensure that Standing Orders are properly followed and that the work of the Neighbourhood Partnerships that comes forward is seen to be equally robust to any other Committee or group and that the withdrawal of this will be seen by Neighbourhood Partnerships as a downgrading of this particular organisation? Does this represent an about turn in the Administration's attitude towards Neighbourhood Partnerships and how does this sit with the avowed principles of empowering neighbourhoods and localisation?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

As you'll be aware there are many Council officers who attend Neighbourhood Partnership meetings and depending on which particular Neighbourhood Partnership it is there have been occasions when officers have actually outnumbered the people attending the meeting. What we are looking at here is bringing into being part of a budget that was approved by Council in February. Clearly, if it turns out that the minute taking is not of a standard that we would want or there is difficulty in getting officers to take on that role, then clearly it will be revisited. For the time being, I don't think in any way it is making a comment that we are downgrading Neighbourhood Partnerships. In fact I think the Administration's belief in Neighbourhood Partnerships is perhaps greater than your side of the Chamber has been at many times.

QUESTION NO 23

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

Question

I refer to your answers to Councillor Henderson's questions (24 June Council meeting) regarding consultation prior to the introduction of the £20 charge for Blue Badges. You advised that there was a "pre-budget meeting on 29 January to which key stakeholders from equality, diversity, human rights and poverty groups were invited."

- Could you please provide the agenda and minutes from that meeting?
- Noting that at the answer to Part 2 of Question 4 on 24 June the Convener identified an income of £140,000 per year; on what will this money be spent?
- Specifically, will any of the money be used to increase the enforcement of blue badge regulations and to counter the abuse of both blue badges and disabled parking bays?

Answer

There was no formal agenda or minute. However, I understand it was primarily aimed at improving guidance for Council officers, so that they in turn could improve their approach to equalities impact assessments. I have asked that there is a record of any similar meetings for this year's budget process.

Income from the administration of the Blue Badge scheme has not been earmarked specifically. However, I can confirm that, later this year, the Department plans to increase the officer resource for Blue Badge fraud to ensure that there is a second officer available to assist with this work. The Council is also progressing the implementation of the Disabled Person Parking Places (Scotland) Act to ensure that bays are identified and enforced when appropriate.

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**Supplementary
Question**

Can the Convener explain to the Council how a meeting with no agenda and no minute meets the consultation requirements under the DDA for equalities impact assessment?

**Supplementary
Answer**

The decision not to have a minute at that meeting was a decision taken by all those who attended the meeting. It was part of the policy formulation around the budget and as such, if the people who attended were happy to do it on that basis, I think that is fair enough. What I have said in my answer is that I would like to see a record of that for our scrutiny as part of the budget process. This whole issue has been looked at by the Head of Equalities and it has equally been looked at by the Human Rights and Equalities Commission and so we are constantly looking at ways of improving that we will learn from last year's experience and we will do it better this year.

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QUESTION NO 24

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

Question (1) To ask the Leader what was the policy regarding the inclusion of Councillors when Outlook was first published.

Answer (1) The original editorial policy relevant to Councillors states: *Non-political*. Edinburgh Outlook cannot be used to further the causes of political parties. The newspaper does not publish photographs of politicians or quotes attributed to them apart from the results of elections or by-elections, or other issues considered to be public information, such as the budget.

Question (2) Has the policy changed?
If yes:
When?
Why?

Answer (2) Outlook has an internal editorial policy, guidelines and style guide. Outlook is shaped by reader response and the publication has twice re-launched (three and five years ago) in line with feedback.

Feedback from reader surveys, focus groups and Scotinform market research in 2008/9 and 2009/10 reported that readers wanted more local content, more information on councillors and regular updates on contentious issues in the city from the Leader and Senior Councillors.

They also wanted information on the Lord Provost activities, reported some confusion with mixed member wards and asked to know more about local councillors.

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A pilot project in December 2008 to localise editions of Outlook proved successful. The pilot edition of the local wraps won 3 commendations at the Communications in Business Awards 2008/9 with the judges commenting *“This is the standard to which others should aspire. They’ve listened to their readers and delivered a product that is tailored to the audience”*. As a result, two thirds (66%) of citizens said Outlook was their preferred way to hear about things happening in their area in the neighbourhood survey.

- Question** (3) Who was consulted regarding this change in policy?
- Answer** (3) Changes in editorial policy were taken by the officer editorial board following consideration of research and reader feedback. This was discussed with the Leader of the Council at regular meetings with the editor.
- Question** (4) What is the policy now regarding the inclusion of Councillors in Outlook?
- Answer** (4) Major issues for the city will continue to be covered in the main Outlook. Conveners may, as appropriate, provide factual context on matters relevant to their portfolio interests. Local Councillors (from all parties) will also feature in the editions.
- The content will continue to be non political and concentrate on issues for the city and for the communities – as requested by readers.
- Question** (5) If Councillors are to be included in Outlook:
Who makes the decision to include Councillors?
Will all Councillors be considered for inclusion in Outlook?
- Answer** (5) The internal Outlook editorial team.
- Yes. The editorial team advises that all councillors will be considered for inclusion in the appropriate edition for their ward. The current (autumn) edition includes cross party vox pop interviews and this will be further developed to include articles about local projects and issues.

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A report on the results of the changes and the evaluation will be completed after one full year since the editions launch, in December 2010.

QUESTION NO 25

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

Question

How are the excellent facilities provided at Lagganlia and Benmore outdoor centres promoted to the local authority's schools?

Answer

Currently, 9 City of Edinburgh Council secondary schools, 31 primary schools and 2 special schools make use of the facilities at Benmore, while Lagganlia is used by 8 secondary schools, 26 primary schools and 1 special school. The Outdoor Centre facilities are currently promoted by use of leaflets, DVDs and websites. The two centres have had to target a wider audience in the recent past in order to become financially self sufficient and to compete in an increasingly competitive market.

We have therefore established a working group, chaired by a senior officer and including Head Teacher representation, to assist the centres to improve promotion and marketing. We have surveyed schools and allocated resources for the promotion of outdoor learning.

In addition, having visited both centres in the past year, Councillor MacLaren is arranging for Centre managers to make a presentation to Head Teachers' meetings so that they can promote their Centres.

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QUESTION NO 26

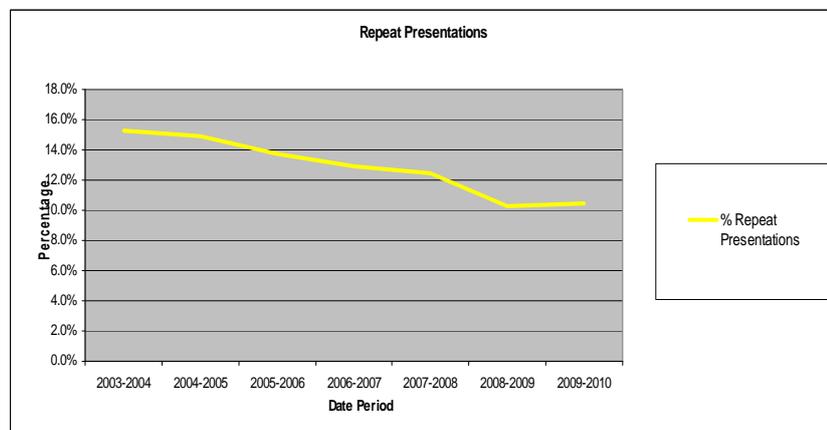
**By Councillor Blacklock answered
by the Convener of the Health,
Social Care and Housing
Committee**

Question (1) How long on average do people in the City of Edinburgh stay in the Homeless sector?

Answer (1) Edinburgh is Scotland's only 'A' graded homelessness service. That achievement is all the more significant given that Edinburgh faces greater challenges than other Scottish local authorities particularly in respect of the acute shortage of affordable homes available in the city. The average length of time for all applicants from presenting as homeless to closing the case was 148 days in 2009/10.

Question (2) Does the Council know how many people currently in the homeless system have been previously discharged from the system within the last 12 months? If so, can this information be provided?

Answer (2) Repeat Homelessness, where a person presents as homeless within 12 months of their previous case closing, has reduced since 2003/4. There are currently 159 homeless households in this category which represents 8.9% of all current cases. This compares favourably with 10.5% in 2009/10 and 15.3% in 2003/4.



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Question (3) People who are moved into independent living before they are ready for it may find they are unable to cope and end up becoming homeless again very quickly. What is this Council doing to address this issue often referred to as the "revolving door"?

Answer (3) The Council's Homelessness Service has made considerable progress in reducing repeat homelessness.

The Council provides a wide range of housing support services which are geared towards helping people sustain tenancies and preventing homelessness. Services are provided to young people in their first home, families under stress, those experiencing or perpetrating anti-social behaviour and people re-housed from prison, care or other institutions.

The Council also funds 45 accommodation, advice and support services for homeless people which are provided by the voluntary and private sectors.

Question (4) How does the Council assess success in moving people from the Homeless sector?

Answer (4) The Council assesses success in moving people from homelessness by measuring repeat homelessness, the number of people who move from temporary to settled accommodation and how long they stay there and the outcomes of housing support outlined in the response to question 5 (below) such as the reduction in harmful behaviour and how other needs are met.

Question (5) How will the Council manage the quality of services delivered to ensure effective outcomes for the service users, rather than lowest cost of delivery?

Answer (5) The Council remains the only local authority to receive an 'A' Grade from the Scottish Housing Regulator for its homelessness services. The Council maintains the quality of its homelessness services via an annual audit by Services for Communities and through external audits such as the Customer Service Excellence and Regulatory Inspection.

The City of Edinburgh Council
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All commissioned homelessness services submit quarterly monitoring reports which measure performance against agreed outcomes including: promoting independence; securing and sustaining accommodation; and improving health.

**Supplementary
Question**

Can I direct the Convener to Question 1 where I ask how long on average do people in the City of Edinburgh stay in the homeless sector and in your response you say 148 days. Can you tell me are you satisfied with this length of time and how do you intend to shorten it?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I was mystified as to why Councillor Blacklock put down this question. I would commend this answer to the members of the Administration because running through this, like the writing through a stick of rock, is that we are managing homeless services better than the Labour Administration did. I have to say that my colleague Councillor Work, who chairs the Homelessness Forum, deserves an awful lot of credit as does Mr Turley and his staff for doing that.

We have the worst recession since the 1930s and during that worst recession homelessness is up in other major authorities in Scotland but not in Edinburgh. It has been dropping since we took control of this Council. Do I think 148 days is acceptable? No I don't because we have 75% of the need for affordable housing in Scotland and under your Administration at Holyrood we got 15% of the funding to build that and we are playing catch-up. It was Labour Housing Ministers, including Malcolm Chisholm. We have been playing catch-up in affordable housing for years. This Administration has managed to secure record investment for affordable housing. We have done better in getting and securing investment; we are building the first Council housing in a generation; we are slashing homeless services; we are improving the quality of the services that we are giving to people. I actually think Councillor Blacklock, that at some stage you should be turning around and congratulating this Administration for our performance in this.