

Committee Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2010/2011

Meeting 8 – Thursday, 3 February 2011

Edinburgh, 3 February 2011 - At a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council.

Present:-

DEPUTE CONVENER MUNN

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
Bill Cook
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
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

Sue Bruce, Chief Executive

The Depute Convener welcomed Sue Bruce, newly appointed Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council, to her first meeting of the full Council.

1 The Final Report of the Joint Review of Independent Advocacy Services in Edinburgh

The Council and NHS Lothian had carried out a joint review of Independent Advocacy Services in Edinburgh. The review had identified a number of options for the future structure of the service and the Director of Health and Social Care had made recommendations based on this information.

(a) Deputations

The Council heard deputations from the following organisations:

- The Consultation and Advocacy Service (CAPS)
- Powerful Partnerships

The deputations were concerned at the proposed Joint Commissioning Plan for Independent Advocacy Services which, in their view, did not present a strong enough case for changing existing independent advocacy service provision. While they understood the Council's financial position, they believed that savings could be achieved without recourse to competitive tendering. They felt that service users had not been listened to and were disappointed that they had had to return to the Council to present their case against competitive tendering of advocacy services.

They urged the Council:

- to recognise that under the Mental Health Act service users in Scotland had the right to access independent advocacy services;
- to recognise the uncertainties and distress caused to vulnerable service users by the proposal to tender advocacy services; and
- to acknowledge that competitive tendering was deeply unpopular and therefore to reject the recommendations in the report by the Director of Health and Social Care.

(Reference – e-mails dated 27 January and 1 February 2011, submitted.)

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(b) Report by the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee

The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee had considered the recommendations by the Director of Health and Social Care on the options for the future structure of Independent Advocacy Services in Edinburgh. That Committee's recommendations on the matter had been referred to the Council in terms of Standing Order 53. The Council had considered those recommendations at its meeting on 16 December 2010 and had continued consideration of the matter to this meeting.

Motion

To approve the recommendations by the Director of Health and Social Care, as follows:

- 1) To note the significant and continued commitment and engagement of the various stakeholder groups throughout the review process.
- 2) To endorse the options appraisal process.
- 3) To approve the recommendation of the project board to adopt option 4 as the preferred option for the future delivery of Independent Advocacy Services in Edinburgh.
- 4) To approve the commencement of the procurement cycle to be undertaken in line with the Scottish Government Guidance on Social Care Procurement, based on a Procurement Plan which would determine the exact competitive process.
- 5) To note the timescales for the procurement cycle and the estimated start of the new contracts in the summer of 2011.
- 6) To note that the recommendations for award of contracts would be referred to the Council's Finance and Resources Committee for approval.

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

Amendment

- 1) To approve paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the motion.
- 2) To delete paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the motion.
- 3) To note that these services were specialist and, taking into account guidance available from the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance: A Guide for Commissioners, to agree:

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- (a) To reject competitive tendering.
- (b) To agree to the savings in the Director's report.
- (c) To use existing providers. Officials to set budgets and levels of service provision in consultation with Lothian Health.
- (d) Following this work, to negotiate with the existing service providers to deliver services for the three packages.
- (e) To ask the Director to report back on the outcome of this work to a meeting of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee.

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

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	39 votes
For the amendment	-	18 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Edie.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 16 December 2010; report number CEC/70/10-11/HSCH by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interest

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 above item as a Director of NHS Lothian.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 7 December 2010 (item 4); Act of Council No 2 of 16 December 2011; report no CEC/70/10-11/HSCH by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

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2 Questions

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

3 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of meeting of the Council of 16 December 2010, as submitted, as a correct record subject to the following adjustment:

Item 5 - Severe Weather Emergency – November/December 2010 - Insert the following before paragraph 6 of the decision:

“To accept the terms of the Conservative Group amendment, as follows:”

4 Appointments

Resignations had been received from various Council Committees and the Lothian and Borders Police Board.

Decision

To appoint members as follows:

Education, Children and Families Committee	Councillor Day in place of Councillor Henderson
Health, Social Care and Housing Committee	Councillor Cook in place of Councillor Wilson
Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee	Councillor Wilson in place of Councillor Day
Lothian and Borders Police Board	Councillor Cook in place of Councillor Wilson

(Reference – report no CEC/76/10-11/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

5 Leader's Report

The Leader presented her report to the Council. The leader commented on the following:

- Welcome to Sue Bruce as the new Chief Executive for the City of Edinburgh Council.
- Appointment of Vic Emery to the post of Non-Executive Chair TEL/tie.
- Armed Forces Day 2011.
- The Auditor General's report on the Tram Project.

The following questions/comments were raised:

Councillor Burns	- Council Budget – advance publication - Capital City Partnership – funding
Councillor Balfour	- Council Budget – advance publication - Possible redundancies amongst teaching staff
Councillor Cardownie	- Budget process
Councillor Chapman	- Framework for Equality, Diversity and Human Rights – consultation - Edinburgh Partnership – Single Outcome Agreement
Councillor Whyte	- Council Budget – advance publication - Trams project – Audit Scotland report
Councillor Buchan	- Broomhouse and St Joseph's Primary Schools – current situation - Number of job-seeker allowance claimants
Councillor Munro	- Cost of cleansing dispute
Councillor Snowden	- New library in Kaimes
Councillor Bridgman	- Capacity Building Project in Craigmillar – funding
Councillor Burgess	- Council Budget – advance publication

(Reference – report no CEC/73/10-11/L by the Leader, submitted.)

6 Live Well in Later Life – Care Home Site Disposals

The Finance and Resources Committee had approved the disposal of the care home sites at 24 Moredun Park Street, Craigour and 2 Little Road, Liberton to Castle Rock Edinvar and Dunedin Canmore Housing Associations and had recommended that the capital receipt be ring fenced for the Live Well in Later Life Project.

Decision

To approve the ring-fencing of the capital receipts of the sites at 24 Moredun Park Street, Craigour and 2 Little Road, Liberton for the Live Well in Later Life Project.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 11 January 2011 (item 32); report number CEC/71/10-11/FARC by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

7 Appointment of Non-Executive Chair of TEL/tie

Decision

To appoint Vic Emery to the post of Non-Executive Chair of TEL/tie.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 30 November 2010 (item 15); report no CEC/75/10-11/R by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Jackson, Gordon Mackenzie, Perry and Wheeler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as non-Executive Directors of TEL and tie.

Councillors Buchanan and Chapman declared a non-financial interest in the item as non-Executive Directors of TEL.

Councillor Buchan declared a financial interest in the item as an employee of a firm which was a technical adviser to tie and left the Chamber during its consideration.

8 Statutory Powers and Duties of the Council

The Council had approved a motion by Councillor Balfour seeking identification of the statutory and non-statutory services delivered by the Council. Details were given of the overall nature of legislation governing the work of local government in Scotland, together with a summary of the main legislation which permitted or required the delivery of services. While this defined the main statutory services, detailed further research would be required to classify services in the manner sought by the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Services and its findings.
- 2) To determine that the cost and time required for further research would not be justified but to ask the Director of Corporate Services to enquire of CoSLA and the Scottish Government whether either body had undertaken such research or was aware of the existence of such research.
- 3) To refer the Director's report to the Audit Committee for further consideration.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 18 November 2010; report no CEC/74/10-11/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9 Conference Invitations

Invitations had been received to appoint delegates to the CoSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference and the CIPFA Scotland Annual Conference.

Decision

To agree:

- a) not to be represented by any elected member at the CoSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference on the grounds that the detailed programme for 9 March 2011 received from COSLA suggested that expenditure would not give good value for money.

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- b) that the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee should examine the CIPFA Scotland Annual Conference programme and if, in his opinion and in the opinion of the Director of Finance, this offered good value for the delegate fee then the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee should attend the conference.

(Reference – report no CEC/72/10-11/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10 Non-Mandatory Speed Reduction Advice – Motion by Councillor Buchan

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

“Council:

- notes that non mandatory speed information systems can influence the speed of drivers in residential areas;
- notes that Norfolk County Council has provided residents with stickers for wheelie bins that encourage, through non-mandatory signage, drivers to slow down;
- notes that there are areas of Edinburgh where a similar approach to that taken in Norfolk could be undertaken where there is support for speed reducing measures; and
- agrees that a pilot study is introduced in the Craiglockhart area to identify if this proposal could be used across the city.”

The Depute Convener remitted the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

11 Alternative Vote Referendum – Motion by Councillor Chapman

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

“Council:

- 1) notes the proposed referendum on adopting Alternative Vote (AV) as the system for election of Members of Parliament.

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- 2) believes that a proportional system of election would enhance voter choice and promote a more dynamic culture of democracy and that, whilst AV is not a proportional system, it is better than the current First Past The Post (FPTP) system.
- 3) supports the use of a proportional system for all levels of government elections, including Westminster and the Scottish Parliament, and so supports the introduction of the Alternative Vote for elections of MPs as an improvement on FPTP and a step towards a proportional system for Westminster.
- 4) supports the campaign for a Yes vote in the forthcoming referendum on the Alternative Vote.
- 5) agrees to provide facilities (such as meeting space) to support the campaign.”

Motion

To approve the motion with the exception of clause 5 on the grounds that this was disallowed under legislation.

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

Amendment

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 motion	-	19 votes
For the amendment	-	26 votes

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Balfour.

12 Energy Use in Schools – Motion by Councillor Johnstone

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

“That this Council;

Notes that sustained low temperatures over winter is putting severe pressure on school energy budgets.

Notes concerns raised by parents over poor energy efficiency and inadequate temperature control within schools.

Notes that feed-in tariffs for renewable energy systems offer a significant income generating opportunity.

Believes that there are significant savings which could be made on energy budgets within schools and calls for a report into these issues and into how the Council can prepare and implement a comprehensive school energy improvement plan in advance of winter 2011-12.”

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

13 Telford College – Association of Colleges Beacon Award – Motion by Councillor Day

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

“Council congratulates the staff, learners and board of management of Edinburgh’s Telford College in attaining an Association of Colleges Beacon Award for its exemplary work in the support of international students. Council notes that:

- Beacon Awards provide national recognition for excellence and innovation as well as acknowledging the talents of staff at all levels. They highlight the breadth and quality of education at Edinburgh’s Telford College, for its well-developed international strategy, an innovative programme supported by a wide range of global partnerships and its exemplary approach to supporting visa applications.

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- The College was particularly praised for its trans-national education partnerships, which include support for in-country teaching, leading to high numbers of students progressing on to courses in the UK.

Council agrees to recognise these achievements in an appropriate manner as seen fit by the Lord Provost.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

14 Blue Badge Scheme – Motion by Councillor Ewan Aitken

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

“Council notes:

That the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) have written to the Council on four occasions since the decision was taken by this administration to charge £20 to access the Blue Badge Scheme.

That the EHRC laid out four steps for the Council to take to ensure that the EHRC are content with the Council’s processes, as follows:

- Equality Impact Assessment for the implementation of this policy to be revisited.
- The Equality Impact Assessment tool be reviewed (the EHRC suggests that the screening for relevance in particular appears to have potential for introducing confusion).
- Training and support provided to officers carrying out impact assessment to be reviewed.
- That training for Councillors in the scrutiny of Equality Impact Assessments of proposals coming before Council is reviewed.

Council calls for a full report in one cycle on steps to be taken to comply with this guidance from the EHRC.”

The Depute Convener remitted the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

15 'Remade in Edinburgh' – Motion by Councillor Burgess

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

"That the Council:

Welcomes the initiative to set up 'Remade in Edinburgh' a project for a reuse and repair centre in Edinburgh.

Notes that the centre is intended to be a community-led project, housing social enterprises, that will recycle and repair household goods, offer repair skills to residents, create jobs and provide repaired and refurbished goods to be bought by the public.

Recognises the innovative nature of the project and that, by highlighting repair skills, will be diverting waste from landfill and helping the Council meet recycling targets, achieve its Single Outcome Agreement and comply with the Climate Change Act.

Further notes that a sister project in London, Remade in Brixton, has been able to become operational partly due to the support of the local council, which provided free suitable building space in the form of a set of disused garages.

Is also aware that there is presently disused and abandoned space in central Edinburgh which is currently incurring a maintenance cost to the Council.

Understands that Remade in Edinburgh intends to submit funding applications in February to the Jubilee People's Millions and the Climate Challenge Fund to enable it to renovate premises and provide for staff and workshops and that interested parties can contact the project through remadeinedinburgh@gmail.com.

Believes that the project could be a flagship Repair Centre for Scotland, which other cities could learn from and replicate.

Therefore agrees, where practical, to provide start-up advice to Remade in Edinburgh and particularly in its search for suitable premises."

The Depute Convener remitted the motion to the Economic Development Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

16 City Wide Reusable Bonus Bag Scheme – Motion by Councillor Johnstone

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

“That this Council:

Recognises the social, economic and environmental benefits of local high streets across the city and is committed to working with local traders to improve these essential and invaluable community assets;

Commends the work of Greener Leith in encouraging local people to use local shops through the promotion of the Greener Leith Bonus Bag where discounts and offers are available to shoppers using the Greener Leith or alternative reusable bag;

Recognises the aim of becoming a zero waste city given the need to save resources, cut CO2 emissions and reduce the financial costs to the city in waste disposal;

Notes the public support for measures to make Edinburgh plastic bag free;

Notes that Ireland, Wales and Northern Ireland have introduced taxes on plastic bags and that countries including Italy have banned them entirely;

Agrees that a forward thinking capital city which markets itself as ‘Edinburgh’ can show the Scottish Government that more action is needed; and

Calls for a report into how a reusable bag scheme can be rolled out across the city, looking, for example, at opportunities available within the Town Centre Regeneration projects for funding and promotion.”

The Depute Convener remitted the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

17 Forestry Commission in Edinburgh – Redundancies – Motion by Councillor Buchanan

The Depute Convener 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.

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

“Council notes, with regret, the announcement by the Forestry Commission to make 150 people redundant at their Edinburgh office.

Council can be assured that on hearing of this announcement the Administration took immediate steps to ensure that the Director of City Development has taken appropriate actions to liaise with all public sector partners (amongst others) involved in the Pace Initiative. Assistance will be put in place as quickly possible to allow staff the support required to return to employment.

Council calls for a report to go to the next Policy & Strategy Committee on progress made on this matter.”

Decision

To approve the motion and:

- 1) Add at the end of the first paragraph:

“Further notes that the proposal to sell off public forests in England further puts at risk another 200 jobs in Edinburgh.”

- 2) Add new last paragraph:

“Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister at Westminster to voice our concerns over the anticipated loss of 200 jobs at the Forestry Commission in Edinburgh.”

Appendix
(As referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 3 February 2011)

QUESTION NO 1

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

Question (1) How many schools have predicted an overspend on energy budgets in the current year (2010-11)?

Answer (1) Budget monitoring returns have been submitted to the Finance Department from schools at month 9. These returns highlight the following number of establishments are anticipating an overspend against energy budgets in the current year.

Electricity = 92 from 109 schools are projecting an overspend.

Gas = 100 from 106 schools are projecting an overspend.
Oil = 3 from 5 schools are projecting an overspend.

The Department, working with schools, is currently considering the action that can be taken to manage the situation.

Question (2) What is the total estimated amount of such an overspend?

Answer (2) The total estimated overspend on energy is £571k in the current year.

This figure breaks down as:

Electricity -	£453k
Gas -	£112k
Oil -	£6k

Question (3) What percentage of the energy budget does this account for?

Answer (3) 14.6% of a £3.9m budget.

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Question (4) What is the standard temperature for schools?

Answer (4) 19 degrees centigrade is the standard average winter room air temperature expected in the majority of schools. Areas of the school, eg games halls, would be expected to operate well below this level for reasons of comfort.

A number of schools are exempted from the 19 degree average target because of the needs of their pupils, especially those who cater for children with severe mobility disabilities.

Question (5) How much would be saved annually by reducing this temperature by a) one degree and b) two degrees?

Answer (5) The 2009/10 budget identified a £644,000 saving based on a reduction of 2 degrees in the temperature in schools from an average assisted winter temperature of 21 degrees to 19 degrees. A one degree reduction was estimated to save half this amount based on the budgets available at that time.

QUESTION NO 2

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

Question

Can the Convener advise how the city is progressing towards the target of most active city in Europe by 2020, interim targets set, and how we will know when this has been achieved?

Answer

Being the most physically active city in Europe is Edinburgh's aspiration or vision, as described in the city's Sport and Physical Recreation Strategy which was launched in 2004. Because of the uneven availability of data on levels of physical activity in countries and the lack of harmonised measures and indicators, this information is not gathered nor compared at a European city level. As a result, the World Health Organisation is unable to draw a clear picture of overall trends across Europe.

However, we remain committed to creating as many opportunities as possible for people to be more active. A great deal of work is ongoing throughout the city, in partnership with NHS Lothian and other agencies, to seek to improve the physical activity levels of adults and young people. This includes the following relevant programmes and services:

- The annual Activcity events programme
- The annual Festival of Sport
- Active Schools
- Active Travel
- Community-based walking initiatives
- Promotion of cycling
- Get Up & Go
- Healthy Working Lives

The Council has now produced a legacy plan for Edinburgh from the Olympic Games in 2012 and the Commonwealth Games in 2014, which focuses on being active. Its action plan is to launch soon.

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Edinburgh Leisure runs a wide range of programmes designed to encourage particular groups to be more physically active for their health.

**Supplementary
Question**

I have to say I was a little surprised to learn that it is impossible to compare our performance with other cities in Europe. However, Audit Scotland has measured our performance in relation to other local authorities. When it comes to investment in physical recreation, we spend less per head of population on physical recreation than every other local authority in Scotland bar two. Swimming in Edinburgh costs more than it does in any other local authority apart from one. With this in mind, and along with the cut in funding to Edinburgh Leisure, would it not be better to focus in future on genuine measurable investment and play our part in addressing the childhood obesity epidemic in Lothians?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I am rather surprised that you are surprised at that news because it was provided in an answer in November 2009 to Councillor Day so I am not quite sure where you are coming from on that; it must be an election year.

Can I just remind you that, not only has this Administration had to cope with the financial bourach which was left to it by the previous Administration, it then had to face up to the challenges of the greatest recession since the 20s that has inevitably impacted on our plans. That said, I believe we have demonstrated our commitment quite significantly to improving access to sport and physical activity for our residents. For instance, we provided Edinburgh Leisure of course with the first ever inflationary uplift to its grant to assist with various improvements to sporting facilities. I would remind you too that the Audit Scotland figures refer to revenue. Now in our capital area we would have to also consider our investment of some £37m in the Royal Commonwealth Pool, the refurbishment of the Glenogle Swim Centre – over £5m there, Skatepark at Saughton Park, £1.45m interim investment in Meadowbank, 3G pitches at Saughton and Meggetland, which you know all about of course. So I would argue that in fact we have very much demonstrated our commitment to improving access to sport and physical activity despite the economic limitations we are having to operate under.

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QUESTION NO 3

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

Question

In view of recent press coverage in this area, could the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee please confirm the extent of the Council's borrowing, for both the current and four previous financial years, in relation to:

- (i) how these levels compare to relevant prudential indicators;
- (ii) how these levels compare, on a like-for-like basis, to the Council's expenditure;
- (iii) how the Council's average borrowing rate compares to that for Scotland's other councils.

Answer

- (i) Since the introduction of the *Prudential Code in Capital Finance for Local Authorities* in 2004, the Council has continued to exercise appropriate professional judgement to ensure that all borrowing undertaken is prudent, affordable and sustainable in the long-term. In this vein, where additional borrowing has been required to deliver financial savings to the Council (through, for example, the purchase of Waverley Court in 2008 and acquisition of EDI and Waterfront's assets in 2009), this has always been subject both to the submission of a suitably robust business case and prior Council approval of increased borrowing limits.

As a result of these procedures, the Council has not exceeded relevant limits at any time. The extent of borrowing is, however, kept under constant review and reported regularly to Committee and Council.

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- (ii) The purchase of Waverley Court was predicated upon delivering revenue savings of some £37 million relative to the existing lease over the twenty-eight year period covered by the business case. Emphasising the prudent nature of the initial projections upon which the purchase decision was made, further loans charge savings of £1 million per annum are now being delivered. In effect, the Council has therefore “swapped” the former building rental payments with these borrowing costs, delivering substantial savings in so doing, whilst also acquiring a significant capital asset valued at £90 million.

Similarly, in the case of the acquisition of EDI’s assets, the prudential borrowing costs of purchase are being fully funded through asset rentals, accessing borrowing opportunities not available to EDI and therefore markedly improving the Council’s overall group financial position.

Adjusting (i) loans charge expenditure to reflect the nature of these acquisitions and (ii) the Council’s overall expenditure figure for structural changes to the Finance Settlement in 2008/09 and 2009/10 results in the following:

	Restated loans charge expenditure as proportion of restated net expenditure
2006/07	8.82%
2007/08	9.42%
2008/09	9.15%
2009/10	9.00%

Equivalent figures for 2010/11 will be confirmed as part of closing the Council’s final accounts.

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- (iii)** The Loans Fund Pool Rate measures the average cost of the Council's debt compared to the weighted average capital expenditure financed by that debt. When viewed against the Council's eight Scottish urban comparator authorities (considered a more reliable indicator than the entire local authority group), over the period from 2001/02 to 2008/09 Edinburgh went from being the authority with the highest average rate to the median of the peer group, reducing its pool rate by more than any other authority in so doing.

For 2009/10, the Council's weighted rate continued the annual reduction apparent since 2001/02. While the extent of this fall was lower than in some other authorities, the Council's strategic use of long-term fixed-rate borrowing leaves it less susceptible to anticipated subsequent upward movement in interest rates.

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QUESTION NO 4

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

Question

To ask the Leader what action she will take following publication of research by the Centre for Cities showing that Edinburgh has one of the worst rates of climate-changing pollution among UK cities.

Answer

The Centre for Cities, in their *Cities Outlook 2011*, found Edinburgh to be one of the most economically resilient cities in Britain with a diverse industrial base and high skills “well positioned to support national growth”.

Cities Outlook 2011 identified that cities will be vital in achieving carbon reduction targets. At a meeting of Leaders of Scotland’s 6 cities on 1 February in Glasgow, the cities’ role in leading on sustainability was emphasised.

Tackling the causes and effects of climate change is and will remain a key priority for the Council, its partners (including the Scottish Government) and the citizens of Edinburgh.

Cities Outlook 2011 indicates that Edinburgh, consistent with all of the other 12 major cities listed, already has CO₂ emissions which are **lower** than the UK average. This accords with the emissions published in the Council’s Scottish Climate Change Declaration (SCCD) Annual Report 2010 which was considered by the Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 November 2010. Of the 4 Scottish cities cited, Edinburgh is joint second lowest for CO₂ emissions with 7.2tonnes per capita versus the best UK city (Hastings) with 4.8t per capita and the worst (Middlesbrough) with 27.4t per capita.

The Council’s SCCD Annual Report details a comprehensive list of Council activities which should lead to a reduction in Edinburgh’s area wide carbon emissions and the Council’s considerable commitment to climate change adaptation, particularly with respect to flood prevention.

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The Scottish Government's recently published draft *Low Carbon Scotland - Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP)* offers an indication of how carbon emissions can be driven down across Scotland. The draft Report on Proposals and Policies fulfils the duty placed on Scottish Ministers by section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 by setting out specific measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A key challenge for the Council will be to build on its achievements to date and to work towards making an equitable contribution to achieving Scotland's emission reduction targets. The draft RPP highlights four transformational outcomes relating to energy generation, heat supply, transport and strategic integration against which the Council may be expected to show progress in future SCCD reports.

Work has already been initiated in conjunction with Heriot Watt University to prepare a first Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for the city. A specific role of the SEAP will be to identify what action is required to reduce Edinburgh's carbon emissions by reducing the city's use of fossil fuels and increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy technology capacity.

Supplementary Question (1) The Leader's answer states that the climate changes and it will remain a key priority for the Council. However, the Leader will be aware that the November report to Policy and Strategy reported that the reduction in climate changing pollution from the Council's own activities has averaged less than 1% for the last three years. So clearly if climate change is a priority, the kind of approach we have been following isn't working. I wonder if the Leader is aware of a motion submitted to the last full Council which was proposing that the new Chief Executive look at how sustainable development and climate change are handled within the Council and can I ask the Leader if she will give her personal consideration to supporting this positive suggestion which is coming before the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on Tuesday?

Supplementary Answer (1) It is up to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee to have the discussion and take a decision on that. I am not going to pre-empt a decision by a Committee standing here right now.

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Supplementary Question (2) Sorry, if I could just come back on that. I think what I am asking for here is the question was to the Leader because the question is pointed at the fact that the way we are going at the moment is not achieving anything and what I am calling for is leadership from the Head of the Council to bring about a sort of sea change that can make the reductions that we need and that is why I am asking the Leader if she will give her personal support to that motion.

Supplementary Answer (2) I sit on that Committee as you know, ex-officio, and I will participate in the discussion at that Committee but I would dispute what you say about us as failing as it were in our duty and I think some of the information that is in the answer should lead you to that conclusion. I think to pick on the one aspect of the Centre for Cities study that was then picked up as sort of being adverse in the press is really quite unhelpful especially as, as you can read there, Edinburgh actually, like other cities, has lower CO₂ emissions than the UK average.

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QUESTION NO 5

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

Question

How many former City of Edinburgh Council employees have been re-employed by the Council in the past 5 years in a consultancy or other role?

Answer

At its meeting on 11 January 2011 the Finance and Resources Committee considered the report 'Use of Consultants – Further Report'. This showed very limited engagement of former employees in consultancy roles by the Council over the past two years.

The Committee asked for a further report on the existing guidance used in the appointment of consultants and whether this required to be updated.

In view of the considerable further work involved in fulfilling your request, I consider it appropriate to await the outcome of the Finance and Resources Committee's future deliberations on the matter before committing further resource to this task.

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QUESTION NO 6

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

Question

Please provide the number of penalty notices handed out during 2008/9 and 2009/10 for issues such as dog fouling, dropping litter and fly-posting broken down by ward.

Answer

Separate figures for fly-posting cannot be supplied because it is classed as a littering offence and any fixed penalty notices would be included under that category.

Ward	Dog Fouling		Domestic Waste		Littering		Trade Waste	
	2009/ 2010	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2008/ 2009
Almond	13	9	0	1	18	10	1	2
City Centre	4	4	72	27	175	26	397	239
Colinton/Fairmilehead	4	2	6	3	5	1	0	1
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	9	12	2	0	19	19	9	6
Craigtinny/Duddingston	3	6	12	27	28	9	10	8
Drum Brae/Gyle	9	7	1	0	24	7	6	0
Forth	36	22	2	2	22	9	4	1
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	7	0	37	4	27	6	25	14
Inverleith	7	2	1	0	16	4	26	4
Leith Walk	19	8	4	0	76	3	55	28
Leith	25	6	2	0	69	12	40	8
Liberton/ Gilmerton	11	17	0	1	5	1	2	3
Meadows/Morningside	2	1	0	1	14	4	42	19
Pentland Hills	3	0	18	0	3	4	2	3
Portobello/Craigmillar	35	18	14	22	32	15	19	12
Sighthill/Gorgie	16	20	32	6	115	18	41	29
Southside/Newington	8	3	3	3	10	7	48	33
Total	211	137	206	97	658	155	727	410

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QUESTION NO 7

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

Question (1) Please provide a list of all the properties owned by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Answer (1) A database managed by City Development contains details of the Council's legal interest in property (excluding houses managed by Services for Communities, ie housing stock). The database extends to over 3,000 records and includes land and other types of property interests such as wayleaves, as well as buildings. A printed report listing all of these legal interests would extend to more than 100 pages. If Councillor Mowat would like to view the database, staff in Corporate Property and Contingency Planning's Asset Management Team would be happy to talk Councillor Mowat through it.

Question (2) How many properties are standing empty?

Answer (2) Currently, City Development's records list 219 properties as vacant. There are entries, however, on this list which do not relate to buildings eg areas of ground including open space and amenity ground with no real economic value.

Question (3) How many of these properties are being actively marketed?

Answer (3) At present there are 20 properties being actively marketed. Details of these properties can be found on the Council's commercial property web page at:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/commercialproperty

Question (4) Please give the reasons for any properties that are not being actively marketed.

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- Answer** **(4)** There are a variety of reasons why property is shown as vacant:
- Properties being prepared for marketing e.g. operational properties in the process of being cleared or where consultation is taking place with planning on alternative uses;
 - Buildings awaiting demolition e.g. vacant schools;
 - Buildings awaiting redevelopment e.g. as part of a larger development site;
 - Properties in the process of being let or sold which have already been advertised;
 - Properties being retained by the Council for sale at a later date when the market improves;
 - Properties which are considered unlettable, eg cellars and structures such as George IV Bridge vaults and Scotland Street Tunnel.
- Question** **(5)** How many empty properties were subject to flooding in 2009/10 and 2010/11?
- Question** **(6)** Were any properties subject to flooding in both years and, if so, which ones?
- Answer** **(5)** Floods, burst pipes and frozen pipes are not logged using
& a separate code. As such, Property Care Services are not
(6) able to provide a specific answer to these questions.
- It is standard practice, however, to minimise water damage within vacant properties by draining down buildings as part of City Development's building closure procedures.
- Supplementary Question** Could I ask the Convener of Finance and Resources if there is information on the database referred to which I wish to make public to constituents, will that be possible? Secondly, when we talk about City Development's standard practice of minimising water damage by draining them down, is that the same for Services for Communities and Council house stock because there have been instances where properties under Services for Communities have been flooded twice in both the bad winters?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

On the first point, obviously Councillor Mowat is welcome to look at the database at City Development. I am sure that they would be happy to have a chat with her about that and I can give her the introduction if she desires that. I do not have specific information about Council housing. I think the question was interpreted as meaning other Council properties but, if she has specific instances, if she would like to send me an e-mail we can look into them.

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QUESTION NO 8

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

Question

How many retail premises in the City of Edinburgh Council area have a rateable value of £750,000 or more?

Answer

There are 41 retail properties in Edinburgh with a valuation above £750k.

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QUESTION NO 9

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

Question (1) To ask the Convener to provide specific clarification on the re-opening date for Westfield Court Nursery School?

Question (2) If no re-opening date can be provided at this time, to ask the Convener to give a full written update in order to address parental concerns about the long-term plans for Westfield Court Nursery School?

Answer Transition arrangements for the children who attended Westfield Court were completed at the end of last term. All children and staff have all settled in well to their new nurseries. Parents have also been very involved with the new arrangements.

To avoid further disruption for the children and their families within this school year, the earliest date to consider any further changes would be August 2011 (at the start of the new school year).

Further work will be ongoing throughout this time to consider the future of Westfield Court Nursery School and a report will be submitted to Council in June 2011 with recommendations.

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QUESTION NO 10

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

Question

To ask the Council what is the latest number of second homes on the Council Tax roll and what is the Council Tax income received by the Council from such properties in the latest available year?

Answer

As of the end of December, the figures for the current financial year are as follows:

Total number of second home accounts – 13,502
Total additional income raised from second homes –
£1,318,110.

For the last full financial year (i.e. 2009/10), the equivalent figures are:

Total number of second home accounts – 16,464
Total additional income raised from second homes –
£1,972,232.

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QUESTION NO 11

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

Question

Can you please tell me:

1. At which meeting it was decided that an Equality Impact Assessment would not be required for the Administration's proposed cut to Edinburgh Leisure's grant.
2. Who was present at that meeting?
3. What the basis of the decision was (ie was it scored as others are or were there some other criteria used)?
4. Whether there are minutes of the meeting available for scrutiny?

Answer

There was no such decision.

The Corporate Services Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) for Package 1 was published on 15 September 2010 and the EQIA for Packages 2 and 3 will be published in advance of the Council Budget Meeting on 10 February 2011. Within both these EQIAs there is a generic equalities impact assessment of the funding reduction to Edinburgh Leisure. These EQIAs were informed by comments made at three Edinburgh Equality Network events and the neighbourhood and citywide budget summits.

QUESTION NO 12

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

Question

In the light of the independent research findings, reported recently, that CO₂ emissions in Edinburgh were the third worst in the UK, what step changes will the Administration make to ensure Edinburgh is on track to become the most sustainable city in Europe by 2050, as it was unanimously committed to do in 2007?

Answer

See answer to Question 4.

**Supplementary
Question**

Can I ask the Convener when the refreshed new climate change strategy for Edinburgh is to be reported to Council or Committee?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I will respond to you in writing. I don't have that information in front of me at the moment.

QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Henderson answered
by the Convener of the Economic
Development Committee**

Question **(1)** To ask the Convener to provide monthly data for the youth unemployment rate (the number of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seeker's Allowance), in the City of Edinburgh, running from May 2007 through to the most up-to-date statistic available?

Question **(2)** To ask the Convener to provide a comparator table for the most up-to-date statistic of the youth unemployment rate in the City of Edinburgh, with all other local authority areas in Scotland?

Answer See attached appendix.

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Appendix

Part 1

The table below, table 1, provides monthly data for the Youth Unemployment rate (the number of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seeker's Allowance), in the City of Edinburgh, running from May 2007 through to the 'most up-to-date' statistic available, December 2010.

TABLE 1			
Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in Edinburgh aged 18-24			
Month	A: Number of claimants aged 18-24	B: % of pop. aged 18-24	C: % of all JSA claimants
May-07	1,525	2.6%	24.8%
Jun-07	1,415	2.4%	24.6%
Jul-07	1,475	2.5%	25.7%
Aug-07	1,555	2.7%	26.1%
Sep-07	1,575	2.7%	26.5%
Oct-07	1,280	2.2%	24.5%
Nov-07	1,255	2.1%	24.2%
Dec-07	1,240	2.1%	24.5%
Jan-08	1,315	2.2%	24.3%
Feb-08	1,415	2.4%	25.6%
Mar-08	1,420	2.4%	25.8%
Apr-08	1,370	2.3%	25.2%
May-08	1,375	2.3%	25.7%
Jun-08	1,385	2.4%	25.4%
Jul-08	1,485	2.6%	26.1%
Aug-08	1,590	2.8%	27.0%
Sep-08	1,560	2.7%	26.5%
Oct-08	1,580	2.8%	26.2%
Nov-08	1,645	2.9%	25.2%
Dec-08	1,760	3.1%	25.3%
Jan-09	1,900	3.3%	24.8%
Feb-09	2,345	4.1%	26.6%
Mar-09	2,525	4.4%	27.0%
Apr-09	2,430	4.2%	25.8%
May-09	2,415	4.2%	25.4%
Jun-09	2,510	4.4%	25.9%
Jul-09	2,670	4.7%	26.8%
Aug-09	2,845	5.0%	27.9%
Sep-09	2,685	4.7%	27.0%
Oct-09	2,745	4.8%	27.0%
Nov-09	2,810	4.9%	27.3%
Dec-09	2,680	4.7%	26.6%
Jan-10	2,910	5.1%	26.5%

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Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in Edinburgh aged 18-24			
Month	A: Number of claimants aged 18-24	B: % of pop. aged 18-24	C: % of all JSA claimants
Feb-10	3,125	5.5%	27.4%
Mar-10	3,090	5.4%	27.1%
Apr-10	2,915	5.1%	26.3%
May-10	2,820	4.9%	26.2%
Jun-10	2,755	4.8%	26.3%
Jul-10	2,820	4.9%	26.7%
Aug-10	2,845	5.0%	27.0%
Sep-10	2,620	4.6%	26.2%
Oct-10	2,535	4.4%	25.8%
Nov-10	2,505	4.4%	25.1%
Dec-10	2,555	4.5%	25.1%

Column A shows the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants aged 18-24 in Edinburgh between May 2007 and December 2010.

Column B shows this figure as a proportion of the total population aged 18 to 24. The average for this over the period requested is 3.7%, with the highest recorded value in February 2010 (5.5%), and the lowest in December 2007 (2.1%).

Column C shows the number of 18-24 year old Jobseeker's Allowance claimants as a proportion of the total number of claimants in Edinburgh. The average for this over the period requested is 26.0%, with the highest recorded value in February 2010 (27.9%), and the lowest in December 2007 (24.2%).

Part 2

The table below, table 2, provides a comparator table for the 'most up-to-date' statistic of the Youth Unemployment rate in the City of Edinburgh, compared with all other Local Authority areas in Scotland. The table is in descending order based on the percentage of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants aged 18-24, in each Scottish local authority in December 2010, as a proportion of the total population aged 18 to 24, column B. Edinburgh has the fourth lowest rate in Scotland.

When examined as a percentage of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants as a proportion of the total number of claimants in the local authority, column C, Edinburgh also has the fourth lowest rate in Scotland.

TABLE 2

Jobseeker's Allowance claimants aged 18-24 by local authority (December 2010)			
Month	A: Number of claimants aged 18-24	B: % of pop. aged 18-24	C: % of all JSA claimants
East Ayrshire	1,330	12.3%	30.1%

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Jobseeker's Allowance claimants aged 18-24 by local authority (December 2010)			
Month	A: Number of claimants aged 18-24	B: % of pop. aged 18-24	C: % of all JSA claimants
Clackmannanshire	525	12.2%	28.7%
North Ayrshire	1,410	11.9%	27.9%
West Dunbartonshire	945	10.7%	27.9%
South Ayrshire	925	10.2%	30.9%
North Lanarkshire	2,975	10.0%	27.0%
Falkirk	1,250	9.5%	27.6%
South Lanarkshire	2,430	9.0%	27.9%
Midlothian	625	8.9%	31.9%
Renfrewshire	1,360	8.9%	27.2%
Glasgow City	6,045	8.6%	24.5%
West Lothian	1,225	8.2%	28.8%
Dumfries & Galloway	865	8.1%	31.3%
Angus	650	7.9%	28.9%
Fife	2,805	7.8%	27.5%
Scottish Borders	625	7.8%	31.3%
Dundee City	1,395	7.5%	28.1%
East Lothian	595	7.5%	31.4%
Inverclyde	530	7.2%	26.8%
Argyll & Bute	480	6.9%	26.8%
Highland	1,080	6.8%	24.8%
Moray	420	5.8%	30.4%
East Dunbartonshire	500	5.6%	28.3%
Eilean Siar	90	5.3%	16.5%
East Renfrewshire	400	5.3%	29.7%
Stirling	530	5.2%	27.1%
Perth & Kinross	600	4.7%	26.8%
Orkney Islands	65	4.6%	33.3%
Edinburgh, City of	2,555	4.5%	25.1%
Aberdeenshire	705	3.8%	31.1%
Shetland Islands	60	3.8%	29.8%
Aberdeen City	850	3.4%	26.0%

Column A shows the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants aged 18-24 in each Scottish local authority in December 2010.

Column B shows this figure as a proportion of the total population aged 18 to 24.

Column C shows the number of 18-24 year old Jobseeker's Allowance claimants as a proportion of the total number of claimants in the local authority.