

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 11

27 APRIL 2017

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Bagshaw for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 27 April 2017**

Question

Given the impact of congestion on bus journey times within Edinburgh, what action is being taken to record particular areas of delay caused by such congestion?

Answer

Through investing in Active Travel and the city's public transport network (buses, trams and Park and Ride) the Council is helping deliver a modal shift away from car use – something which not only cuts congestion but also improves air quality and health and wellbeing.

Further to this, the Council has developed, and is currently implementing, a 'city centre congestion action plan'. This sets out a variety of activities to tackle congestion across the city centre.

The Traffic Control Room monitors traffic and congestion in the city and enables regular amendments to signal timings at peak times to help traffic flow.

Regular engagement with bus operators and public utility companies take place through:

- The Citywide Traffic Management Group (CWTMG)
- Traffic Management Review Panels
- Bus operators forum

In planning for events, the Events Planning Operations Group (EPOG) consider the likely impact on congestion.

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 April 2017

Question (1) Will the Convener confirm that when Redhall House was sold by the council in December 2007, it was a condition of sale that the house be developed for use within 2 years and 3 months of sale?

Answer (1) This is correct

Question (2) Subject to the answer in 1. above, what action has been taken to enforce that condition of sale?

Answer (2) There have been numerous reports considered by The Finance and Resources Committee as follows:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/53307/item_711_Redhall_house_and_grounds_7_redhall_house_drive_edinburgh

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/48667/item_712_-_redhall_house_and_lawn_-_progress_report

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/47298/item_714_-_redhall_house_and_lawn_progress_report

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/45358/item_77_-_redhall_house_and_lawn_progress_report

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/43415/item_71_-_redhall_house_and_lawn_-_options_for_action

The Council have instigated legal action against the owner, however this has been sisted following advice from legal services as the owner is in the process of preparing a new planning application.

Question (3) Will the Convener detail what assessments have been made of the condition of the property, starting from December 2007 to date; and outline what those assessments have shown?

Answer

- (3) Planning Officers have conducted regular visits to the property to visually inspect the security and monitor the condition of the building. Meetings with representatives of the owners have also taken place on site where discussions concerning the remedial measures required to secure and make the building wind and water tight were covered.

An agreement concerning the regular monitoring of the condition of the building on a weekly basis has been agreed between the owners of Redhall House and the Council.

On a number of occasions, the visual inspections revealed issues concerning the security of the building. The remedial measures required to address these issues were primarily in connection with the windows and doors of the property and have generally been implemented by the owners without delay.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 April 2017

The opening of the new Boroughmuir High School Originally scheduled in August 2016, has been delayed for a sixth time, to January 2018.

At the Governance, Risk Best Value Committee on 24 October 2016 serious concerns were raised about continuing delays and an Assurance Review of the new Boroughmuir High School was requested and oversight of the project increased. However Boroughmuir High School's contractors, O'Hare & McGovern, have recently informed the Council that they are now unable to achieve the handover date of 16 June and are proposing a new date of 11 August just six days before the start of term.

Question (1) What was the reason given by the contractor for each of the delays?

Answer (1) There have been six delays in relation to when the contractor will hand over the building to the Council. Only the first two have been accepted as official delays in terms of the contract due to ground conditions and inclement weather. No accepted evidence for any of the further delays has been submitted by the contractor within the terms of the contract.

Question (2) For each of the delays, what penalty or changes to fees have been agreed with the contractor as the result of the delay?

Answer (2) The contract is not a public document and while it does contain appropriate provision for liquidated and ascertained damages, given the ongoing issues, it is not appropriate to discuss the details of the contract in a public forum.

Question (3) What are the detailed additional costs associated with keeping the school on the current site and fit for purpose until 2018, and who will bear those costs?

Answer

- (3)** The project budget has always included provision for costs related to the transfer period between the existing school and the new school building. Whilst these will vary slightly based on the length of the transition period, the project budget has adequate provision for the relatively low level of additional cost. All such costs will be tracked and options for compensation considered at the appropriate time.

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Heslop for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 April 2017

20 mph signposts

- Question** (1) How many new signposts have been erected showing the 20mph and what is the cost?
- Answer** (1) As part of the 20mph scheme, 566 existing poles have been removed as part of an effort to minimise street clutter. To date, approximately 382 new poles have been erected to house 20mph signs. This means an overall reduction of 184 poles across the city. The cost to erect each pole is in the region of £800, including excavation, traffic management, installation, etc. This equates to a cost of approximately £305,600.
- Question** (2) How many of these signposts have subsequently been removed, or removed and replaced with painted 20mph signs on the road.
- Answer** (2) Following feedback from residents, residents' associations and local elected members, 8 sign-poles were removed and replaced with 16 roundels.
- Question** (3) What is the cost?
- Answer** (3) The cost of removing the sign-poles and replacing with roundels is approximately £5,500. This is contained within the overall scheme budget.

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Rose for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 April 2017

Garden Waste Collection

Question

From the beginning of March 2017 garden waste collections changed to a three weekly rota year round.

It is noted that householders are receiving the following message:

We are not able to supply the new garden waste collection information or reminder emails for Edinburgh at present. We hope this will be available soon. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

When will this be resolved?

Answer

This message is not displayed on the Council website, which is currently providing accurate, up-to-date information for householders on garden waste collection arrangements in the city.

I understand that the message referred to above was displayed on the private company website <http://www.greenboxday.co.uk/default.asp>. We provided the company with the up-to-date information on our garden waste collection schedule, with a request that they update their website message relating to Edinburgh as a matter of urgency. The company has now confirmed that this will be carried out in the next few days.