

Leader's Report

The City of Edinburgh Council

26 April 2012

1 City Status for Perth

City status has been restored to Perth to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. I am delighted to welcome Perth into the Scotland Cities Alliance which is taking forward a programme of action to deliver the aspirations of the cities, and the Scottish Government, to achieve enhanced economic growth and job creation through action on four key areas: connected cities; sustainable cities; knowledge cities; and vibrant and cultural cities.

2 Royal Commonwealth Pool

The £37million refurbished Royal Commonwealth Pool (RCP) was opened by Olympic Gold Medallist David Wilkie MBE on 20 March. David swam the first breadth of the pool with 30 competition-winning schoolchildren. As well as the young swimmers, young divers from the Edinburgh Diving Club performed a breath-taking display of synchronised diving to music, fronted by our very own Grace Reid who competed in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

The refurbishment of this A-listed building has preserved its original features while providing the best modern facilities, including new pool tanks, a changing village and a fitness studio. The Pool also boasts Scotland's only dry dive gym, which allows divers to practise their moves out of the water. The RCP will be the world's only facility to have hosted three Commonwealth Games when the diving competition is held there in 2014.

3 Investing in Children and Schools

Young Consumers of the Year 2012

Boroughmuir High School has won the Scottish Final of the Young Consumers of the Year competition. The team beat off strong challenges to become the first all girls team to win the Scottish Young Consumer Competition in the last ten years. Congratulations to the team and all involved in preparing and supporting them. Boroughmuir has now won the Scottish final five years in a row. The team will travel to Manchester in June to take part in the UK finals. Good luck to them.

Paolozzi Prize for Art

With 2012 being the Year of Creative Scotland, an art prize in Sir Eduardo Paolozzi's honour has been launched by the Council for senior pupils studying art and design, many of whom aspire to a career in art. For more information contact linda.lees@edinburgh.gov.uk

From Studio to Stage

On 22 March the Tom Fleming Centre trembled beneath the feet of 165 young people from 10 Edinburgh schools all gathered to showcase and celebrate their achievements and successes in the performing arts. Pupils aged between 7 and 17 introduced their own work and dance, drama, music and poetry, doing their teachers, friends and families proud. Such a successful evening is testimony to the hard work and effort of the pupils and their teachers. It was an excellent chance for schools to see what each other are doing in the performing arts. The efforts of Frances Baker, Drama Development Officer, were well rewarded in the success of the event. A list of participating schools is at Appendix 1.

Creative Conversations

Creative Conversations bring together practitioners and policy makers from education, children and young people's support services, the arts and cultural sector, along with parents and businesses. They progress [Education and the Arts, Culture and Creativity: an Action Plan](#). The first Creative Conversation got off to a great start at the Storytelling Centre and the first three have attracted over 130 people. For more information, contact linda.lees@edinburgh.gov.uk

Get Set for the Games Concert

As part of Edinburgh's celebration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, two projects involving children and young people came together for a lunchtime concert at the Usher Hall. The BIG Breakthrough concert featured children and young people from The BIG Project, Broomhouse, alongside Inverness Gaelic Choir, Sangstream, Cappella Nova, and 10 leading professional musicians, including Karine Polwart, in an interactive singalong show. The audience of nearly 1,000 children from Edinburgh primary and special schools joined in enthusiastically having had workshops prior to the concert as part of their involvement in Edinburgh Gets Set for the Games.

4 Supporting Edinburgh's Economic Competitiveness

Edinburgh Guarantee

The Edinburgh Guarantee continues to make a positive difference with a further five young people joining the Council through the programme and two other participants having joined the Scottish Government. Every Council department is actively contributing. In addition to trades and business administration, the Employability & Skills team has recruited Modern Apprentices in new occupations including Social Care, Creative Industries and Sports Development. Meanwhile, Lothian Buses bodyshop has devised a comprehensive six month training programme as well as advertising through the Guarantee for 6 young people to take up paid placements.

Gamesa Chooses Leith

The announcement that Gamesa propose to locate a wind turbine manufacturing plant at Leith is welcome. The £125million investment could create more than 800

jobs directly and hundreds more in the supply chain. This is an important boost to the renewable energy industry in Scotland.

Identifying Job Opportunities

The Business Intelligence team has produced their forward research programme ranging from investigating the potential of job opportunities for young people, arising from growth in such sectors as financial services and renewable energy, to an analysis of the City Region's inward investment performance against comparator cities and international peers.

Protecting the Consumer

Everyone likes a bargain but buying counterfeit goods threatens legitimate traders and may fund organised crime. Trading Standards constantly monitor the marketplace and regularly target sellers of such goods. A recent operation resulted in the seizure of over 900 items of jewellery and a fine of £800 for offences against the Trade Marks Act 1994. The trader, based in Kent, was operating in a fair held at Ingliston. All the items were forfeited and will now be destroyed. Robust enforcement sends a message that such trading practices are not tolerated.

5 Developing the City

Local Development Plan

Consultation on the Main Issues Report for the Local Development Plan ended in January with over 400 responses from community councils, amenity groups, businesses and individuals. The responses and the programme for the Local Development Plan can be seen at [developmentplan](#) and a revised plan will be published later this year.

Edinburgh to be a 'super-connected city'

Edinburgh will receive between £8 - £11 million from the UK Government to be a 'super-connected city'. This means that Edinburgh businesses and more than 90% of us who live in the city will have access to high speed broadband, as well as free public wi-fi zones in key parts of the city by 2015.

The outline proposal for the 'Connected Capital' Programme was submitted in February 2012 and a detailed plan will be prepared by July outlining how the money will be spent. In developing the proposals the Council consulted with a range of city partners and we are extremely grateful for the input and support we received. Moving forward we will continue to engage and build on these links to ensure that the programme delivers the best outcomes for the city.

Clipper - Round the World Yacht Race

Edinburgh Inspiring Capital continues its journey around the world arriving in San Francisco after a particularly gruelling leg from Qingdao in China where it caught up with Fresh Catch, a multi-million dollar Scottish Seafood company who presented the crew with a fresh fish platter in celebration. China has become the largest export destination for Scottish seafood in the Far East.

Edinburgh Inspiring Capital has now departed from San Francisco where the crew participated in a number of promotional events including two created in conjunction

with Diageo and Scottish Development International designed to promote Edinburgh and Scotland into the US West Coast markets.

I was sorry that Skipper Gordon Reid had to retire from the race for personal reasons but I am delighted that morale is high under interim skipper Flavio Zamboni as the yacht sailed under the iconic Golden Gate Bridge at the beginning of their final 10,000 miles of the world's longest yacht race. Ahead lies 5,500 miles of racing from California to New York via the Panama Canal. The new skipper – an Italian – has promised the crew better food with him on board!

6 Improving Care

Personalisation and Outcomes Roadshows

The Scottish Government has launched the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Bill. If enacted, the Bill will mean a significant change for how people with health and social care needs are supported. It will introduce the language and terminology of self-directed support into statute and will widen eligibility.

In order to continue the debate on what the new legislation will mean for our workforce in Edinburgh, a series of road shows were held in March for all Health and Social Care staff. These interactive workshops provided an opportunity to get an update on national and local developments; hear about local examples of personalised and outcome based care and support; and to discuss opportunities and challenges in further developing these types of approaches. The road shows were very well received and generated healthy debate. The ideas and issues raised over the three days are now being taken forward as part of the Personalisation and Outcomes Programme.

South East Recovery Hub

The Alcohol and Drug Partnership has launched the South East Recovery Hub; a one-stop-shop for people affected by alcohol or drug use. Located at Craigmillar Castle Road it brings together Council, NHS and voluntary sector services and treatment for people and their families trying to cope with and overcome problems caused by alcohol or drug use. Service users benefit from a single point of access and a standardised assessment and triage process for all alcohol and drug services.

Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme

The Randolph Crescent Hostel, in partnership with NHS Lothian, Access to Industry and The Serenity Café, has celebrated its 250th graduate. Part of the Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (LEAP), this partnership began in 2007 and works with people to address their addiction with drugs and alcohol by providing:

- supported accommodation, housing and financial advice;
- therapeutic counselling and aftercare support;
- access to qualifications, training, college courses and employment; and
- volunteering, social activities, learning programmes and peer support.

For further information contact 0131 456 0221 or 0131 220 1607.

7 Providing a Modern, Effective, integrated Transport Network

Edinburgh Trams

Figures were recently released to the press which updated the costs of the Tram project, which are currently at £592m. Concern has been voiced in sections of the media that the overall total could pass the total of £776m mark, which is a position the City of Edinburgh Council has been quick to play down. The project continues to run to the current schedule and budget and there is no new information to suggest otherwise.

The project is currently going through its busiest and most constructive period to date. The spend profile remains entirely in line with expectations – as does the progress of works along the length of the route from the Airport to St Andrew Square. Less than £1m has been drawn down against the risk allowance (of £34m) so far – with no requirement in the last quarter.

Steady progress is being made on the project. In December the Gogar Depot was handed over to the Council, with an extended test track to the Airport expected to be completed by the end of the year. Meanwhile work at Princes Street, west of Waverley Bridge is due to be complete by June, with Saint Andrew Square expected to be works free by the end of the year. The revised programme is on course to be completed by summer 2014.

Cycling in the City

Research shows that 7.3 per cent of adults in Edinburgh cycle to work - by far the highest in Scotland, and the Council is working to further increase this. Edinburgh is one of six European "Cycling Hero" cities in the Cycling Heroes Advancing sustainable Mobility Practice (CHAMP) project. The project has brought £70,000 to help Edinburgh promote cycling further.

Recently work has begun on two major cycling projects. The Quality Bike Corridor will provide enhanced cycling infrastructure between the University of Edinburgh's King's Buildings and George IV Bridge and the Leith to Portobello project will transform travel by bike between the two places.

Cycling in Edinburgh has become safer with the risk of an accident per journey reduced by around 75 per cent since 1991. However, sadly, there have been two fatalities this year; and the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure convened a meeting recently to discuss how to improve safety for cyclists in Scotland. This was attended by the Head of Transport, Marshall Poulton, and policy makers and campaign groups discussed measures such as 20mph areas and on and off road provision for cyclists.

Bus Lane Camera Enforcement

Automated cameras are now in operation on ten sites across the city's public transport network. Bus lanes are intended to make public transport journey times as quick and as reliable as possible; and now if any breaches of bus lane regulations are recorded on camera, the car-owner will be identified through the number plate records, and will receive notice of a £60 penalty, reduced to £30 if payment is made within 14 days.

8 A Clean, Green, Safe and Environmentally Sustainable City

Zero Waste Volunteers

Additional volunteers are needed at the environmental organisation Changeworks to help Zero Waste Scotland achieve its zero waste ambitions. Being a Zero Waste Volunteer is a great way to share your enthusiasm for helping your local community, and helping people see waste as a resource. You'll receive full training and there is no specific time commitment. For more information contact e-mail zerowastevolunteers@changeworks.org.uk

Environment Action Thursdays

Improving our local environment and green spaces is a key priority for most of our communities, tackled effectively through joint work between Council staff, partners and the local community. During March, Environmental Wardens in the West Neighbourhood Team ran partnership initiatives every Thursday targeting issues including dog fouling, littering, fly tipping and poor presentation of commercial waste. They offered support to the local community, patrolled local littering, fly tipping and dog fouling 'hot spots', and issued enforcement fixed penalty notices.

5th Green Flag for Portobello High

Eco-Schools is an international award programme involving schools in action relating to sustainability. There has been a consistent improvement in participation and progression in the programme across the city. 96% of local authority schools have registered for, and participate in Eco-Schools. The top award, the Green Flag, recognises work to improve their environment and make the wider community aware of environmental issues. 55 local authority schools now have Green Flag Status. In March, Portobello High School became the first secondary school in Scotland to have their Green Flag status renewed for a fifth time. Since their last green flag assessment, staff and pupils have been focussing on litter, food and the environment and sustaining our world. The assessors commended the school on the range of eco activities undertaken around the school. The school has now held Green Flag status for ten years - congratulations to everyone involved! For more information on Eco-Schools visit [ecoschools](http://ecoschools.org.uk).

Climate Change Fund

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Fund supports communities to take action on climate change by working to reduce their carbon emissions. I am pleased to note two recent awards to Edinburgh organisations: £389,000 to Transition Heriot-Watt to further develop climate change activity within the university; and £190,000 to Edinburgh World Heritage to reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions in the World Heritage Site.

9 Providing Safe, Warm and Affordable homes

£10.5million Affordable Homes for Kirkliston

Work has begun on 81 affordable homes in Kirkliston. This has involved the Council working in partnership with the local community and external partners. The homes have come through the Affordable Housing Planning Policy, as part of a planning consent for Barratt, Cala and Walker Group which is delivering more than 600 homes in Kirkliston. A mix of house types is being built, from 2 bed flats to 5 person

houses and terraced cottages. The homes will be owned and managed by Home in Scotland, a Registered Social Landlord. 44 will be for social rent and 37 will be for mid rent.

21 Century Homes Accreditation

Phase 1 of the £25million Gracemount development, which comprises the affordable housing on the site, has been awarded EcoHomes Excellent accreditation. This reflects not only the energy efficiency of the properties but encompasses additional factors such as recycling, transport links and local facilities.

10 Promoting Culture, Leisure and Sport

Edinburgh International Festival

The Edinburgh International Festival launched its 2012 programme to critical acclaim. The Festival will continue to host the greatest and most diverse cultural events from around the world.

To mark its contribution to the celebrations marking the Summer Olympics and the London 2012 Festival, this year's Festival includes a programme of spectacular international theatre at the Royal Highland Centre and collaborations with the World Shakespeare Festival.

Alongside the public programme, the Festival is working on the first ever Edinburgh International Culture Summit in collaboration with the Scottish Government, the UK Government and the British Council. The Summit at the Scottish Parliament has the theme of 'Culture as an International Dialogue'. Culture Ministers from around the world will debate the power and role of culture in forging and fostering international relationships.

Paralympics Experience

Building on the increasing profile of disability sport in Scotland, Edinburgh held its first Paralympic Experience at Forrester / St Augustine's Community Sport Hub campus. Hosted by Edinburgh's Active Schools team, 20 pupils from 16 mainstream primary and high schools participated in the event, alongside pupils from East, West and Mid Lothian. Pupils from mainstream schools with a physical disability or sensory impairment were invited to participate in Paralympic sports delivered by local clubs. Sports included boccia, wheelchair basketball, football, athletics, wheelchair tennis and badminton. With the inspirational Paralympic Games just round the corner, this event provided the young people with opportunities to experience new sports they might enjoy and even excel in. Having local clubs deliver the activities gives young people the opportunity to take the sports further if they wish. The Paralympic Experience also promoted the benefits of physical activity and the positive effect it can have on quality of life.

Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon

The inaugural Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon took place in Edinburgh on Sunday 15 April. The event, the first in an intended Rock 'n' Roll series to be held in Europe, saw more than 5,000 people from 35 countries run through the streets of Edinburgh to Holyrood Park. Edinburgh hosts many events throughout the year, but nothing quite like this, which featured performances by live bands at each mile marker to

encourage the runners and entertain the spectators. Well done to all the runners who completed the route.

Edinburgh Medal

At an event in the City Chambers on 10 April, the 2012 Edinburgh Medal address was delivered by this year's recipient, Dr James Hansen. Dr Hansen of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and an adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University and at Columbia's Earth Institute.

Dr Hansen described himself as an unlikely and reluctant activist but made an impassioned call for help in making people and governments aware of the climate change agenda. Showing images of his grandchildren, Dr Hansen said, "It is immoral for us to leave to the next generation a planet whose climate is spiralling out of control."

Dr Hansen is the 24th winner of the Edinburgh Medal, presented to exceptional individuals whose professional achievements in science and technology are judged of significance to the understanding and well-being of humanity.

11 Working with Communities

Armed Forces Community Covenant

On behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership on 12 March, I was delighted to sign up to a covenant to build stronger relations between the military and civilian communities in Edinburgh. The Covenant pledges that a range of city organisations will support the armed forces community in accessing local services, with service personnel encouraged to do what they can to integrate military and civilian communities.

The UK Government launched the Covenant in May last year, including the creation of a new grant scheme to fund projects that will support these ties.

Meet the Funders

Meet the Funders events put groups and projects in touch with possible sources of funding. 311 people attended the event on 26 March in the City Chambers. Twenty-one funding bodies were there including the Voluntary Action Fund, WREN, and Age Scotland. I look forward to projects taking shape. The next Meet the Funders event will be in September.

Community Roadshows

The West Neighbourhood Community Safety team have been out and about in partnership with the Police with a programme of road shows in Carrick Knowe, Drumbrae Library Hub and East Craigs. The roadshows included high visibility patrols by Wardens and Police and promotion of the services delivered by the West Neighbourhood Office.

12 Developing our Workforce

Investors in People Gold Status

In my March report, I advised that the Council had become the first local authority in Scotland to receive Investors in People Gold Status. I was therefore delighted to receive, on behalf of the Council, an IiP Gold Status plaque from Linda Urquhart, OBE, Chairman of IiP Scotland.

During the presentation, Linda confirmed again that IiP Gold Status demonstrates the Council is operating at the very highest levels of people management practices. Thanks to everyone involved.

Domestic Abuse Policy

Leading domestic abuse charities [Refuge](#) and [Respect](#) have awarded the Council the 2011 Adoption of Best Practice Award for the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy for best practice in increasing the safety and welfare of employees in relation to domestic abuse.

Customer Service Excellence Accreditation

Congratulations to Planning and Building Standards which successfully achieved Customer Service Excellence accreditation in April. This success is the culmination of work over a number of years to improve and develop the service. The Assessors were pleased with how the service engages with customers and how it enhances the customer experience based on insight and understanding. Customer Service Excellence is the national standard for delivering excellent customer focused services.

Planning and Building Standards Services, which prepares development plans, processes planning applications and issues building warrants, Financial Services and the Customer Contact Centre have achieved Customer Service Excellence accreditation. This achievement is an important step towards our target of 60% of Council services accredited by 2012. Services in Children and Families and Health and Social Care are also currently working towards full accreditation.

13 It will be an Edinburgh winner

Well done to both Hearts and Hibs for reaching the Scottish Cup Final. The last all-Edinburgh Cup Final was in 1896, so it has been a long wait for this to happen again. I know which team I want to win but, either way, it is great news for Edinburgh.

14 Farewell and Thanks

This is my last report as Leader of the 2007-2012 coalition administration of the City of Edinburgh Council. It has been a very challenging five years but I remain optimistic for the future of this great city.

During the five years, I have met hundreds of interesting, dedicated individuals from all walks of life and have worked in partnership with many people and organisations. I would like to thank them all for being so willing to share their knowledge, views and experiences.

An liP Gold Award confirms what I know – that we have great employees in the City of Edinburgh Council. Thanks to all of you at every level in the organisation for what you do, often unseen and unacknowledged, for the city and its residents.

As always, at election time, there are councillors from all parties who have decided not to stand again for election. There may also be those who will not return as councillors through no choice of their own. I wish all of you well for the future and thank you for your contribution to the Council.

Cllr Jenny Dawe
Leader City of Edinburgh Council

Appendix

1

School	Pupils	Performance
St Francis Primary	18 x P3	Fantastic Mr Fox
Pentland Primary	20 x P7	Dance: Jitterbug linked to WW11 topic
Wester Hailes Education Centre	11 x S3	Dance/Drama (Standard Grade): the Seven Deadly Sins
South Morningside Primary	27 x P4	Drama: Greyfriar's Bobby
Prestonfield Primary	14 x P7	Dance/Song/Drama: The Lion King
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School	13 x P4-7	Song: The Skye Boat Song
Dance Projects at Broughton High School	3 x Higher Dance	Dance: jazz and contemporary solos choreographed by the pupils
Niddriemill Primary	2 aged 8 and 10	Poetry: The Rights of Woman and Scots Wha' Hae
Balerno High School	18 aged between 12 - 15	Dance: Hip Hop/Fusion/Commercial dance
James Gillespie's High School	22 x S1 - S5	Music: Gaelic Vocal Group and accordion group Pipe Band