

The City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh, Thursday 15 December 2016

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Donald Wilson

COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken
Robert C Aldridge
Norma Austin Hart
Nigel Bagshaw
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
Paul G Edie
Catherine Fullerton
Paul Godzik
Joan Griffiths
Bill Henderson
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

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Council of 24 November 2016 as a correct record.

2. Questions

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

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

- Scottish Government's Financial Settlement
- Local economy – hotel industry and passenger figures from Edinburgh airport – transient visitor levy
- Humanitarian crisis – Mercy Corps general appeal
- Congratulations to Ken Buchanan – Edinburgh Award
- Best wishes for happy Christmas and best of luck for 2017

The following questions/comments were made:

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|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Rose | - Coverage in Times newspaper of this Council meeting – Noisy Fireworks |
| Councillor Burgess | - Scottish budget announcement – transient visitor levy
- City Region Deal – South East Scotland |
| Councillor Aldridge | - Scottish Government finance and transient visitor levy
- 4 way temporary traffic lights at Craigmount View – continuing work |
| Councillor Ross | - Humanitarian crisis and Mercy Corps
- Giving Tree in City Chambers reception |
| Councillor Cardownie | - Advertising on trams |
| Councillor Aitken | - St Crispin's Parent Council – disbanding of transition team in Health and Social Care |
| Councillor Bill Henderson | - No 24 bus - removal of service |

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Barrie | - | List of recent awards won by the City – Foreign Direct Investment Strategy Award |
| Councillor Tymkewycz | - | Hibernian Football Club – xmas day lunch for homeless people |
| | - | Information on the Council website for emergency services/support over the festive season |

4. Executive Management Structure

The Council had agreed the revised Organisational Structure subject to a further review by Council within one year to consider whether the role of the Deputy Chief Executive should be reinstated.

Details were provided on the operation of the Council over the past year and the Council was asked to consider whether the role of the Deputy Chief Executive should be reinstated.

Decision

To agree not to reinstate the role of Deputy Chief Executive.

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 10 December 2015; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

5. City of Edinburgh Council Performance Overview – Update 2016

A mid-year update was provided on performance against a range of performance measures for the six-month period to October 2016. Details were provided on the analysis of a number of regular performance reports with particular reference to the Council Performance Dashboard and the final 'Capital Coalition Pledges Update December 2016' which showed a number of areas where good progress had been made and highlighted areas for improvement.

Decision

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

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 30 June 2016; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

6 Establishment of Craigmillar Community Council

An update was provided on the submission of a petition by over 20 electors requesting that a Community Council be established in Craigmillar.

Decision

- 1) To approve the process of combined, online, postal and polling place voting, should a poll be required.
- 2) To approve the timetable for the election of Craigmillar Community Council.
- 3) To appoint Councillor Child as Returning Officer.

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

7. Sky Lanterns – Motion by Councillors Ross/Rose

The following motion by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Rose, was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Council notes the campaign organised by NFU Scotland regarding

- the growing popularity of Sky Lanterns
- the inherent problems related to their mass release and
- the calls for greater controls from many organisations.

Council recognises the concerns of

- NFU Scotland in relation to threats to livestock and fire damage to crops
- Civil Aviation Authority in that Sky Lanterns could be drawn into aircraft engines
- The Coastguard receiving numerous calls assuming that they are distress signals
- RSPCA and SSPCA growing concerns regarding the risk to animals
- Fire and rescue services have issues warnings following a number of fire incidents

Council further notes that to date eight Scottish local authorities have banned sky lanterns and/or Helium balloons being launched from their land.

Council therefore instructs officers to engage with the appropriate bodies to develop controls over the use of Sky Lanterns and/or Helium balloons with a view to refusing organisations permission to release from council owned land and premises.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillors Ross and Rose.

8. Use of Sky Lanterns – Chinese Lanterns – Motion by Councillor Rose

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

“Council

- 1) Notes concerns that the increasing use of sky lanterns, also known as Chinese lanterns, may pose a fire risk to stacks of straw, woodland and buildings, cause litter and constitute a danger to livestock and wildlife if wires and other parts become ingested
- 2) Calls for a report within two cycles assessing the extent of risk, detailing the interested parties affected and the likely impacts of a ban on such devices from Council premises and land.”

Decision

To note that Councillor Rose had withdrawn his motion in light of the Council decision at item 7 above.

9. Royal Bank of Scotland – Closure of Branches – Motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson

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

“Council notes with regret the recent announcement by RBS to close 9 more branches in Edinburgh.

Council further notes that combined with other recent bank branch closures many of our communities have been left without local banking facilities thus impacting particularly on small businesses, community groups and vulnerable citizens.

Council agrees that the Council Leader should seek a meeting with senior RBS representatives to express concern and to request that these decisions be reconsidered.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson.

10. Local Government Elections in May 2017 – Motion by Councillor Corbett

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

“Council notes and welcomes the fact that the local government elections in May 2017 will be the first opportunity for 16 and 17 year olds to vote in local council elections and agrees that a report be submitted to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee by end of February 2017 on measures which can be taken to encourage 16 and 17 year olds to exercise their vote.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Corbett.

11. The Bike Station – Motion by Councillor Burgess

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

“Council:

Notes the recent fire at ‘The Bike Station’ at Causewayside in Edinburgh, which devastated the main building including workshop and office space and resulted in loss of large numbers of recycled bikes, parts and specialised equipment;

Notes that the Bike Station is Scotland's largest, and one of its longest established, bike recycling charities, taking in around 10,000 discarded bikes a year, providing training courses and running community projects such as providing balance bikes to Edinburgh’s nursery schools;

Recognises and supports the aims of the Bike Station: To encourage and promote good mental and physical health through encouraging people to cycle; To help people learn to ride their bicycles safely and to be able to repair them themselves; To help the environment by recycling and by promoting cycling as a means of transport;

Welcomes that the Bike Station continues to operate, although not to full capacity, from their warehouse at 244 Causewayside and that they have just launched a two week crowdfunding campaign ‘www.crowdfunder.co.uk/surviving-after-fire’ to help the charity survive through this difficult time;

Further notes the Bike Station also welcomes support from volunteers to help with rebuilding the charity and who can contact the Bike Station on their temporary number 07928483194 or info@thebikestation.org.uk ;

Agrees that Council officers consider providing in-kind support and advice to Bike Station requests as they rebuild their capacity.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burgess.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Booth declared a non-financial interest as a Director of the Bike Station and left the meeting during the Council’s consideration of the above item.

12. Fireworks – Motion by Councillor Mowat

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

“Council

- 1) Recognises that the fireworks set off regularly in the City add excitement, colour and gaiety to celebrations in Edinburgh but that there is an impact from these regular fireworks on the residents living close to the launch sites and that there are concerns that the increasing scale of such may be having adverse impacts and
- 2) Calls for a report in two cycles to investigate:
 - a. What impact the noise of the bangs has on the health and wellbeing of people and animals;
 - b. What damage may be caused to property from the vibrations from the large pyrotechnic displays;
 - c. What other options are available for keeping the spectacle but reducing the impact such as silent fireworks.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mowat.

Appendix 1

(As referred to in Act of Council No 3 of 15 December 2016)

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Bagshaw for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question (1) What data exist on accidents and near misses at the key junctions on Princes Street over the last two years, broken down by month?

Answer (1) The Council's Road Safety & Active Travel section holds data on personal injury collisions supplied by Police Scotland and the vetted data currently covers the period up to the end of February 2016.

No data is available on collisions that do not involve personal injury or incidents described as "near misses"; because these types of incident do not have to be reported to the Police (or to anyone else) there is no way of collecting comprehensive data. In addition, what constitutes a near miss is open to interpretation and any data would therefore be subjective.

Collision data has been provided for the period 31 May 2014 to 29 February 2016.

All junctions on Princes Street have been interpreted as "key junctions", with the exception of Castle Street. This provides the following list of nine junctions;

1. Shandwick Place/Queensferry Street
2. Lothian Road/Princes Street
3. South Charlotte Street
4. Frederick Street
5. Hanover Street/The Mound
6. South St David Street
7. Waverley Bridge
8. South St Andrew Street
9. North Bridge/Leith Street/Waterloo Place

The following table summarises the results of collision retrievals from the Council's data base. The Council's

Accident Investigation Prevention (AIP) protocol establishes a period for investigating and defining ‘accident problems’ as 3 years. This provides a compromise between statistical and practical factors; if there are three similar collisions within that period, the location will be given due consideration for an appropriate intervention. However, no specific location in Princes Street has been identified for AIP intervention.

Table 2: Collisions for the period 31 May 2014 to 29 February 2016.

Junction	Date of collision (by month)	Collision Type
1 Queensferry Street	N/a	No collisions recorded
2 Lothian Road	09/2015	Pedestrian
3 Sth Charlotte Street	06/2014	Pedestrian
	08/2015	Pedestrian
4 Frederick Street	12/2014	Pedestrian
	12/2014	Pedestrian
	12/2014	Pedestrian
	08/2015	Pedestrian
	02/2016	Cyclist
5 Hanover Street – The Mound	12/2014	Pedestrian
	01/2015	Cyclist
	01/2015	Cyclist
	02/2015	T.V.N.P.
	11/2015	Bus
	11/2015	Pedestrian
	01/2016	Cyclist
6 Sth St David Street	07/2014	Pedestrian
	09/2014	Bus
	11/2014	Bus
7 Waverley Bridge	09/2014	S.V.N.P.
	06/2015	Cyclist
	08/2015	Pedestrian
8 Sth St Andrew Street	07/2014	Pedestrian
9 North Bridge – Leith Street	05/2014	T.V.N.P.
	04/2015	T.V.N.P.
	06/2015	T.V.N.P.
Totals	Pedestrian = 12	Cyclist = 5
25 collisions	Bus = 3	S.V.N.P. = 1
	T.V.N.P. = 4	M.V.N.P. = 0

S.V.N.P. (Single Vehicle No Pedestrian)
T.V.N.P. (Two Vehicles No Pedestrian)
M.V.N.P. (Multiple Vehicles No Pedestrian)

Question (2) What assessment has there been of crossing waiting times and the time of green man phases at each of the key junctions on Princes Street and what plans there are to improve conditions for pedestrians?

Answer (2) Pedestrian crossing waiting times at traffic signals along Princes Street are set as defined by the Department of Transport. A system called SPRUCE has recently been delivered which aims to improve waiting times for pedestrians at these junctions. A further piece of work is currently ongoing to improve the operation of the system. This work is being carried out in collaboration with our partners at Edinburgh Trams and Lothian Buses, as major users of the transport network on Princes Street. This is aimed at further improving waiting times for pedestrians. Full implementation of the revised control scheme is scheduled for the end of January 2017.

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Economy Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question

What action has the Council taken, both on Small Business Saturday on 3 December 2016, and throughout the year, to support small and medium sized shops?

Answer

Small Business Saturday – 3 December 2016

The Edinburgh Launch of Small Business Saturday (SBS) 15 September 2016 took place and was attended by Council officers alongside the Federation of Small Business.

SBS was launched in 2010. A national SBS team was established to take forward the initiative.

Business Gateway Edinburgh and Lothian liaised with the SBS team in the lead up to September 15th 2016 to promote the event and disseminate information.

A link to the SBS Digital Toolkit link was sent to each of the Business Improvement District (BID) Co-ordinators

Since the launch event, the Council has tried to engage the SBS team in order to further promote SBS within Edinburgh and to promote Small Business Saturday 2016 which took place on December 3rd 2016. This has however been met by a disappointing lack of communication and engagement from the SBS team.

Support for small and medium sized shops throughout the year

Business Gateway services are available to all businesses throughout the year. In the last 12 months, 86 retail businesses have been supported to start or grow.

The Council also supports the city's four BIDs (Essential Edinburgh, Greater Grassmarket, West End and Queensferry Ambition) providing a total of £108,000 direct

and indirect funding. The majority of BID members are retailers who benefit from a range of services which promote the retail offer in each location throughout the year.

The Council is also undertaking a project to speculatively build 16 new light industrial units at Cultins Road using £2 million from the Strategic Investment Fund. These units will be flexible spaces capable of supporting multiple uses and supporting small to medium sized enterprises with affordable and flexible work space.

QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Booth for answer by
the Convener of the Economy
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 15 December 2016**

Question

What meetings has the Council had with Forth Ports or other relevant stakeholders to discuss the prospect of renewable energy generating manufacturers siting their operations in Leith?

Answer

Council officers have had no recent meetings with Forth Ports or other relevant stakeholders to discuss the prospect of renewable energy generating manufacturers siting their operations in Leith.

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place met with Forth Ports on Friday 2 December 2016 however there were no discussions about renewable energy generating manufacturers locating on their site.

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question

What meetings have been held with Scottish Government officials or ministers to discuss a low emission zone (LEZ) or clean air zone (CAZ) for Edinburgh?

Answer

A governance group has been established to oversee the implementation of 'Actions' contained in Scotland's National Low Emission Strategy - Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFs). One of the key actions is the development of a National Low Emission Framework (NLEF) which includes LEZs and CAZs. The CAFs governance meetings are held monthly and are attended by Scottish Government Officials, Council Officials from Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh, SEPA, Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and Health Protection Scotland.

The development of NLEF is being progressed by the NLEF steering group. This has met four times in the last six months to share information on approach and content. Information is shared and discussed with the CAFs Governance Group. There will be wider group meetings to discuss such topics as, early adopters of an LEZ/CAZ, scheme design and detail and implementation.

Scottish Government Officials met with John Bury and David Leslie from City of Edinburgh Council on 10 August 2016 to discuss the NLEF process, existing funding and current transport related air quality work in Edinburgh.

A meeting of Heads of Planning and Transport and Environmental Health officials from the NLEF Governance Group (Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh) is proposed for December/January. This will be led by Scottish Governmental officials and will focus the scale and shape of NLEF options (LEZ/CAZ), resources and funding required.

Scottish Government officials are in regular contact with the Scottish Ministers providing updates to relevant Parliamentary Questions and briefing on CAFs and NLEF progress.

In addition to the above in my capacity as Transport & Environment Convener I was interviewed as part of the consultation exercise for and the preparation of the Clean Air for Scotland document. I have also attended a workshop in relation to this initiative attended by both Elected Members and representatives of the Scottish Government to discuss air quality issues. As Vice-Chair of SEStran I have also met with the Scottish Government's Transport Minister on two occasions at which I have pressed the case for continued early action on air quality issues in Edinburgh and the wider SEStrans area.

City of Edinburgh Council officials will continue to be engaged with the NLEF process.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost. I thank the Convener for her answer. For the benefit of those watching the webcam I asked about low emission and clean air zones and in particular whether the Council has any plans to develop these. The answer effectively says that a report will be coming forward to the Transport and Environment Committee in January that will look at that. Once again I thank the Convener for her answer

Can she clarify, it's not 100% clear from the written answer that's been provided, is Scottish Government funding likely to be forthcoming if the Council was to progress either a low emissions zone or a clean air zone and has the Council been in discussions with the Scottish Government about this?

Supplementary Answer

I was just saying to Councillor Day I'm going to be in the Christmas spirit and be nice to everyone today – even Councillor Booth.

In answer to your question, when I was interviewed by the Scottish Government regarding the low emission zones and clean air in Scotland I made it clear that as a Council we

would not have the resources to be able to bring in these zones. Unless we had the resources from the Scottish Government we wouldn't be able to do it within our own existing funding and every single meeting I've ever been to I've said that and at the workshop, that there's no way that this can happen without us getting funding from the Scottish Government. For people who haven't seen the answers, the officers have met on a number of occasions with officials of the Scottish Government to ensure that we can work together. It's not just us, but all the other cities as well, we're working together to have a common way forward to get cleaner air within all of our cities and I will check again but we don't have any indication regarding funding yet.

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question

When does the Council intend to establish an air quality management area (AQMA) at Salamander Street to address non-compliance with Scottish pollution targets for PM10s?

Answer

The Council is currently discussing further monitoring and mitigation measures with key players and partners including Forth Ports and SEPA with a view to declaring the AQMA early in 2017. Information on these proposals which include Salamander Street is contained in an Air Quality Update report which will be presented to the Transport & Environment Committee on 17 January 2016.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost. I thank the Convener again for her answer which for the benefit of the webcam was specifically about air pollution in Salamander Street in Leith which is in my own ward. The answer said that there is a high concentration of a particulate pollutant called PM10s, which is particular matter of a certain size, in Salamander Street and the Council is considering setting up an air quality management area in Salamander Street which would be a new air quality management area. I thank the Convener for her answer.

Can she just clarify when this matter comes before the Committee in January, will the recommendation of the officers be that an air quality management area will be set up?

Supplementary Answer

Thank you for the question. As I understand it with the draft report I've seen, yes, officers will be recommending that we bring Salamander Street into the air quality management area zone and obviously it will be up to the elected members to decide on whether that's the direction they wish to go in.

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question

What action is the Council taking to ensure that the number of long term empty homes in the city is significantly reduced?

Answer

In September 2012 an Empty Homes Task Force, with representation from all political groups and key partners, was established in response to Capital Coalition Pledge 10, to investigate ways to bring empty private sector homes in the city back into use. Since September 2014 this pledge has been considered as part of the Housing Pledges Working Group.

An Empty Homes Pilot Project began in February 2015. The case management approach established during the pilot project is being continued. Officers are currently managing 55 empty homes cases, the majority of which are long term empty homes. Since February 2015, 36 empty homes have been brought back into use or are in the process of being brought back into use.

The number of empty homes in Edinburgh accounts for 3.1% of the overall homes in the city, the same as the Scottish average (NRS data June 2016). At 30 November 2016, 995 homes are currently subject to the double Council Tax penalty charge*.

In 2015/16 the average time to re-let empty Council homes was 23 days, which puts Edinburgh in the top quartile of performance compared to other local authorities. The Scottish average for local authorities was 42 days.

*Properties that have lain empty for over 12 months may be charged double council tax. Some exemptions apply e.g. long term hospital stay or imprisonment.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20111/discounts_and_exemptions/112/unoccupied_property

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost. For the benefit of people watching the webcast, I asked what action the Council is taking to ensure the number of long-term empty homes in the City is significantly reduced and the answer sets out what the Council is doing. Lord Provost, according to Scottish Government statistics, the number of private sector homes in Edinburgh which are empty for more than 6 months is 4,997 in 2016, just slightly short of 5,000. Those are 5,000 homes which in use could make a massive difference to the housing supply in the City, easing pressure on green belt and green field sites alike. Comparing trends over time is difficult because of the Council tax changes in 2013/14 which caused a lot of long term empty properties to be re-classified, but since all Councils face the same challenges we can compare Edinburgh to the rest of Scotland and see that between 2012 and 2016, the number of empty homes in the Capital has risen at a rate three times higher than Scotland as a whole.

Lord Provost, despite setting up a working group several years ago, Edinburgh Council has not got on top of the empty homes problem and the opportunities it presents. While other Councils have been recruiting dedicated staff and creating new systems and innovative ways of tackling empty homes Edinburgh has recently stood down its dedicated empty homes officer just when it was starting to build momentum. So I'd like to ask the new housing deputy Convener whether she would be prepared to look at this issue again in the remaining months of this Council?

**Supplementary
Answer (by
Councillor
Griffiths)**

Thank you for your question. Yes I am very happy to look at the need for an empty homes officer. I agree with you that the number of empty homes could make a massive difference in the lack of affordable housing we have in the City so I'm certainly willing to look at that.

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question

In November 2016 the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee agreed to receive a number of child refugees to be agreed from the Calais camps.

Can an update on the numbers and progress to date be provided?

Answer

Following the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee's decision, the Council offered places for the immediate resettlement of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children displaced following closure of the Calais refugee camp. A small group of children took up these places on 30 November and are settling in. Their status is 'looked after and accommodated' under the provisions of Scottish legislation.

Some additional places were offered by the Council, should they be required, however, the indication is that these will not be taken up in the immediate future.

The Council, alongside other Scottish local authorities, is continuing to engage with COSLA and the Home Office with a view to participating in a national UASC dispersal scheme. Finalisation of this scheme awaits the resolution of a number of legal issues relating to the transfer of looked after children between England and Scotland.

Supplementary Question

Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for his answer. For the benefit of the webcast I asked about settlement of child refugees. I am now pleased that a small group of children are safely in Edinburgh and are being well looked after, but it's hard to believe as the reply indicates, that Edinburgh's offer to take more children will not be taken up in the immediate future.

Would he agree with me that the Home Office and the UK

Government appear to be dragging their heels and this is widely acknowledged, putting as many obstacles as they can in the path of those who wish to give refuge to children seeking asylum a future, and a home in the UK?

Edinburgh, I believe, wants to welcome more refugees, and wants to welcome more unaccompanied children seeking asylum. So can he shed any light on how it can be, with so many Calais children still in the 60 centres across France, with 5,000 spontaneous child refugees in the south of England and a further 3,000 vulnerable children without parents, presenting in the UK, how can it be that Edinburgh's offer is not needed at this time and can he explain whether the Scottish Government and the UK Government have yet managed to agree how and who will fund the settlement of child refugees?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I thank Councillor Main for her supplementary. I can't control what Westminster and Governments do, what I can say is that Edinburgh's doing everything we can. Spokespersons were briefed on what we're doing, we've welcomed a small number of people, the door in Edinburgh is open to take in more but that's been held up at COSLA discussions with the Home Office and the Scottish Government. Only this afternoon Directors of Education will be having another discussion at COSLA trying to resolve the problems that they've got, but our message here in Edinburgh is that people are welcome and we'll do all that we can to take more asylum seekers into the City.

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Abandoned Vehicle on Tram Tracks

Question

Regarding the report of a car found abandoned on tram tracks at Haymarket Station on 5th December 2016 could the Convener advise why it took an hour and forty minutes to remove the car and whether she deems this an acceptable level of service?

Answer

A vehicle was reported as being abandoned on the tram tracks at Haymarket Sidings to Police Scotland by Edinburgh Trams Control Room at 04:15 on 5 December 2016.

Police Scotland Timeline:

04:21 – call logged on Police Scotland System. Incident Number: 05.12.2016 294

05:00 – Police Scotland officers on-site

05:00 – 05:18 – Police Scotland officers assessing the vehicle and attempting to contact the registered owner

05:18 – Police Scotland contact 911 Recovery to get abandoned vehicle uplifted

06:00 (just prior to) – 911 Recovery uplift and impound abandoned vehicle

While this incident caused only minimal delays to early hours tram services, I am concerned at the length of time it took to remove the vehicle and this is something which I have previously raised with both Police Scotland and Transport officials. I have again asked Senior Transport officers to raise this matter with appropriate Police Scotland colleagues with a view to ensuring that any future similar problems are resolved as quickly and effectively as possible.

**Supplementary
Question**

Thank you Lord Provost, I thank the Convener for her response. I wondered, was the time scale in which the tram was removed, was that within the agreed contract that we have, that was drawn up at the time of the implementation of the tram?

**Supplementary
Answer**

For the people who are listening, the question was about a time that it took for a car abandoned on the tram tracks at Haymarket in the early hours of the morning and the answer is that it was an unacceptable time, so just for the webcast.

If Councillor Mowat had maybe perhaps asked beforehand, I don't have those details but I'd be happy to pass it forward to her. If she wants to put it in writing and get a formal answer for her.

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Aitken for answer by
the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 15 December 2016**

Street Lighting Repairs

Question (1) How many broken streetlights/columns are waiting for the required maintenance?

Answer (1) There are currently 1581 streetlights requiring maintenance and 315 columns to be replaced.

Question (2) If there is a backlog, what are the reasons for this?

Answer (2) The figure of 1581 streetlights requiring maintenance is in line with historic levels at this time of year.

A lengthy Scotland wide legal challenge to procurement delayed the sourcing of replacement columns throughout the country. An additional £1m was allocated to accelerate the programme for replacing Test Failed Columns. Due to the legal issue mentioned above, this funding has been carried forward and lighting columns are currently being sourced now that that this challenge has been resolved.

Question (3) What is the average waiting time for a repair?

Answer (3) The waiting time for repair varies. There are 4 different categories of repair. These are:

Category 1 – 4 hours

Category 2 – 24 hours

Category 3 – 5 days

Category 4 – 28 days

The category is assigned following consideration of a number of factors including the type of repair, the number of dark lights and the location.

Question (4) What is the date of the oldest outstanding repair?

Answer (4) The oldest outstanding repair is to replace a lighting column, first recorded 4 April 2014 and was affected by the procurement issue mentioned above. Replacement columns are now being sourced.

Question (5) How are repairs being prioritised?

Answer (5) As detailed above, when enquiries/faults are reported, the categorisation system is used. Category 1 is the most urgent and relates to life and limb situations, for example unsafe columns following a road traffic accident or bare wires.

Supplementary Question Thank you Lord Provost and I thank the Convener for her response. Given that the legal challenge affected a repair over two and an half years ago, it means that other residents will have been waiting a significant and quite lengthy time for repairs and replacements to their street lighting as well. The residents who have contacted me are concerned about the lack of street light especially over the winter and also because of the spate of house breaking that we've been experiencing. So I'm heartened to hear that this legal challenge has now been resolved and that £1m has been carried over and the funding is still there.

So will the Convener ensure that the outstanding repairs and replacements are carried out as soon as possible?

Supplementary Answer Again for people who perhaps are listening, the question was about street lighting repairs and particularly regarding maintenance but also columns that need to be replaced. There has been as you said a long, protracted, Scottish wide issue, and I think all parties were supportive of the £1m extra investment in replacement and I'm pleased so therefore yes, obviously I will take up the issue and perhaps get an answer to you directly, giving an update in terms of how we're trying to deal with the outstanding repairs.

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016

Question

There are growing concerns in the school community about the pressures on support available to children with additional support needs who are in mainstream education. Pupils may require support for a range of reasons, including autism, disability and home language.

Would the Convener please provide for each year since 2012, the number of primary and secondary school pupils and that number as a percentage of total school roll who have additional support needs, excluding pupils whose first language is not English and who receive language support, for each school together with the numbers of audit hours given to each school to meet the needs of these children and young people.

Answer

I regret it is not possible to provide the level of detail requested without further detailed analysis of records which will take some time to prepare.

However, the overall picture is presented in the Performance and Planning Reports to the Education Children and Families Committee. The most recent report, December 2015 documents an established upward trend in the % of pupils with significant additional support needs. The most recent figure of 21% is consistent with the Scottish average.

	Total Pupils	With ASL needs	% of School Population
2011/12	43,376	7,374	17%
2012/13	44,768	8,506	19%
2013/14	46,915	9,383	20%
2014/15	46,448	9,754	21%

Over the period in question there has been a growth in the funding for additional support needs and special schools to take into account the growth in the population.

Funding for Additional Support for Learning and Special Schools 2010-15

	2010/11 Annual Approved Budget	2011/12 Annual Approved Budget	2012/13 Annual Approved Budget	2013/14 Annual Approved Budget	2014/15 Annual Approved Budget
Support in mainstream including ASL Service	£16.1m	£16.4m	£16.4m	£16.6m	£17.2m
Special Schools	£15.5m	£15.9m	£16.6m	£16.6m	£17.6m

Supplementary Question

For the benefit of those watching the webcast I asked for some information of the number of children in our schools with what is commonly understood as additional support needs. The response states that it is not possible to provide the level of detail requested without further detailed analysis. Sadly, the only information supplied was available publicly a year ago and it is misleading in that the numbers supplied include 5,046 children who receive language support, over 3,000 children who receive no report and only gives information up to 31 March 2015.

Why are the total numbers of children who have additional support needs in our schools for last year even, to 31 March not available, some nine months after the year end?

To manage the support services effectively the Council surely needs to know what the numbers are. Without them it's hard to understand what control and oversight management and members can have of this situation.

Does the Convener agree with me that this is not acceptable and will he agree to bring a report to the next Education, Children and Families Committee so that members can be reassured that the extent of the number of children with additional support needs is known and that support is sufficient and appropriate?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I thank Councillor Main for her supplementary. I think as it says we can provide this information, it just takes some to gather that.

There will be a report presented to the March, Education, Children and Families Committee which will identify performance reports and that can be included in that. If there are particular schools that you are concerned about you just need to let me know and I can provide that information to you.