

Committee Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2012/2013

Meeting 4 – Thursday, 23 August 2012

Edinburgh, 23 August 2012 – At a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council.

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Donald Wilson

COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken
Robert C Aldridge
Norma Austin Hart
Nigel Bagshaw
Jeremy R Balfour
Gavin Barrie
Angela Blacklock
Chas Booth
Mike Bridgman
Deidre Brock
Steve Burgess
Andrew Burns
Ronald Cairns
Steve Cardownie
Maggie Chapman
Maureen M Child
Bill Cook
Nick Cook
Gavin Corbett
Cammy Day
Denis C Dixon
Karen Doran
Paul G Edie
Catherine Fullerton
Nick Gardner
Paul Godzik
Joan Griffiths
Ricky Henderson

Dominic R C Heslop
Lesley Hinds
Sandy Howat
Allan G Jackson
Karen Keil
David Key
Richard Lewis
Alex Lunn
Melanie Main
Mark McInnes
Adam McVey
Eric Milligan
Joanna Mowat
Gordon J Munro
Jim Orr
Lindsay Paterson
Ian Perry
Alasdair Rankin
Vicki Redpath
Cameron Rose
Frank Ross
Jason G Rust
Alastair Shields
Stefan Tymkewycz
David Walker
Iain Whyte
Norman Work

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1 Questions

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

2 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council meeting of 28 June 2012 as a correct record.

3 Appointments

The Council was invited to fill vacancies on an outside body and the Regulatory Committee and to nominate members to COSLA Executive Groups.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Keil to the Board of Governors of the Dean Orphanage and Cauvin's Trust.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Redpath to the Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor Godzik.
- 3) To appoint members to COSLA Executive Groups as follows:

Health and Well-being	Councillor Ricky Henderson
Education, Children and Young People	Councillor Godzik
Community, Well-being and Safety	Councillor Day
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	Councillor Ross
Resources and Capacity	Councillor Rankin
Strategic Human Resource Management	Councillor Barrie

(References – Acts of Council No 8 of 17 May, No 2 of 24 May and No 4 of 28 June 2012; reports no CEC/25/12-13/CG and CEC/35/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

4 Leader's Report

The Leader presented his report to the Council.

The Leader commented on:

- Proposal to award Sir Chris Hoy the Freedom of the City following his success at the 2012 London Olympics and an event to honour Olympic and Paralympic participants
- Co-operative Edinburgh event in the City Chambers on 7 September 2012
- Launch of the Council's Economic Strategy on 12 September 2012.

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Balfour	- Congratulations to Sir Chris Hoy and GB Olympic Team; best wishes to Paralympics Team
	- Capital Coalition Pledges – accountability
Councillor Tymkewycz	- Edinburgh Tram Project – confidence in 2014 delivery date
Councillor Burgess	- Property Repairs Service – governance arrangements
Councillor Cardownie	- Edinburgh Tram Project – support for completion of line to St Andrew Square
Councillor Aitken	- Best wishes to Edinburgh S5 and S6 pupil volunteers at the Paralympic Games

(Reference – report no CEC/34/12-13/L by the Leader, submitted.)

5 Revenue Monitoring 2011/12 – Outturn

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred to the Council recommendations arising from the outturn position of the Council's revenue budget, based on the 2011/12 unaudited financial statements.

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Decision

- 1) To approve the set aside of the in-year surplus of £0.361m, together with the net monies of £7.342m returned from the review of provisions previously set aside and transferred to the Council Priorities Fund.
- 2) To use £1.1m from the Council Priorities Fund for school maintenance works in 2012/13 and up to £0.8m from the Insurance Fund for the replacement of the roof at Kaimes Special School.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 31 July 2012 (item 5); report no CEC/21/12-13/FARC by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

6 Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre, Edinburgh – Motion

The Finance and Resources Committee had recommended that the Council approve prudential borrowing for the development of suitable access between the Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre and the Westside Plaza Shopping Centre.

Decision

To approve prudential borrowing on the basis that the occupying services identified a revenue budget to meet the £51k annual ongoing costs.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 31 July 2012 (item 27); report no CEC/22/12-13/FARC by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

7 Development Management Sub-Committee: Review of Procedures

The Planning Committee had recommended that the Council approve an alteration of procedures on ward members speaking on planning applications before the Development Management Sub-Committee.

Motion

- 1) To amend Planning Committee procedures to ensure that ward members were not heard in connection with planning applications before the Development Management Sub-Committee, other than in circumstances where equal opportunity was afforded to applicants and other parties to make representations.

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- 2) To further amend procedures, in line with Option Two in the report by the Director of Services for Communities, to allow a ward member, in circumstances that afforded equal opportunity to applicants and other parties to make representations, to make a request for the Development Management Sub-Committee to hold a hearing on a planning application.
- 3) To make representations to the Scottish Government and the Standards Commission to review the Councillors Code of Conduct.
- 4) To agree that the changes to procedure be reviewed by the Planning Committee in six months time.
- 5) Where required, to refer any adjustments to delegated authority or Standing Orders required as a result of the Committee's recommendation, to full Council for approval.

- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Howat.

Amendment

- 1) To note with concern that the Code of Conduct for Councillors (3rd edition, December 2010) appeared to preclude councillors from making representation in person to the Development Management Committee on local applications.
- 2) To consider this to be an inappropriate restriction on the democratic ability of the elected Councillors to represent their constituents, and that consequential changes in procedure were likely to lead to a lack of transparency and administrative delay in dealing with applications.
- 3) To instruct that a cross party meeting be sought with the Standards Commission and representatives from the Scottish Government with a view to reversing the relevant change in the Code, and until this time, given the lack of clarity in the Code, to continue to allow local Councillor representation at the Development Management Sub Committee.
- 4) To agree that changes to procedure be reviewed by full Council in six months time.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor McInnes.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	36 votes
For the amendment	-	20 votes

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Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Perry.

(References – Planning Committee 9 August 2012 (item 7); report no CEC/23/12-13/PL by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

8 Governance Review

A Governance Review had been undertaken to ensure that the Council's political, operational, strategic and programme governance arrangements were transparent, accountable, efficient and modern. The review aimed to deliver a comprehensive framework for all aspects of governance, strategy and transformation by the end of 2012.

The Council considered a suite of reports which provided:

- an update on progress made on political management arrangements;
- an outline of the scope and objectives of the current review of the Council's governance arrangements;
- a progress update on proposals for development of a strategic change programme;
- an outline of the Capital Coalition pledges with an overview of arrangements for delivery and performance reporting; and
- details of the benefits and related costs of introducing webcasting of Council meetings in response to a motion by former Councillor Johnstone, along with an update on other ICT developments supporting increased accountability and public participation for Council and Committee meetings.

Decision

Governance Review

- 1) To note:
 - a) the scope and objectives of the Governance Review.
 - b) the progress in each element of the review and the proposed arrangements for progress reporting.

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- c) the proposed revised political management arrangements and suite of supporting documentation as detailed in the appendices to report no CEC/30/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance.
 - d) the changes to the Pension Fund Governance framework as detailed in report no CEC/31/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance.
 - e) the consultation process on governance arrangements that had taken place over the summer and the submissions made by opposition groups and other Councillors to this process.
 - f) that no final decisions would be taken on any element of the review until the Council meeting on 20 September 2012 which would reflect the consultation response from elected members as provided for in paragraph 2.17 of the report no CEC/28/12-13/CE by the Chief Executive.
 - g) that consultation on the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, Financial Regulations and Contracts Standing Orders would commence on 27 August 2012.
 - h) that further reports would be submitted to the Council meeting on 20 September 2012 for determination and decision.
- 2) To agree the Capital Coalition Pledges and note the arrangements for delivery and reporting.
 - 3) To continue proposals for new governance arrangements for the Council until the meeting on 20 September 2012.
 - 4) However, notwithstanding this continuation, to agree the following points and to amend the papers accordingly:
 - Substitution of members to be permitted on all Council Committees (subject to law or agreed training requirements).
 - If the new structure is agreed, where there is currently a choice of Committee size, that 15 members be agreed for these Committees.
 - One quarter of the voting members of any Committee can require a Committee decision to be referred to full Council, as full Council meetings remain the overall decision-making power of the Council.
 - To acknowledge that the above points were not an endorsement of the proposals but provided direction for ongoing discussions.

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ICT Developments

- 5) To note the ICT developments in relation to both Council and Committee meetings.
- 6) To note the progress with webcasting Council meetings and to progress to live transmission in Autumn 2012 at the earliest, subject to successful completion of user acceptance testing and appropriate training being provided to all members and relevant officers.
- 7) To approve the Webcasting Protocol as detailed in the appendix to report no CEC/33/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance and its application at Council meetings, commencing in Autumn 2012.
- 8) To note that a report would be provided at the end of the pilot phase of the project making further recommendations on the future scope and application of webcasting.

(References – Acts of Council No 2 of 30 June 2011 and No 8 of 17 May 2012 (reconvened on 24 May 2012); reports no CEC/28/12-13/CE by the Chief Executive, nos CEC/29/12-13/CG, CEC/30/12-13/CG, CEC/31/12-13/CG and CEC/33/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

9 Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan

Approval was sought for the Lothian Joint Health Protection Plan 2012-2014 which had been produced by Lothian Health's Department of Public Health Medicine in collaboration with Environmental Health Services of the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils as required by the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008.

Decision

- 1) To adopt the Lothian Joint Public Health Protection Plan 2012-2014 on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 2) To report back to the Council or the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee no later than October 2012 on lessons learned from the 2012 Legionella outbreak and on measures to ensure that there could be no recurrence of the incident with such tragic consequences.

(Reference – report no CEC/20/12-13/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

10 Treasury Management: Annual Report 2011/12

Treasury Management activity undertaken and the performance of the Council's Treasury function during 2011/12 were detailed.

Decision

- 1) To note the Annual Report on Treasury Management for 2011/12.
- 2) To congratulate the Treasury Team for their achievements in 2011/12.
- 3) To refer the report by the Director of Corporate Governance to the Finance and Resources Committee for its scrutiny.
- 4) To note the need to provide contextual information which allowed members of the Finance and Resources Committee to come to a judgement as to the effectiveness of the performance of the Treasury Management function.

(Reference – report no CEC/24/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

11 Managing Attendance Procedure – Local Agreement

Approval was sought for the implementation of a local collective agreement on a new Managing Attendance Procedure that had been reached with the Trade Union Side. The Procedure's proposal implementation date was Monday, 3 September 2012.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Managing Attendance Procedure had been confirmed as a local collective agreement by the Trade Union Side (including teachers).
- 2) To approve the implementation date of 3 September 2012.

(References – Act of Council No 7 of 2 February 2012; report no CEC/27/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

12 Sir Chris Hoy – Freedom of the City – Motion by Councillor Cardownie

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

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“The City of Edinburgh Council resolves to confer the Freedom of the City on Sir Chris Hoy, in recognition of his success in becoming Great Britain’s greatest Olympian at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Sir Chris is already a recipient of the Edinburgh Award, which honours outstanding individuals who have made a positive impact on the city and gained national and international recognition for Edinburgh, but his further success at this year’s Olympic Games is deserving of the most prestigious honour that the city can bestow. The Council instructs the Chief Executive to report back within one cycle on proposals for a suitable award ceremony.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Cardownie.

13 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – Motion by the Lord Provost and Depute Convener Brock

The following motion by the Lord Provost and Depute Convener Brock was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

- congratulates all members of Team GB on their achievements at the London 2012 Olympic Games - the best British Olympic performance in over a century
- also recognises the contribution of the volunteers, coaches, officials, friends and families who have all played a part in the success of Team GB
- further notes that the Paralympic Games will commence in London on 29 August 2012 and extends its best wishes to all members of the GB Paralympics team
- agrees to hold a civic reception, to acknowledge and honour the collective 2012 Olympic achievements of all participants connected with Edinburgh who contributed to this success.

Council further:

- notes the high public profile this success has given to sport and the enormous amount of public good will it has generated

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- and therefore, calls for a report that outlines ways of:
 - capitalising on the Olympic feel-good factor to promote greater participation in sport and, in particular
 - optimising the participation and performance of Edinburgh-based athletes in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.”

Decision

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost and Depute Convener Brock and add:

“To further resolve to enter into discussion with the representatives of the Olympic and Paralympic teams on holding a parade as soon as possible.”

14 Upgrade of Electricity Supply in Oxgangs – Motion by Councillor Rust

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

Council

- “1) Notes Scottish Power's decision to upgrade the electricity supply to Oxgangs coincided with the Council's programme of kitchen and bathroom refurbishment for its properties there.
- 2) Further notes
 - (i) the kitchen and bathroom work is now largely complete, but the existing electricity supply is not sufficient to allow for the use of cookers and other white goods as well as the newly installed electric showers;
 - (ii) Scottish Power originally advised that the work would take a few weeks, but it has continued for several months and the new showers remain disconnected and additionally Scottish Power has to date given no indication as to when the work for the odd-numbered properties at Oxgangs Drive will be upgraded; and
 - (iii) the potential increase in costs to the Housing Revenue Account because of the contractors [Edinburgh Building Services] having to return to connect into the fuse box and check showers before use.

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- 3) Understands that Council cannot exercise influence over a statutory body such as Scottish Power, but (a) requests that the Convener of Health Social Care and Housing write to Scottish Power to outline Council's frustration and concerns regarding the lack of progress in this matter and seek a firm timetable for work to be undertaken, and (b) calls for a report on how the concordat signed in 2007 between the Council and public utilities (Edinburgh Road Works Ahead Agreement) may be replicated in respect of public utility work affecting Council tenanted properties to ensure a more co-ordinated and efficient approach."

Letters in support of the motion had been received from the Oxfords Central Residents' Association and the Edinburgh Tenants' Federation.

Councillor Rust withdrew his motion.

(References – letters from Oxfords Central Residents' Association and Edinburgh Tenants' Federation, submitted.)

15 Nari Kallyan Shangho – 25th Anniversary – Motion by Councillor Godzik

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

"That the Council congratulates the work of Nari Kallyan Shangho (NKS) as it celebrates 25 years serving the South Asian community in Edinburgh.

The project was initiated by Bangladeshi women in 1987 to serve their local Bangladeshi community in Dalry Road. NKS is now based in Tollcross and has expanded to become a prime contact for South Asian families from across Edinburgh. Over 500 service users are benefiting from a range of services offered such as advice and information, outreach and befriending service, health education, training and courses, English as a Second Language, culture sensitive childcare, Scottish Art Culture and Heritage project, International Parents Forum, mother and toddler group, lunch club for elderly South Asian women and other educational as well as recreational activities.

Council requests that the Lord Provost mark the NKS silver anniversary in an appropriate manner."

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

16 The Sir Chris Hoy Cycle Network: A Golden Legacy for Edinburgh – Motion by Councillor Booth

“Council:

- 1) Congratulates Sir Chris Hoy on becoming Britain’s most successful Olympic athlete with six gold medals in addition to his eleven World Championship titles;
- 2) Believes that his success will act as an inspiration to would-be Olympians throughout Scotland and the world;
- 3) Notes the calls from Spokes, Pedal on Parliament, the Cyclists’ Touring Club and others that in order to honour Sir Chris’ success and build a lasting legacy for cycling, the Sir Chris Hoy cycle network should be developed, which would provide a connected network of segregated on-road cycle lanes; traffic-free paths and routes on less-trafficked roads to enable safe and pleasant cycling trips to be made throughout the city and beyond;
- 4) Further notes that the top priority for Leithers who participated in the ‘Vision for Leith Walk’ consultation exercise run by Leith Open Space and Greener Leith earlier this year was, “Invest in cycling and walking including separated cycle lanes”;
- 5) Agrees that the creation of a city-wide network of safe cycling routes would boost physical activity; help to tackle rising rates of obesity; reduce traffic congestion and cut air pollution and would be a positive lasting legacy for the city;
- 6) Agrees that, subject to the successful conclusion of feasibility work and further public consultation, the first new section of the Sir Chris Hoy cycle network could be a segregated cycle route on Leith Walk;
- 7) Therefore resolves that by the end of 2012, in consultation with stakeholders, the Council will have set a target for the number of miles of on-road segregated cycle route in the city which are connected to traffic-free paths and routes on less-trafficked roads to form the Sir Chris Hoy cycle network, and that by the start of the next Olympic games in 2016, the city will have met that target, along with an interim target also to be set in consultation with stakeholders before the end of 2012, and which is to be met by the start of the next Commonwealth Games in 2014;

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- 8) Further resolves to convene a meeting before the end of 2012 and to invite representatives of Spokes, Pedal on Parliament, Cyclists' Touring Club, Cycling Scotland, Sustrans, Greener Leith and any other relevant stakeholders (this group of stakeholders could be the existing Edinburgh Cycle Forum) to set a target for the number of miles of on-road segregated cycle route in the city which are connected to traffic-free paths and routes on less-trafficked roads, and develop an action plan for delivering the Sir Chris Hoy cycle network;
- 9) Further resolves that the delivery of the Sir Chris Hoy cycle route will be monitored by the stakeholder group mentioned in paragraph 8) above and that an annual update on progress will be published in collaboration with that stakeholder group.

Decision

- 1) To accept paragraphs 1 and 2 of the motion and amend paragraph 3 to read:

“Notes the calls from Spokes, Pedal on Parliament, the Cyclists' Touring Club and others to honour Sir Chris' success and build a lasting legacy for cycling.”
- 2) To agree, in principle, that the creation of a city-wide network of safe cycling routes would boost physical activity; help to tackle rising rates of obesity; reduce traffic congestion and cut air pollution and would be a positive lasting legacy for the city.
- 3) To note however that the creation of such a network would need to overcome considerable technical and logistical challenges.
- 4) Therefore, to remit the proposal for a Sir Chris Hoy cycle network to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee who are asked to bring forward a report, prepared in close consultation with Spokes, Pedal on Parliament, Greener Leith and any other relevant stakeholders, within one cycle to examine the feasibility of a lasting legacy for cycling in Edinburgh.

17 Support for a Bid for Contalmaison to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site – Motion by the Lord Provost

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

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“This Council agrees to support the bid by the Mayor and people of Contalmaison in the Somme, in their application to UNESCO to declare the ground at Contalmaison a World Heritage Site in order to protect it and the memorials located there, in perpetuity, in honour of the French and Scottish servicemen who fought and died there. The Council particularly remembers the men of the 15th and 16th Battalions of the Royal Scots who lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916. These Battalions have special significance to the city as they were raised by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh (15th Battalion) and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George McCrae (16th Battalion) and contained a large number of Edinburgh people whose graves are on the site.”

Decision

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

Appendix
(As referred to in Act of Council No 1 of 23 August 2012)

QUESTION NO 1

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

Question (1) Has the “brief review” of “Outlook” referred to by the Council Leader in local media on 11 June commenced?

Answer (1) Yes.

Officers in the Communications Service, supported by Business Intelligence, under Tom Little, Head of Policy & Public Affairs are looking at a range of ways to improve the way we provide information to, and hold dialogue with, stakeholders and the community.

Outlook is part of this review which started in early June 2012 and will be reported to October Full Council.

Question (2) Who is undertaking the “brief review” and what is their remit?

Answer (2) As above.

Question (3) Has any funding been committed to this “brief review”?

Answer (3) There is no specific funding for the review, which is being carried out by officers under current budgets and working hours.

Question (4) When will the “brief review” be reported to Council?

Answer (4) As above.

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QUESTION NO 2

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

From 2009 to date:

Question

- (1)** In what sectors of City of Edinburgh Council are apprenticeship opportunities available?

Answer

- (1)** We are planning to recruit an additional 50 apprentices in the financial year 2012/13. The areas already identified, and recruitment plans in place for, are as follows:

- Cooking (Hospitality)
- Social Care (Elderly Care)
- Social Care (Disability)
- HGV Mechanic
- Business Administration
- Childcare
- Arborist (Forestry)
- Storeperson
- Roadworkers

This is not a complete list, we are awaiting confirmation from a number of services on final occupational areas and numbers. (25 places have been confirmed)

We also have apprentices currently in year 1, 2, 3 or 4 for their respective apprenticeship and these are in the following areas:

- Business Admin
- Social Care (Elderly Care)
- Social Care (Disability)
- Mechanical Engineering
- Joinery
- Electrical Engineering
- Gas Engineering
- Plumbing
- Horticultural Engineering
- Amenity Horticulture
- Youth Work

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- Creative Industries
- Childcare
- Sports Development
- Outdoor Learning
- Arborist (Forestry)

Question (2) How many apprenticeships are offered (a) directly by the Council and (b) by any Council arms-length companies?

Answer (2) (a) We currently have 70 apprentices in the 1st 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of their apprenticeship programme. The majority are in 1st year. We intend to recruit an additional 50 in 2012/13

(b) We do not keep details of arms length companies apprentice numbers.

Question (3) How many apprentices have gone on to take up full-time employment with the Council?

Answer (3) All of the 54 people who completed their apprenticeship over the 4 year period have secured full-time posts with the Council.

2009 – 17 Apprentices
2010 – 10 Apprentices
2011 – 15 Apprentices
2012 – 12 Apprentices

Question (4) How many apprentices have not completed an apprenticeship started with City of Edinburgh Council?

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Answer (4) 5 apprentices did not complete an apprenticeship in the period stated.

These apprentices were employed as follows and the reasons for leaving are given.

- City Development Administration – resigned, no reason given but possibly linked to forthcoming disciplinary.
- Parks and Greenspaces Horticulture Engineer – Resigned, apprenticeship offered by another company
- Edinburgh Building Services Construction – Disciplinary resulting in termination of apprenticeship
- Health and Social Care Cook – resigned within 2 weeks of starting for personal reasons
- Edinburgh Building Services – Construction, resigned no reason given but may be connected with an impending skills test.

Question (5) What steps does the Council take to promote apprenticeship opportunities?

Answer (5) The Council works closely with Skills Development Scotland (the Careers Service) and advertises on myjobscotland.gov.uk/edinburgh. We also raise awareness of vacancies by e-mailing Edinburgh Schools and informing the Joined up for Jobs Community who provide employment and employability support to school leavers in Edinburgh. We also provide additional support to school leavers who may require adaptations to the recruitment process e.g. because they have a disability. School leavers, their parents or others who enquire are advised to register for myjobscotland and set up an “alert” which then e-mails them when an apprentice vacancy is posted.

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QUESTION NO 3

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

Question (1) Approximately how much green open space is maintained overall in each Neighbourhood area of the city, including defined parks, play parks, amenity areas and land maintained on the Housing Revenue Account?

Answer (1) City Centre/Leith - 960,550m²
East - 3,000,697m²
North - 1,616,617m²
South - 2,692,370m²
South-West - 3,124,644m²
West - 3,985,522m²

Question (2) To what extent is the Land Asset Register currently held by the Council up-to-date in recording management data on the volume of such items as shrub beds, linear metres of hedges, square metres of hard standing areas requiring weed control etc?

Answer (2) This information is held by the Parks & Greenspace Division within Services for Communities, which has a map detailing the location and form of maintenance of the 27 landscape types that make up the Council's greenspace estate. This is very up-to-date following a digital re-mapping of the estate over the last 18 months as part of the *imProve it* programme.

This level of detail is not recorded in the Council's Land Asset Register.

Question (3) How many (a) permanent staff and (b) seasonal staff are employed in each Neighbourhood area in relation to grounds maintenance/grass-cutting?

Answer (3) See appendix to this answer.

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In addition to staff in Neighbourhoods there are approximately 25 staff from Specialist Grounds Maintenance who carry out grass cutting on tractor runs across the city on the larger areas of standard amenity grass and in the 9 premier parks.

As part of the *imProve it* Programme we are carrying out a zero based resourcing exercise for open space maintenance. This involves assessing all the landscape types in the Council's green space estate using the digital asset map, determining the maintenance schedules required to deliver the Landscape Quality Standards and quantifying the resources (staff and equipment) needed in each Neighbourhood.

This exercise should be completed by October 2012 and may lead to a re-distribution of ground maintenance resources across the six neighbourhoods.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Question | (4) How many complaints/concerns regarding grounds maintenance/grass-cutting have been reported this year in connection with the South West Neighbourhood area? |
| Answer | (4) 570 |
| Question | (5) How are service standards regarding grounds maintenance compared with other local authorities? |
| Answer | (5) Information on how we compare to other local authorities in terms of the quality of our ground maintenance is not available as most other Councils don't have any standards - just frequency specifications for grass cutting etc. |

However, Edinburgh has established a set of Landscape Quality Standards (LQS) that enable us to undertake a monthly random-assessment of the 15,880 landscape features that combine to make up our Greenspace Estate. These standards were established due to a lack of rigorous methodology existing elsewhere.

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**Supplementary
Question**

I am sure the Convener would recognise that there have been quite a large number of complaints, 570 recorded, and I welcome the fact that this exercise and reviewing the resourcing will be completed by October and it is just to seek reassurance that the Convener will liaise closely with the Neighbourhood Partnerships in relation to this and any redistribution.

**Supplementary
Question**

I am aware that I have had e-mails as I am sure other Councillors have. You can always blame the weather but I think we need to look and see whether there is a real problem. There is always an issue about grass cutting on paths etc where people can slide and I have asked the officials to look at that issue and whether there is some way that we can get better with our open maintenance and maintenance within our open spaces. I have asked for a briefing on just where we are and whether there are any improvements and as obviously part of the budget process I am sure there may well be some proposals for that. I would be happy if you would think it would be useful, Councillor Rust, at the briefing if you want to open it up to other Councillors who have an interest to come along and feed into that if that was helpful.

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Appendix

Neighbourhood	City Centre /Leith	West	S/West	North	South	East	Total
Staff	7	17	25	18	20	20	107
Temp/Agency	2	4	0	5	2	0	13
Total	9	21	25	23	22	20	120

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QUESTION NO 4

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

- Question** (1) To ask how many advance stop lines (ASLs) have been installed, both as a number and as a proportion of road junctions.
- Answer** (1) There are currently approximately 490 ASLs installed in the City of Edinburgh Council area. This equates to ASLs on around 65% of the city's signal controlled junction arms. Approximately 82% of signal controlled junctions in the city have an ASL on at least one junction arm (it is not permitted to install ASLs at non-traffic signal controlled junctions).
- Question** (2) To ask how many ASLs have double yellow lines, both as a number and as a proportion of all ASLs.
- Answer** (2) This level of detail is not available in relation to every junction in the city. However, double yellow line restrictions are in place at the vast majority of the city's traffic signal controlled junctions and in most cases these extend to protect the ASLs on each of the junction arms.
- Question** (3) To ask what steps are being taken, either by the Council or in conjunction with Lothian and Borders Police, to enforce ASLs.
- Answer** (3) The Council, Lothian and Borders Police and other partners, under the "Streets Ahead - Drive Safe, Cycle Safe" campaign undertook a series of roadshows across the city in May 2012, to educate cyclists and motorists on the appropriate behaviours required by law at traffic lights and advanced stop lines.

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Many motorists assume that the advanced stop line for cyclists is purely advisory; the Drive Safe, Cycle Safe campaign seeks to get the message out that drivers risk both a £60 fine and three points on their licence if they do not obey the first stop line. Equally cyclists will also be fined £30 for jumping the red light.

Complementing an advertising campaign, the Police operated along 'The Bridges' corridor to educate road users prior to enforcement. In one week the police stopped and spoke to 106 motorists and 32 cyclists.

The second phase of the campaign concerns ASL enforcement, which commenced four weeks after the start of the educational campaign in June 2012, and involves at least 6 road policing officers operating one day each week until November 2012.

The Council parking attendants can enforce ASLs if vehicles park on double yellow lines at signalised junctions, where ASLs are present. The result would be a £60 fine with the vehicle being authorised for removal.

**Supplementary
Question**

I thank the Convener for her answer. Can she tell me, given that the Council does not know how many of their advanced stop lines have double yellows, given that advanced stop lines without double yellows are very difficult to enforce, and given that no penalties have been issued to motorists for encroaching on double yellows, what reassurance can she offer to Edinburgh cyclists that cycling facilities are there for the encouragement of cycling and that robust actions will be taken against transgressors?

**Supplementary
Answer**

As you will see from the answer Councillor Booth, we are conducting an education process at the moment as probably the majority of motorists and cyclists are unaware about the fines for encroaching in that box. I think on the back of buses there has been an education programme. That is the first process, warning people and taking them aside and warning them. You will be aware from the answer the next process is to then fine people and that is what we will be trying to do because we recognise the importance of the safety of cyclists and what the rules and regulations are so we are very aware of what we are going to do.

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My understanding is if you want you can do it but it will cost resources for someone to go round and actually find out how many double yellow lines we have. Maybe Councillor Booth if you perhaps want to do a bit, maybe you could do that in your own area but I will find out how much it would be in officers' time to be able to identify that because it would be useful but there's a balance of the resources that we need to spend to do that and I can get back in touch with you.

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QUESTION NO 5

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

Question

To ask the Convener of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee, what measures are being taken to deal with the expected increase in demand on local recycling centres, as a result of the move to alternate weekly collections of green bins due to start in September.

Answer

The introduction of managed weekly collections will be accompanied by

- expanding kerbside recycling capacity by providing householders with additional red and blue boxes where demand exists
- identifying potential sites for additional communal recycling points in areas that require additional local recycling capacity.

In addition, the city's Community Recycling Centres have spare capacity to deal with any increased demand. Staff at the centres have been briefed on the changes to enable them to advise and support members of the public with recycling.

We are also looking at the best way to ensure that future recycling services for residents are as simple as possible and also at ways of possibly reducing the number of bins/containers which each household requires.

**Supplementary
Question**

I would like to thank Councillor Hinds for helping to keep James Gillespie's High School recycling point open until a new site is found. There's been full consultation and with regard to the consultation, would Councillor Hinds ensure that the residents of Tollcross who use the Gillespie's site will be included in the consultation?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

You will be aware I'm sure, like the other three Councillors I assured, that the Bruntsfield one is always a difficult balance of how you manage to provide recycling in local areas, as many as you can, but also next to residential areas it can have an effect on the environment as you will be aware. I think it is, to be honest, going to be very difficult to find a replacement for James Gillespie's. We've got some time to look at that and I give an assurance that there will be consultation and I would welcome from the four elected members, if they've got any other suggestions on people who should be consulted. I think the difficulty with the Bruntsfield one was it was on the boundary between two community councils and the consultation, in my view, wasn't carried out correctly so I can give an assurance to do that but I would really like the input of the four Councillors to ensure that happens.

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Question submitted in terms of Standing Order 25(2)

QUESTION NO 6

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

Question

In relation to report 8.1 a on the Capital Coalition Pledges to ask the Leader of the Council how many of these pledges come from the Labour Manifesto and how many from the SNP manifesto?

Answer

The Capital Coalition agreement was constructed as a result of a thorough process of discussion and negotiation. In the best interests of the City of Edinburgh, the final Contract with the Capital draws together commitments from both SNP and Labour but also includes policy initiatives from other parties.

**Supplementary
Question**

It's not rocket science. I asked for some straight-forward figures. How many of the Capital Coalition pledges were in the SNP manifesto and how many were in the Labour manifesto? Could the Convener or the Leader of the Council please provide me with those figures? If you can't do it today, can you provide them in writing at the earliest opportunity?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I'm not going to provide those figures. If Councillor Edie wants to work it out he can work it out himself. I know he is trying to encourage the SNP and Labour Groups to engage in a bit of unnecessary tribalism. Well, they're not going to do it. The only tribalism I'm going to be involved in the next five years is being tribal about what's good for Edinburgh.

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Question submitted in terms of Standing Order 25(2)

QUESTION NO 7

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

Question

Noting report 8.1 (a) on the Capital Coalition Pledges regarding turning council Care Homes into cooperatives and noting that those care homes are vulnerable people's places of residence and noting that there is no description whatsoever of the proposals under pledge 37 of these potentially sweeping changes when will you explain to the residents what you mean?

Answer

May I refer Councillor Edie to my answer provided at Council on 28 June 2012 (copy attached as an appendix) when I advised him that in respect of care services, including care homes, we will open discussions with service users, staff and providers about the feasibility of developing co-operative models. I also advised that initial discussions are at an early stage.

**Supplementary
Question**

I'm looking again at this non answer and it clearly shows that the Convener has simply not got a clue what this pledge means. If that is not the case, for the sake of the residents of our care homes, could he please clarify what this proposal in the Coalition pledge means?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Can I reassure Councillor Edie that, once we have firm proposals, these will be brought forward and all elected members will have an input, and should there be any further plans to take forward, then service users and employees involved in those services will also be involved?

Appendix

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Edie answered by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 28 June 2012

Question

The new Administration's coalition deal states that the council will "examine ways to bring the Council, care home staff and users together into co-operatives to provide the means to make life better for care home users and care providers".

Can the Convener of Health, Social Care and Housing elaborate on what this means in practice?

Answer

The Capital Coalition has made a commitment to listen to people and to work with local communities, business and the third sector. Our vision of a co-operative Council is one where people who deliver and use our services work with us to make improvements and make decisions about how resources are used.

In respect of care services, including care homes, we will open discussions with service users, staff and providers about the feasibility of developing co-operative models.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the Convener for, well, what I can only describe is his non answer that certainly would not have happened under the previous Administration. The Labour manifesto and the coalition agreement you have come up with have very clear differences of emphasis on this issue particularly relating to care. Now, there is not a huge amount in it, the coalition deal relating to care, but there are differences between those and I have asked senior officers in Health and Social Care to clarify exactly what your commitments mean in practice and they cannot tell me because they do not understand and, judging by this answer today, neither does the Convener. Can he tell me is he proposing to turn our residential care homes into companies owned by their workers which is what I understand co-ops to be?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

What I can advise him today is that initial discussions on this are at an early stage and once we are in a position to report back to Committee then we will share all that full information with Councillor Edie and his colleagues

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Question submitted in terms of Standing Order 25(2)

QUESTION NO 8

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

Question

Noting report 8.1 (a) on the Capital Coalition Pledges, how much does the Convener estimate it will cost to implement the living wage as envisaged by the Coalitions contract pledge including protecting pay differentials?

Answer

Cost of implementing a 'living wage' for Council employees including pay differentials:

Source	Number or FTE	Form of increase	Estimated costs
Council employees	1985 in various services	Fix increase to level of Living Wage i.e. Increase to £7.20	£868,748 pa

Encouraging its adoption by Council subsidiaries and contractors and its wider development is ongoing.

Supplementary Question

I thank the Convener for providing the information. Noting that the cost will be approximately £1m per annum, I was wondering if you could clarify to us what areas of front line services you might prioritise for cutting in order to pay for this?

Supplementary Answer

I'm in no doubt, no doubt at all, that Councillor Aldridge will be well aware that matters such as that are considered as part of the budget process and it's too early to come up with a definitive answer.