

## The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 30 June 2016

**Present:-**

### **LORD PROVOST**

**The Right Honourable Donald Wilson**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Elaine Aitken  
Nigel Bagshaw  
Jeremy R Balfour  
Gavin Barrie  
Angela Blacklock  
Chas Booth  
Mike Bridgman  
Steve Burgess  
Andrew Burns  
Ronald Cairns  
Steve Cardownie  
Maureen M Child  
Bill Cook  
Nick Cook  
Gavin Corbett  
Cammy Day  
Denis C Dixon  
Marion Donaldson  
Karen Doran  
Paul G Edie  
Catherine Fullerton  
Nick Gardner  
Paul Godzik  
Joan Griffiths  
Bill Henderson  
Ricky Henderson  
Dominic R C Heslop

Lesley Hinds  
Sandy Howat  
Allan G Jackson  
Karen Keil  
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  
Lewis Ritchie  
Keith Robson  
Cameron Rose  
Frank Ross  
Jason G Rust  
Alastair Shields  
Stefan Tymkewycz  
David Walker  
Iain Whyte

## 1. Minutes

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 2 June 2016 as a correct record.

## 2. Questions

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The questions put by members to this meeting, written answers and supplementary questions and answers are contained in Appendix 1 to this minute.

## 3 Leader's Report

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The Leader presented his report to the Council. The Leader commented on:

- Jo Cox - condolences
- EU Referendum result
- EU Funding

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Rose	- Jo Cox - condolences - EU Referendum result - Council interaction with refugees - Redeployment figures within the Council
Councillor Burgess	- Jo Cox - condolences EU Referendum - Social and economic damages on leaving the EU
Councillor Edie	- Jo Cox - condolences - Hate crime - EU Referendum - Parliamentary Labour Party
Councillor Ritchie	- Quality of life for Edinburgh citizens
Councillor Cardownie	- Tom Gilzean – best wishes for a speedy recovery
Councillor Aitken	- Jo Cox - condolences Hate crime/racism Awfy Huge Fantastic SHow

Councillor Lunn	- Jo Cox - condolences Comitment for dealing with hate crime/racism
	- New Town Management Plan - consultation
Councillor Redpath	- Craigroyston High School success rate for positive outcomes
Councillor Blacklock	- Pride Edinburgh – 21 year anniversary
Councillor Heslop	- Jeremy Corbyn – damage to Labour Party
Councillor Lewis	- UK Government
Councillor Jackson	- 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme – involvement of 16 <sup>th</sup> Batallion the Royal Scots
Councillor Tymkewycz	- European Football Championship - Leadership issues within the Labour Party - EU Referendum
Councillor Day	- Hate crime
Councillor Dixon	- Hate crime - The Big Project – award for volunteering - congratulations
Councillor McVey	- IT Transfer – corporate view
Councillor Bridgman	- Racism
Councillor Howat	- English football

#### 4. City of Edinburgh Performance Overview 2016

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Details were provided on a strategic overview of performance drawing from insight and analysis from a range of performance reports which included the Council Performance Dashboard, the Edinburgh Partnership Annual Performance Report, and the bi-annual Coalition Pledges Progress report. These showed a number of areas where good progress had been made and highlighted areas for improvement.

##### **Motion**

- 1) To note the report by the Chief Executive, particularly the areas of good progress and the areas requiring further improvement.

- 2) To agree to the proposals for further development of the Performance Management Framework.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ross

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note the report by the Chief Executive and note the previous Conservative amendments regarding the Capital Coalition Pledges and their monitoring which had sought to improve both the Pledges and the reporting process.
- 2) To note with concern the serious issues with performance within the health and wellbeing section of the Edinburgh Partnership Progress Report.
- 3) To condemn the failure of the Administration to address issues with the waste collection service highlighted in the Complaints Analysis Annual Report.
- 4) To note the reduction in numbers of residents who “feel that they can have a say” – a major failing for an Administration set up on the basis of a “co-operative capital” aiming specifically to address this issue.
- 5) To therefore agree that in light of a lack of improvements the current Pledge and reporting process were flawed and instruct the Chief Executive to report further on how the issues addressed above could be remediated.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Nick Cook

### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	40 votes
For the amendment	-	11 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

## **5 Council Companies**

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Details were provided on the internal audit findings and recommendations alongside corresponding management actions, following a review of Council companies. Approval was sought for an amendment to the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions to implement one of the proposed management actions.

## **Decision**

- 1) To agree that Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee scrutinise Council companies and remits be adjusted appropriately within Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.
- 2) To note the management action taken in regard to the Internal Audit recommendations on Annual Assurance in paragraph 3.23 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 3) To note the management action taken in regard to the Internal Audit recommendations on the Council observer role outlined in paragraphs 3.27 to 3.30 of the report.
- 4) To agree that elected members who were directors of Council companies undertake mandatory training on their duties under the Companies Act.
- 5) To agree to create a Council Companies Hub, chaired by the Chief Executive, as outlined in paragraphs 3.31 to 3.34 of the report.
- 6) To note that an annual report on the work of the Council Companies Hub would be submitted to the Council.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **6. Unaudited Annual Accounts 2015-16**

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The unaudited annual accounts for 2015/16 were submitted for the Council's consideration.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note that the unaudited annual accounts for 2015/16 would be submitted to the external auditor by the required date.
- 2) To note that a detailed report on the outturn would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee in August 2016.
- 3) To note that the audited annual accounts and the auditor's report would be submitted to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee at the conclusion of the audit in September 2016, and thereafter to Council in October 2016.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

## **7. Lothian Pension Fund, Lothian Buses Pension Fund and Scottish Homes Pension Fund Annual Report 2016 (and Financial Statements) Unaudited – referral from the Pensions Committee**

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The Pensions Committee had referred a report on the unaudited Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the Lothian Pension Fund, Lothian Buses Pension Fund and Scottish Homes Pension Fund.

### **Decision**

To note the unaudited Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the Lothian Pension Fund, the Lothian Buses Pension Fund and the Scottish Homes Pension Fund.

(References – Pensions Committee 27 June 2016 (item 5); referral report from the Pensions Committee, submitted.)

## **8 The City of Edinburgh Council Charitable Trusts – Unaudited Trustee’s Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16**

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The Charitable Trusts Unaudited Trustee’s Annual Report and Accounts for 2015/16 were presented.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note that the unaudited Trustee’s Annual Report and Accounts for 2015/16 would be submitted to the External Auditor by 30 June 2016.
- 2) To note that the audited Trustee’s Annual Report and Accounts would be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee at the conclusion of the audit in September 2016 and the auditor’s report would be submitted to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in September 2016 and thereafter to Council in October 2016.
- 3) To delegate authority to the Acting Executive Director of Resources for the Charitable Trusts investments to be reinvested in a suitable fund, as outlined in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.9 of the report by the Acting Executive Director.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

## **9. Common Good Asset Register**

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The Council had previously noted a progress report on the development of a Common Good Asset Register.

An update was provided on the current position in regard to the involvement of community groups, higher education and historical societies and the previous instruction for the Council Leader to write to COSLA requesting that Common Good be put on a future agenda.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources.
- 2) To note that progress with completion of the Common Good Asset Register would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on a bi-annual basis.

(References: Act of Council No 10 of 2 June 2016; report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

## **10. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) Deal**

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The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had noted a report on the progress in developing an outline business case for an Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region City Deal.

Following the statement in the 2016 Budget from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on pursuing a City Region Deal for Edinburgh and South East Scotland, details were provided on negotiations which were underway on the scope, scale and timing of the City Region Deal.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the progress of the City Region Deal since the previous update in May 2015.
- 2) To approve the proposed formation of a Joint Committee for the City Region Deal programme.
- 3) To note ongoing discussions on the opportunity for a reformed approach to policy integration under a new cross-sector partnership model.
- 4) To agree the priorities for the City Region Deal that formed the basis of negotiations with the UK and Scottish Governments.

- 5) To note that a contribution would be required from the City of Edinburgh Council of around £100m towards a City Region Deal (assuming a deal in the order of £2bn and confirmation of the final projects included).

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 12 May 2015 (item 15); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

## **11. West Princes Street Gardens and the Ross Bandstand - Update**

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The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had agreed a number of recommendations in relation to proposals to replace the Ross Bandstand, refurbish the Ross Fountain and provide investment into other elements of West Princes Street Gardens including better pedestrian and vehicular access, landscaping, signage and visitor facilities.

Details were provide on a potential benefactor who had formed a steering group and offered to support the Council to undertake a substantial programme of work in relation to these significant assets, taking into account the requirements of relevant legislation and risks inherent in the location, and had offered to raise the necessary funds in order that the work could be carried out.

### **Decision**

- 1) To welcome the ongoing cooperation with the Council, on a voluntary basis, by a potential benefactor and an independent steering group to develop an outline proposal to refurbish elements of West Princes Street Gardens, including the redevelopment of the Ross Bandstand and the building of an associated visitor centre.
- 2) To note that the independent steering group would set up a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to implement the various elements of the project.
- 3) To note that the SCIO would be responsible for carrying out:
  - a) the design competition for the Bandstand and associated visitor centre, and that the Council would have representation on the selection panel and would have final approval on the design;
  - b) the tender process for the capital works, and oversight of their delivery; and
  - c) in the Council's name, the tender for the concession contract to manage the Bandstand and visitor centre post-construction.

- 4) To authorise the Executive Director of Place to enter into a contract with the SCIO in order to enable the project to progress, provided that the SCIO was granted charitable status by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
- 5) To authorise the Executive Director of Place to take the action necessary to allow a private bill to be brought before the Scottish Parliament to amend the City of Edinburgh District Council Order Confirmation Act 1991 to permit the construction of a visitor centre as per the design competition, on the understanding that this would be subject to Parliamentary approval.
- 6) To authorise the Executive Director of Place to take any action necessary to ensure that the change in use in the Council's common good land was permitted through procedures under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, the relevant provision of which was anticipated to come into effect in late June 2016, on the understanding that this would be subject to Parliamentary and/or Court approval.
- 7) To note that the overall project timescale was difficult to predict, but that the process relating to the private bill could itself take between 18 months and two years, and it was likely to take a minimum of three years from now to the point when one or more operators took over the management of the new Bandstand and associated visitor centre.

(References –Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 12 April 2016 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

## **12 Report of Pre-Determination Hearing – South East Wedge Site, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh – referral from the Development Management Sub-Committee**

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The Development Management Sub-Committee had referred a report on an application for planning permission in principle submitted by Sheratan Limited for a proposed residential development, community parkland and a primary school on Land at Edmonstone, the Wisp at Old Dalkeith Road Edinburgh (South East Wedge Development Site), for decision.

### **Decision**

To continue consideration of the application to a future meeting for further discussions to take place between the Council and the developers.

(References – Development Management Sub-Committee 22 June 2016 (item 3); referral report from the Development Management Sub-Committee, submitted.)

## **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Nick Cook declared a non-financial interest as he had spoken publicly about the application and left the meeting during the Council's consideration of the above item.

## **13 Best Band – Motion by Councillor Burgess**

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The following motion by Councillor Burgess was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Council:

Congratulates Edinburgh-based ska band Bombskare for winning the prodigious ‘UK Best Part-Time Band’ award;

Notes the BBC competition received more than 1,200 applications from bands across the UK playing all kinds of popular music, culminating in a BBC2 Grand Finale on 17 June;

Welcomes that the competition is part of a campaign to inspire and encourage music lovers, amateur musicians and lapsed players to pick up instruments and recognises the contribution of such part-time musicians to Edinburgh’s vibrant music scene;

Requests that on behalf of the Council the Lord Provost acknowledges the band’s success in an appropriate manner.”

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Burgess.

## **14 Boroughmuir High School – Consumer Champions – Motion by Councillor Aitken**

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The following motion by Councillor Aitken was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Council

1. Congratulates Boroughmuir High School pupils, Jessica McGhee, Clara Wilson, Henry Speir, Calum Mackay, Maya Ferrugia (reserve) being named as Britain’s top young consumers.
2. Notes the pupils won the UK finals of the Young Consumers of the Year Competition earlier this month after winning the Scottish Finals during a gathering at the Scottish Parliament in March this year.

3. Notes in winning this competition the pupils have demonstrated a real awareness of consumer rights and issues which will assist them in preparing for adult life.
4. Requests that the Lord Provost recognises this achievement in the appropriate manner.”

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Aitken.

## **15 EU Referendum – Emergency Motion by Councillor Corbett**

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The Lord Provost ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

The following motion by Councillor Corbett was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“This Council:

1. Notes the result of the referendum on membership of the European Union, on 23 June, in which 74% of those voting in Edinburgh expressed support for the UK to stay within the EU, but which, as a result of the overall voting pattern in the UK, means that negotiations to end membership of the EU are on the immediate horizon;
2. Reaffirms that it takes pride in our city which welcomes people from across Europe and across the world, who choose to work here, make their home here, raise families here and that their contribution to our society is as valued as much as ever;
3. Notes, with deep concern, reports of an increase in incidents of alleged racist abuse or hate crime, in different parts of the UK, since the EU referendum result was announced; and therefore reiterates its determination that racism and hate crime are completely unacceptable and that it will continue to work with Police Scotland and any other relevant agencies to provide reassurance to all Edinburgh's citizens who were born outside the UK, and to the BME community in Edinburgh, that all agencies take extremely seriously any reports of racism or hate crime;
4. Agrees, in light of the referendum result, and fast-moving events since that date, that there are significant questions posed for Edinburgh, as Scotland's capital city, in relation to our relationships with European neighbours, our ambitions to develop a low-carbon economy, our protection of the

environment, our role as a city with internationally renowned universities, our cultural diversity, and many other aspects of life in the city; and

5. Therefore calls for a report to the next Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee setting out the risks to the city posed by the UK leaving the EU and ways in which those risks can be addressed or reduced and the views of the overwhelming majority of citizens of Edinburgh recognised.”

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the result of the referendum on membership of the European Union, on 23 June, in which 74% of those voting in Edinburgh expressed support for the UK to stay within the EU, but which, as a result of the overall voting pattern in the UK, meant that negotiations to end membership of the EU were on the immediate horizon.
- 2) To reaffirm that the Council took pride in our City which welcomed people from across Europe and across the world, who chose to work, make their home here and raise families here and celebrate the contribution of migrants to our City and acknowledge that their contribution to our society was as valued as much as ever.
- 3) To note, with deep concern, reports of an increase in incidents of alleged racist abuse or hate crime, in different parts of the UK, since the EU referendum result was announced; and therefore reiterated its determination that racism and hate crime were completely unacceptable and that it would continue to work with Police Scotland and any other relevant agencies to provide reassurance to all Edinburgh's citizens who were born outside the UK, and to the BME community in Edinburgh, that all agencies took extremely seriously any reports of racism or hate crime.
- 4) To acknowledge that all Council Departments would continue to work tirelessly in combating hate crime; and agree that the Council Leader and Depute Leader should meet, at the earliest opportunity, with Police Scotland to confirm that all necessary actions were being undertaken to reassure local communities.
- 5) To further acknowledge that all Council Departments would continue to provide support and reassurance to partners that key priorities of investment, low carbon infrastructure, environmental protection and knowledge exchange remain as high as ever.
- 6) Given all of the above; therefore calls for a report to go to the Corporate, Policy and Strategy Committee – in two cycles – outlining the potential implications for the Council, of the UK leaving the European Union.

## 16 Edinburgh Tram Inquiry – Legal Representation Funding

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The Council, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 4, 6 and 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

An update was provided on the Council's position in relation to the funding of legal advice/representation for former directors and/or employees of tie Ltd (now CEC Recovery Ltd) ("tie") at the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry.

### Decision

- 1) To note the Council's continued willingness to assist and fully cooperate with the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry.
- 2) To acknowledge that authority was delegated to officers by the full Council on 20 August 2015 to take all decisions or actions in relation to the Council's involvement in the Inquiry (with the stated provisos).
- 3) To note that, notwithstanding the decision taken by the Council in August 2015 not to fund the provision of legal advice and/or representation of former employees or consultants of tie at the Inquiry, the Council was under an obligation to fund such legal advice and/or representation where contractually obliged to do so.

(References – Act of Council No 6 of 20 August 2015; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

### Declarations of Interest

Councillors Jackson and Perry declared a non-financial interest in the above item as former members of tie Ltd.

## 17 Monitoring Officer Investigation

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The Council, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Details were provided on the findings of a Monitoring Officer investigation in relation to allegations made by a whistleblower and the treatment of a whistleblower.

## **Decision**

To approve the report's recommendations, subject to noting that steps to improve the Council's governance and whistleblowing arrangements had been taken in recent years. Full details of the decision are contained in a confidential statement signed by the Lord Provost with reference to this minute item.

(Reference - report by the Monitoring Officer, submitted)

## **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Rose declared a non-financial interest in the above item as he was personally acquainted with an individual mentioned in the report.

## **18 Sir William Y Darling Award for Good Citizenship**

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The Council, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Details were given of nominations for the Sir William Y Darling Award for Good Citizenship for the municipal year 2015/2016.

## **Decision**

To make the Sir William Y Darling Award for Good Citizenship for the municipal year 2015/2016 to Tracy Rendall.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

## Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 30 June 2016)

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2016**

#### Question

What action is being taken to assist the Crown Office and Health and Safety Executive to ensure that full details are published into the outbreak of legionnaire's disease in Gorgie-Dalry in summer 2012?

#### Answer

On 6 August 2015, NHS Lothian, on behalf of the multi-agency Incident Management Team (IMT), published their final report into the 2012 Legionnaires' outbreak which affected the south west of Edinburgh.

This report is available to the public. See:

<http://www.nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk/OurOrganisation/KeyDocuments/Documents/2015%20Final%20Report%20-%20Master%202015%20Final%2020082015.pdf>

The IMT report highlights the locally co-ordinated public health, environmental health, scientific and clinical response which helped protect the health of people living and working in south west Edinburgh and had a positive impact in preventing more people becoming seriously ill. The Council contributed significantly during the outbreak response and subsequently to the preparation of the IMT report.

Police Scotland and the Health and Safety Executive, under the direction of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Health and Safety Division, carried out a full investigation into the cause. All relevant information the Council holds has been provided to the IMT and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Health and Safety Division.

Where further information has been requested from the Council by the Health and Safety Executive or the Crown

Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to assist their investigation, this has been provided fully and in a timely manner. There are no outstanding requests to the Council in relation to the investigation by either the Health and Safety Executive and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. There have been no requests made to the Council for assistance or information in the period following the Crown Office announcement of its decision not to bring criminal proceedings.

The Council supports the position that a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) should be held as quickly as practicable. The decision on a FAI rests solely with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

**Supplementary  
Question**

For the benefit of the webcast, the question I asked was “What action is being taken to assist the Crown Office and Health and Safety Executive to ensure that full details are published into the outbreak of legionnaire’s disease in Gorgie-Dalry in summer 2012?”

I thank the Convener very much for the answer and also the assurance that the Council both has done whatever it can to support the process and indirectly support a Fatal Accident Inquiry. The members will remember the outbreak affected almost 100 people in the area and sadly, 4 people lost their lives during that outbreak, and I know Lord Provost, as one of the local Councillors for that area, you’ll be acutely aware of the impact that it had at the time and particularly for those families who still don’t really know in detail what the cause was and have that feeling that information is held which would give them that reassurance but can’t currently be divulged.

So I think it is important that we signal as a Council that first of all we have been doing all that we can, and that’s very much part of the answer, and that we haven’t forgotten about those families that were most immediately affected. I know that one of the feelings is that the open-endedness of the process is the most frustrating thing and even if the conclusion were to be that a Fatal Accident Inquiry wasn’t going to be held, and I know obviously that the Council

believes that it should be held, but even if it wasn't going to be held, at least the information could be divulged to the families which is currently held pending a potential inquiry.

So I guess I'm just inviting the Convener to agree to recognise again that that's a source of frustration to the families and we'll continue to do what we can to bring it to a conclusion.

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Of course I would agree with you in terms of the families and information but you have got an answer to your question which says that all relevant information the Council hold has been provided to the INT and the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal's Service Health and Safety Division and where further information has been requested the Council has provided fully and in a timely manner and there are no outstanding requests to the Council in relation to the investigation via the Health and Safety and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and there's been no request made to the Council for assistance or information in the period following the Crown Office announcement of its decision not to bring criminal proceedings. As you said the Council supports the position that the Fatal Accident Inquiry should be held as quickly as practical and the decision of the FAI rests solely with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Office.

So I think we've made our views very clear as a Council, we've passed all the information we can as quickly and as timely as possible and that we do support a Fatal Accident Inquiry and as quickly as possible. Obviously our thoughts are to the families who have lost loved ones and anything we can do to make information available and to be as co-operative as possible and to make it publicly accessible we will do.

**QUESTION NO 2**

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2016**

**Question** How many hand-pushed litter barrows are in operation by the Council and what is the location/ route and hours of operation of each of these barrow beats?

**Answer** 21

**Barrow beat routes: June 2016**

Location	Days	Hours
Dumiedykes area	Monday - Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Viewforth area	Monday - Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Tollcross area	Monday - Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Sciences area	Monday - Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
West Nicholson area	Monday - Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Pleasance area	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm
Morningside area	Daily (blue shift only)	06.15am to 17:07 pm
Leith (Pilrig Str, Pilrig Gdns, Pilrig Heights, Rossllyn Cres, Rossllyn Terr, Hawthornden Pl, Dryden Str, Dryden Gds)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Inchkeith Court, Shrub Place Lane, Balfour Pl, Cambridge Gdns, Cambridge Ave, Arthur Str)	Tuesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Dryden Gait, Spey Ter, Shaws Ter, Shaws Str, Shaws Pl, Spey Str, Middlefield)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm

Leith (Great Junction Str, North Junction Str, Ferry Riad, Madeira Str, Madeira Place, Prince Regent Str)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Cromwell Pl, Couperfield, Couper Str, Citadel Str, Citadel Pl)	Tuesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Argyle Str, Portland Str, Portland Terr, Hamburgh Pl, North Fort Str)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith ( Great Junction Str, Taylor Gdns, King Str, Cables Wynd, Henderson Str, Yardheads, St Anthony Str, Sandport)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Chapel Ln, Broad Wynd, Water Str, Carpet Ln, Burgess Str, Maritime Str, Maritime Ln, Toolboth Wynd)	Tuesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (St. Anthony Pl, Giles, Str, Speir Pl, Parliament Str, Mill Ln, Sheriff Brae)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Duke Str, Academy Str, Laurie Str, St Andrews Pl, Wellington Pl, Duncan Pl, Constitution Str, Coatfield Ln)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Bernard Str, Baltic Str, Assembly Str, Cadiz Str, Elbe Str, Pattison Str, Mitchell Str, Queen Charlotte Str)	Tuesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Queen Charlotte St Ln, Maritime Str, Tolbooth Wynd Linksvie Front/ steps, Shore Place, Burgess Str, Water Str, Carpet Ln)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Albert Str, Murano Pl, Elliot Str, Dickson Str)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm

Leith (Dalmeny Str, Jameson Place ,Drum Terrace)	Tuesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Iona Str, South Sloan Str, Sloan Str, Buchanan Str)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Dalmeny Str, Jameson Place , South Sloan Str, Sloan Str, Iona Str)	Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Leith Walk to Smiths Place, Crown Place, Crown Street, Smiths Street, Lorne Street, Lorne Place, Lorne Square)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Academy Pk/ Pathway to School, Thorntreeside, St. Clair Avenue, St. Clair Road, St. Clair Street, St. Clair Place)	Tuesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (South Lorne Pl, Halmyre St, Thorntree St, Gordon St, Manderston Str, Manderston Court, Gordon Court)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Easter Road Both Sides to Albion Road AM/PM, Rossie Place, Maryfield, Maryfield Place, Alva Place, Lady Menzies Place Regent Place, Waverley Place, Carlyle Place, Salmond Place, Norton Park, Edina Place)	Monday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (Bothwell Street & Recreation Area & Pathway to Bridge Sunnyside, Albion Terrace, Albion Road, Albion Place to Hibs Gd, Albion Gardens)	Tuesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm

Leith (Spring Gardens Royal Park Terrace Waverley Park Terr Waverley Park Milton Street Tytler Court Tytler Gardens Croft-n-Righ)	Wednesday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (London Road Gardens, Hillside Crescent, Brunswick Street, Montgomery Street, Montgomery St Lane, Windsor Street, Windsor St Lane, Brunswick St Lane, West Montgomery Pl, Hillside Street, East Montgomery Pl, London Road East side)	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
Leith (London Road Gardens Elgin Terrace Elgin Street, Edina Street, Elgin St North, Brunswick Road, Brunswick Terrace, Allanfield, Dicksonfield, Wellington Street, Brunton Terrace, London Road West side)	Tuesday & Thursday	07:00am to 15:00 pm
City Centre (Chambers Street & George V Bridge area)	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm
City Centre (Grassmarket area)	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm
City Centre (High Street area)	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm
City Centre (Royal Mile area)	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm
City Centre (St Mary's Str, Jeffery Str, Market Street, Waverley Bridge area)	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm
City Centre (Lothian Rd & Festival Square area)	Daily	06.15am to 17:07 pm

### QUESTION NO 3

**By the Councillor Booth for answer  
by the Leader of the Council at a  
meeting of the Council on 30 June  
2016**

#### Question

What action is the city taking, both as a Council and in cooperation with partner agencies and the voluntary sector, to welcome refugees and asylum seekers?

#### Answer

The Council agreed to participate in the expanded Syrian Vulnerable Persons Re-location Scheme (now called the Syrian Resettlement Programme) in September 2015. The first families resettled in Edinburgh under the scheme arrived in late November 2015 and we now have sixteen families, comprising 82 people, living in the city. The Council committed to resettling 100 people over the first year of Edinburgh's involvement in the scheme and this commitment will be fulfilled.

A full update on the scheme to date – and the partnership work underpinning its delivery – was provided to [Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee](#) on 10 May 2016. Committee agreed at this meeting to extend Edinburgh's commitment and resettle one hundred people for each of the remaining four years of the programme.

The report referenced requests from the Home Office that Edinburgh consider participation in both asylum dispersal and dispersal of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The Council is continuing to engage constructively with both requests with a view to bringing proposals to Committee after the Summer recess.

Discussions have also commenced with a number of other organisations including the Refugee Survival Trust, Save the Children, City of Sanctuary and The Welcoming with a view to developing a more coordinated pattern of support for refugees arriving in Edinburgh outwith formal schemes. Updates will be reported to Committee as this work develops.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I thank the Council Leader for his answer. I'd also like to thank the Council staff and the many members and volunteers with partner organisations who work so hard to give refuge to those fleeing war and persecution. For the benefit of those watching the webcast, my question was "What action is the city taking, both as a Council and in cooperation with partner agencies and the voluntary sector, to welcome refugees and asylum seekers?" and the response from the Council is that the Council has resettled 82 people under the current scheme, is committed to resettling 100 people per year for the next four years, is looking to extend refuge to unaccompanied asylum seeker children and is working with a number of partner organisations to this end.

I recently returned from a conference of European Green Councillors in Munich exploring how Local Authorities around the continent can work together to welcome and support refugees. Munich is a city of around 1.4million people so nearly 3 times the size of Edinburgh but in the last year they have resettled over 15,000 refugees.

Now, Lord Provost, whilst I recognise that Munich has a federal government which takes a much more enlightened attitude to refugees and asylum seekers than our own UK Home Office, none the less, does the Council Leader agree with me that Edinburgh should be looking to welcome and resettle more refugees as our capacity to support them allows?

Does he agree that our welcome for refugees should continue to treat them with dignity and respect and does he agree that the Council should continually be looking to improve the partnership working and the communication with our third sector partners in this vital work?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Can I thank Councillor Booth for lodging his original question and for his supplementary. I think he raises an extremely important issue, not just for Edinburgh but for the whole of the European Community. I do whole heartedly agree with the premise of Councillor Booth's question, we should be

doing all we can to resettle refugees and I'm delighted that Councillor Booth has recognised that the staff and voluntary and third sector partners, public and private sector partners, have all worked very very collaboratively to make sure that Edinburgh along with Glasgow are showing the lead here in Scotland if not a significant lead across the whole of the United Kingdom and I do think we do need to look at potentially accommodating as many refugees as possible.

I think, as Councillor Booth knows, we're committed as he said and he referenced in the answer to see 100 Syrian refugees resettled this year in Edinburgh but also 100 for the next four years as well, each of the next four years and if that figure can be increased then obviously relevant reports will go to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee throughout the process of the next few years.

So I agree with the premise of Councillor Booth's question. Munich's a city that I'm very very familiar with it's one of the twin cities as you know Lord Provost, of Edinburgh. I visited it myself on a personal visit just a couple of years ago and was very impressed with it as a City and I am very proud of the fact that as somebody who was actually born in Germany, Lord Provost, it is my country of birth, and I'm very proud of the fact that Germany's taken such an enlightened approach to the receipt of refugees from Syria and across the world and it certainly is something we should emulate towards.

**Comments by  
the Lord  
Provost**

Yes I thought it might be interesting to note that it is our twin City and in fact through Edinburgh Direct Aid, of which I'm the patron, we've been working very closely specifically on the subject of refugees with Munich.

**QUESTION NO 4**

**By Councillor Heslop for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2016**

**Question** By what date is the Council instructed report on the future of Juniper Green Village Hall due to be completed and made accessible to local elected members and community?

**Answer** The full structural report will be available early July 2016.

**Supplementary Question (1)** Can I just clarify who answered this question – it's just that I posed it to the Education Convener and was told it would be answered by the Finance Convener – so was it you?

So can I just ask, did you read the initial structural report before you gave me your answer and will he be aware that Juniper Green has no Post Office, no newsagents, no library, no public loos and now no village hall which is used by so many groups and can he ensure that the full structural report will be made available as soon as possible? In his answer he says that it will be ready in early July which will be tomorrow, so can he ensure that it is produced as soon as possible for the people of Juniper Green because they are waiting for an answer.

**Supplementary Answer (1)** Lord Provost, if I can just give a response, the question did actually come to myself, but I share the disappointment that Councillor Heslop's expressed with regards to the situation at Juniper Green and I recognise that the village hall is a resource that is used by the community very well. We have done a bit of work to relocate the various groups and activities that take place within the hall and that has been done relatively successfully.

**(by Councillor Godzik)**

As Councillor Heslop has indicated, any report that comes back on the property will go to Finance and Resources and therefore I am liaising very closely with the Convener of Finance and Resources to ensure that we have the information that has been requested and that is shared with the local community and with the local

members, and when we have that information I'll happily meet, alongside with the Finance and Resources Convener with the local members to discuss how we actually take the matter forward.

**Supplementary Question (2)** Can I just ask did the Education Convener read the Initial structural report?

**Supplementary Answer (2)** I have read various information that has been provided to me by officers. I can't actually confirm that the exact report that Councillor Heslop is indicating, but I have read various bits of information on the situation but as I say as a property issue it does lie with Finance and Resources.

**QUESTION NO 5**

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the  
Convener of the Culture and Sport  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 30 June 2016**

Edinburgh Mela

- Question** (1) When was the CEC funding agreed for the Edinburgh Mela 2016 put on hold?
- Answer** (1) A recommendation for funding (£74,379) for Edinburgh Mela was approved by Culture and Sport Committee on 8 March 2016. Discussions with Edinburgh Mela representatives and partner stakeholders, including Council officers, have taken place regularly since early March to address governance, viability and management concerns which had been brought to our attention. Both Creative Scotland and Scottish Government Expo funding have not been awarded following these discussions and will not now be released in 2016 (Creative Scotland (applied for) £150,735; Expo (applied for) £130,000). Council funding has not been released, pending the governance and management concerns being addressed.
- Question** (2) What are the reasons for the non-award of funding to date?
- Answer** (2) The Council has continued to work with Edinburgh Mela on governance issues and on concerns raised following the resignations of a number of board and core staff members. These resignations took place in March and April 2016 and led to concerns about the operational stability and viability of the organisation to continue, and to deliver a robust event in 2016. Council officers have also been advised that the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) had opened an inquiry into the charity 'The Edinburgh Mela Limited' in response to concerns received from third parties. OSCR are currently assessing these concerns in line with its Inquiry Policy.
- Question** (3) What discussions have taken place between CEC and the Mela since funding was put on hold?

**Answer**

- (3)** There have been several meetings and extensive related correspondence with Edinburgh Mela board representatives since the governance and operational difficulties were raised.

**1 March 2016**

Board member and Director, Edinburgh Mela

Culture Service representative, City of Edinburgh Council

Representatives, Creative Scotland

**22 March 2016**

Board members, Edinburgh Mela

Representatives, Creative Scotland

Representative, Scottish Government

Culture Service representative, City of Edinburgh Council

**14 April 2016**

Board members, Edinburgh Mela

Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council

Culture Service representatives, City of Edinburgh Council

**4 May 2016**

Board members, Edinburgh Mela and independent support representative

Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council

**16 May 2016**

Interim Director, Edinburgh Mela

Culture Service representative, City of Edinburgh Council

**7 June 2016**

Interim Director, Edinburgh Mela

Culture Service representatives, City of Edinburgh Council

- Question** (4) Is CEC currently represented on the Board of Edinburgh Mela?
- Answer** (4) The Council appointed elected member board resigned from the board on 24 March 2016. A Council officer acts as link officer for the Edinburgh Mela attends board meetings as an observer.
- Question** (5) Is CEC supportive of the Edinburgh Mela 2016 taking place?
- Answer** (5) Officers have assured the Edinburgh Mela representatives throughout this difficult situation that the Council is supportive of the event but require the necessary assurances around organisational viability and stability to be in place.
- Supplementary Question** (1) Thanks very much to the Convener for the answers to the questions. I think for the City, as well as personally as a regular attendee, it's obviously disappointing that we're at this critical juncture. I notice in the answers there's no reference to the police investigation which seems to be publicised and I just wondered firstly if the Council had been asked to co-operate in any police investigation, but secondly I appreciate there's been lots of meetings and correspondence but given the difficulties which are being referred to, will the Convener consider referring the not inconsiderable Council funding element to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for proper scrutiny.
- Supplementary Answer** (1) Thank you Councillor Rust and thank you for the question. In terms of the earlier part of the question, I'm not aware of whether we've been directly asked to take part in that police investigation, that's certainly some information I can bring back to you. In terms of your latter part, in terms of the funding of it, I think as you'll be well aware by your own position on the Jazz and Blues Festival you'll understand that each Board makes applications for fundings and they're all looked at on their own merits during two or three things; one being Governance issues of the Board, the second thing being of course the financial competency of the organisation, but crucially for the festivals as well, the artistic quality of it. Therefore in terms of remitting it to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, I'm just not

quite sure that would be the right Committee to do it, bearing in mind that it's very much a cross series of analysis that you've always done in relation to cultural grants.

**Supplementary Question (2)** Thanks very much for that. As a follow up, I see in relation to the answer to question 4, we don't have a Councillor on the Board anymore, but there is a Council officer as an observer. Do we take it that the Council officer and part of his or her remit is to look at the conditions of any grant are being met?

**Supplementary Answer (2)** You're absolutely right that we don't have a Council officer on the fringe and a number of other cultural venues which we also support so that one doesn't necessarily follow the other. We do have an observer on that and they will certainly be looking and analysing and scrutinising the artistic as governance and financial offerings as they would with any other body.

**QUESTION NO 6**

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the  
Convener of the Finance and Resources  
Committee at a meeting of the Council  
on 30 June 2016**

- Question** (1) What was the cost of the extensive refurbishment and renovation of Lothian Chambers?
- Answer** (1) The cost of the refurbishment was £2.437m.
- Question** (2) What annual rental does the Electoral Commission pay for lease of rooms at Lothian Chambers?
- Answer** (2) £15,070 per annum.
- Question** (3) What share of the running costs of Lothian Chambers does the Electoral Commission pay?
- Answer** (3) 6% of the running costs.
- Question** (4) What is the duration of the lease the Electoral Commission has?
- Answer** (4) The lease runs until 12 June 2021.
- Question** (5) For years 2013, 2014 and 2015 please list the number of:
- (a) Weddings
  - (b) Civil Partnerships
  - (c) Citizenship Ceremonies
  - (d) Council committee meetings (including workshops/sub-groups)
  - (e) CEC Civic Functions
  - (f) Registrations of births and deaths,
- to take place at Lothian Chambers
- Answer** (5) See below.

Date	Weddings	Civil Partnerships	Citizenship Ceremonies	Council Committee Meetings	CEC civic functions	Registration of births and deaths
2013	1198	81	35 Group 31 Individual	16	1	2990 Births 2095 Deaths
2014	1332	81	27 Group 21 Individual	22	1	3085 Births 2140 Deaths
2015	1450	11	25 Group 20 Individual	66	1	2894 Births 2251 Deaths
<b>Total</b>	<b>3980</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>87 Group</b> <b>72 Individual</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8969 Births</b> <b>6486 Deaths</b>

**Supplementary Question**

Thanks to the Converer for his helpful answer. Given the civic nature of the building, will he give consideration to the forthcoming report coming to full Council as opposed to or in addition to Committee?

**Supplementary Answer**

I thank Councillor Rust for his question. We will of course take all considerations into account where this building is concerned. We have to think in the broad terms of course, in terms of the management of the Council's assets and how we find the money to maintain and repair them where that's necessary. We're looking at the possibility of disposal of this building for that reason but it doesn't follow that that's what will happen. As I mentioned at the last Council meeting an outline business case is being produced and that keeps open all options, from retaining the building, the possibility of lease, the possibility of sale, and we haven't moved forward from that position yet but I assure Councillor Rust that we'll take all these considerations into account.

## QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2016**

**Question** (1) What specific action has the Administration taken to develop Shared Services with other Public bodies/partnerships and what actions have been successful since 2012?

**Answer** (1) This is an area in which the Scottish Government is keen to see all councils make greater progress and I wholeheartedly agree. I raised the subject at the last meeting of Scotland Excel and have arranged a meeting with its Chief Executive immediately after the recess which Councillor Whyte is welcome to attend.

We have made some progress in delivering shared services with for example Borders Council in ICT, and the IJB framework continues to deliver more targeted, improved services across Lothian region.

I am keen to further develop proposals with neighbouring authorities which demonstrate the mutual advantages of shared services. It is frustrating that this has not been progressed at greater pace. However, the ethos surrounding the City Region Deal should provide added impetus for further development of shared services.

We are currently working with Edinburgh University on a district heating scheme. We are also working to establish an Energy Management team, as proposed in the Coalition's budget motion. We will work with partners to deliver savings of £1million.

The Scottish Government is looking to change the rules on NHS property disposals which would allow other public sector bodies to bid for appropriate assets under market value to ensure greater opportunity for the co-location of public services. We will be looking take advantage of that change.

Finally, the continuation of our work with the third sector is one of the best examples of shared services. This is an area which we, as a Coalition, will continue to develop through initiatives such as participatory budgeting and co-production.

**Question** (2) What savings and improved service efficiencies have been achieved in this period?

**Answer** (2) The savings that have been achieved through improved service efficiencies include Insurance, HR, fleet management.

**Savings**

2012/13	£213,000
2013/14	£585,000
2014/15	£625,000

The savings figure for 2015/16 will be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee in September 2016, as part of the Council's annual efficiency statement.

**Supplementary Question**

You'll see I've asked this question after receiving a verbal answer from the Leader at the last Council meeting when he chose to discuss the City Deal rather than talk about any shared services and so it doesn't come to me as a surprise that there's very little actual achievement to report from the Finance Convener here. Given that, Lord Provost, perhaps the Finance Convener could tell me whether he's as disappointed as I am that the limited savings he tells us about in the answer are very little compared to a billion pound budget and don't really seem to relate to shared services and given that the Scottish Government, which the Convener supports, would appear to want more shared services, that this Council appears to want more shared services and that things like the IJB are forced upon us and the City Region Deal is a separate thing, why has it been that there's so much to achieve but so little delivered in over 4 years under this Administration?

**Supplementary Answer**

I thank Councillor Whyte for his question. You'll see from my written response that I am indeed disappointed that we haven't managed to move further down the road of shared

services and again as I mentioned in my written report, it is a subject that I raised at my last meeting at Scotland Excel in Glasgow and I'm due to meet the Chief Executive of Scotland Excel to discuss how we as a Council can move forward with shared services in a more effective way. You'll see the trend if you look at the figures in the response to Answer 2, the trend is in the right direction, there may be one or two zeros short on those figures from where Councillor Whyte would like us to be and to that extent I share his disappointment. I do think we need to move ahead we do need to talk to our neighbouring Councils about how we can best take this agenda forward and we need to present it to them in a way which demonstrates there are mutual advantages and it's not a question of Edinburgh as a larger Council attempting to take anything away from them.

I think there are ways in which this can be presented which are entirely positive for all those concerned and will help all the Councils with which we would like to co-operate more to achieve a financial benefit.

## QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2016**

- Question** (1) Can the department list all primary, secondary schools within Edinburgh, including private schools, with school travel plans, and give with the dates when the original plan was first produced and when the plan was last reviewed?
- Answer** (1) See attached excel spreadsheet.
- Question** (2) Can the department list all schools Edinburgh that do not have school travel plans?
- Answer** (2) See excel spreadsheet. The file can be interrogated as desired. Stage 1 represents those schools which are currently not involved in travel plan related activities, being 8 in number.
- Question** (3) How often are schools required to review their travel plan?
- Answer** (3) A school is not required to have a Travel Plan. If they wish to, they can engage with Road Safety to assist them in doing so. From that, any Travel Plan that is created contains comment that it be reviewed regularly, so not committing them to any specific period.



STP data collation  
Edinburgh 2016 with ir

## QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 30 June 2016**

**Question** Can the Convener indicate whether a formal submission has been made to the new Scottish Government ministerial team pressing the case for Scottish Government agreement that Edinburgh should have decision-making power over the introduction a Transient Visitor Levy and whether a formal reply has been received?

**Answer** Letters requesting meetings have been sent to and acknowledged by Ministers. At this point a meeting has been set up for 29 June 2016 with Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs. No formal submission has been made to the new Scottish Government on the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy.

**Supplementary Question (1)** The Convener's answer to my question pressing the Scottish Government regarding a Transient Visitor Levy indicated that a meeting may have been held yesterday with Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture Tourism and External Affairs, to discuss the visitor levy. I wonder if the Convener is able to update the Council on that meeting.

**Supplementary Answer (1)** Yes absolutely and thank you for the question and I'll be brutally honest with it, there were rather enormous concerns on the Minister's agenda not least having an international focus that she has as well as culture and external affairs and tourism, so we took the decision to have a further meeting in August.

**Supplementary Question (2)** Thanks for that answer. I hope at the next meeting you'll be able to press the issue of a visitor levy. I am aware from media reports that the minister seems to have expressed a concern that a hotel levy may put additional pressures on the hotel industry in Edinburgh where actually there's evidence that a visitor levy does not impact the tourist industry.

What this Council is actually asking for is the Scottish

Government to grant powers to Local Authorities to decide for themselves whether a visitor levy would be beneficial. The Scottish Government would not take responsibility for implementing the levy, it's an enabling power. Clearly this City wouldn't entertain a visitor levy if it thought it would harm tourism and other business and I wonder if the Convener would agree that this Council and not the Scottish Government is best placed to make this decision?

**Supplementary Answer (2)**

I'm not sure who the question was directed at. There's a danger that this becomes a little bit like groundhog day, this question continually comes up. I think the crucial point is finding there is a great deal of sympathy with the principal, it's finding the right formula, the right way of actually engaging with the various sectors, and finding something that all parties affected can look at and I can certainly say from a personal and a party and a Council perspective we will be continuing that.

**Comments by Councillor Rankin**

I have written as my response suggests, I have written to the Cabinet Finance Secretary Derek MacKay. I've written to John Swinney, the Cabinet Secretary for Education but he also has responsibility for the Public Reform agenda and I've written to Kevin Stewart as Local Government Minister – I'm hoping that those meetings can be arranged very shortly and intend to raise the subject of the Transient Visitor Levy with each of those Ministers