

**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**

**MEETING 8**

**13 DECEMBER 2018**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

## Item no 5.1

### QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Mary Campbell for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

#### **Question**

Following the announcement from the Scottish Government on the 21st of November 2018, of £1 billion for new school building programmes beginning in 2021, what representations has the Convener made to Scottish ministers to ensure that schools in Edinburgh are a high priority for funding?

#### **Answer**

The Council's Wave 4 investment plan has been shared with Scottish Ministers. The Convener has written to the Deputy First Minister twice to request a timescale for the funding announcement and emphasise its importance for the Edinburgh school replacement programme.

The Vice-Convener has raised the matter informally with the Deputy First Minister on a number of occasions and welcomes the Scottish Government announcement of £1 billion for the new school buildings programme.

Appropriate engagement with the Scottish Government at both political and officer level will continue as the programme develops and we look forward to working together to help deliver the Council's Wave 4 investment plan.

## 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 13 December 2018**

#### **Question**

What representations on behalf of the City Council did the Convener make in his meeting about the budget settlement with the Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy on 22.11.18 and any subsequent meetings or correspondence; and what feedback has he had following those meetings?

#### **Answer**

The meeting with the Minister covered the Council's financial position, the Barclay review recommendations, the main pressures on the budget, such as health and social care and rising school rolls, and our request that the Scottish Government take these fully into consideration in formulating the Local Government Financial Settlement.

This was a productive meeting where our points were taken on board by the Government. I will be following any relevant actions up with the Council Leader through the budget process.

## Item no 5.3

### QUESTION NO 3

**By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

#### **Question**

Given the estimated £28m gap in budget for 2019-20 and the estimated cumulative gap of £106m by 2022-23, can the Convener outline for the current year, 2018-19, what the impact on the city's budget would be if the 85% floor rule were applied before rather than after the inclusion of estimated council tax receipts.

#### **Answer**

Revenue funding available from Council Tax forms an integral part of the needs assessment underpinning the Local Government Finance Settlement. By extension, it is not appropriate for the 85% per capita sum to be calculated without similar reference to each authority's domestic tax base.

## Item no 5.4

### QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018

**Question** (1) How many street lights currently have a reported fault needing repaired, broken down by ward?

**Answer** (1) There are 2,850 street lighting faults outstanding. This equates to 5% of the total street lighting stock and is a reduction from 4,218 in November 2017.

A breakdown by ward is shown below:

Ward	Number of Current Faults
1	208
2	166
3	164
4	160
5	189
6	107
7	113
8	154
9	99
10	106
11	468
12	100
13	110
14	116
15	162
16	216
17	212
Total	2,850

**Question** (2) What is the current turnaround time for repairing street lights after they are reported as faulty?

**Answer**           **(2)** The average turnaround time for lights reported and repaired (in November) was 10 days. Taking into account all repairs (including long standing faults) the average repair time in November was 48 days.

**Question**           **(3)** Of the current list of faulty street lights, how many are:

- a) more than 3 month outstanding.
- b) more than 6 months outstanding.
- c) more than one year outstanding

**Answer**           **(3)** a) 1,044

b) 796

c) 535

These totals include a variety of faults (some of which do not mean that the light is not working at night time).

## Item no 5.5

### QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Lang for answer by the  
Leader of the Council at a meeting of  
the Council on 13 December 2018

**Question** (1) How many freedom of information requests have been submitted to the Council in each of the last three years?

**Answer** (1)

<b>Year:</b>	2016	2017	2018 (to date)
<b>Total:</b>	2711	2714	2515

**Question** (2) What percentage of freedom of information requests have been responded to within 20 working days in each of these three years?

**Answer** (2)

<b>Year:</b>	2016	2017	2018 (to date)
<b>Percentage:</b>	89%	90%	76%

**Question** (3) Using the most up to date figures available, how many current freedom of information requests are

- a) more than three months outstanding,
- b) more than six months outstanding and
- c) more than one year outstanding?

**Answer** (3) a) 14  
b) 0  
c) 0

## Item no 5.6

### QUESTION NO 6

**By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

Please could the Convener confirm:

- Question** (1) The amount of money currently held by the Council from overpayments by residents for Council Tax.
- Answer** (1) For 2017/18 the value of Council Tax 'credits' that remain unclaimed is £1,099,599.
- Question** (2) What is the process for reclaiming an overpayment?
- Answer** (2) Following the identification of credit the Council contacts the resident by way of a credit note which advises citizens how to progress a refund. A regular review of credits of £2000 or more is undertaken and further contact is made with these customers.
- Question** (3) Why is this not automatic?
- Answer** (3) The process is partially automated, with credits applied to new accounts when an existing account holder moves within the Edinburgh area. In some instances manual intervention is required e.g. dual account holders, or where there is no validated payment method to enable the refund etc. The process remains under review and this will consider the scope for further automation
- Question** (4) What is done with the monies (i) whilst unclaimed, and (ii) if they remain unclaimed?
- Answer** (4) Monies are ring fenced on the Council's balance sheet and remain there until claimed.

## Item no 5.7

### QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Planning Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

**Question** (1) When was the Technical Manual factsheet on 'Cycle Parking in New Developments', as referenced on page 55 of the Edinburgh Design Guidance, published?

**Answer** (1) The Edinburgh Design Guidance (EDG) was published in October 2017. Chapter 4 of the EDG is the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance.

The minimum number of cycle parking spaces that are to be provided in new developments is specified in the EDG in the table on page 61.

There are two factsheets currently being developed for publication in late Spring 2019 which are relevant to cycle parking:

- C6 Cycle Parking in New Developments; and
- C7 Cycle Parking.

**Question** (2) What consultation was carried out prior to its publication?

**Answer** (2) Development of the ESDG has been undertaken over a period of several years and extensive consultation was carried out during the development of Parts A and B.

We are keen to publish the technical factsheets as quickly as possible, to assist designers in implementing the ESDG, and further consultation is not therefore being undertaken as part of their production.

The Detailed Design Manual is intended to be a 'live' document and will be updated to reflect best practice, policy and legislative change. As part of this, the factsheets will be reviewed regularly in response to comments received.

**Question** (3) Will the Convener please provide the URL for download of this factsheet from the Council website?

**Answer**

- (3)** The technical fact sheets that have been published to date can be viewed on the Council's website via the link below:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20069/local\\_development\\_plan\\_and\\_guidance/1755/edinburgh\\_design\\_guidance](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20069/local_development_plan_and_guidance/1755/edinburgh_design_guidance)

The two factsheets above will be added to this site when ready.

## Item no 5.8

### QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

- Question** (1) Why was the retention of the St Johns Primary School building and its repurposing as a community asset as part of the new Treverlen park not part of the Consultation on the St Johns/Portobello High school site?
- Answer** (1) The statutory consultation for the new St John's Primary School was only progressed once the Parliamentary Bill which allowed the development of the new Portobello High School was in place. During the development of the new Portobello High School the Council committed to providing a park (not including retention of the old St John's building) around a new St John's Primary school if it was developed on the former site of Portobello High School. All the options in the statutory consultation for the new St John's Primary School honoured this commitment for a park.
- Question** (2) Can the Convener confirm if the new Treverlen park will still include a dedicated facility for skate sports and BMX and is the Council willing to engage with local participants in these activities to ensure the park best meets the requirements of those who will use this long-awaited facility? If not, can the Convener confirm why this was included in the Planning submission which stated, "the design team intend to work with a steering group and specialist skate park designers to develop proposals for this area which respond to the specific requirements of end users."
- Answer** (2) The park is to include a facility which can be used by all types of non-motorised wheeled vehicles for example bikes, scooters and skateboards. If further engagement with specific user groups is required then I am happy to request this is progressed by the project team.

## Item no 5.9

### QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

#### **Question**

Can the Convener detail which specific businesses, groups, organisations or associations she has met across public, private or third sector since her appointment to the Convenership?

#### **Answer**

Since becoming Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee in March 2018, I have met with many organisations and key stakeholders across the public, private and third sector.

Over the last nine months I have met with housing associations; Government Ministers; MPs and MSPs; small businesses; third sector organisations working across homelessness, housing, employability, children's services, advice services and women's services; social enterprises; private sector stakeholders; private enterprise and business across a range sectors including businesses involved in sciences, finance, communications, design, hospitality, corporate property, developers and house builders; industry bodies; international investors; other local authorities; public bodies; tenant representatives; the NHS; universities and union representatives in order to listen to the priorities of stakeholders, share our strategy and objectives and to build the relationships we need to deliver the best outcomes for every resident in every neighbourhood in the city.

## Item no 5.10

### QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Jim Campbell for  
answer by the Convener of the  
Finance and Resources Committee at  
a meeting of the Council on 13  
December 2018

For each High School, please provide the ICT provision for  
student learning in terms of:

- Question**           **(1)** The number of
- a) desk top computers
  - b) lap top computers
  - c) tablet computers
  - d) any other type of computer

**Answer**           **(1)** Please refer to the table below.

High School	Desktop	Laptop	Tablet	Other Types Desktop	Other Types Laptop
	<b>(1a)</b>	<b>(1b)</b>	<b>(1c)</b>	<b>(1d)</b>	<b>(1d)</b>
Balerno Community High	139	36	78	116	13
Boroughmuir High	228	19	155	26	201
Broughton High	201	1	251	100	46
Castlebrae Community High	81	8	323	1	2
Craigmount High	239	20	415	114	5
Craigroyston Community High	136	13	358	10	

Currie Community High	171	15	249	70	53
Drummond Community High	148	3	584	59	10
Firrhill High	201	21	29	83	108
Forrester High	151	23	821	90	38
Gracemount High	110	60	896	29	187
Holy Rood RC High	286	18	561	3	35
James Gillespie's High	285	19	151	109	66
Leith Academy	229	23	870	42	14
Liberton High	156	14	429	114	
Portobello High	267	12	2039	65	89
Queensferry Community High	162	16	44	29	1
The Royal High	214	220	1817	20	21
St Augustine's RC High	169	14	764	112	12
St Thomas of Aquin's RC High	108	32	83	65	45
Trinity Academy	179	18	146	104	45
Tynecastle High	223	15	845	44	22
Wester Hailes Education Centre	165	7	417	38	43

**Question** (2) The number of computers CGI are contractually obliged to replace as part of the agreed refresh programme, where no additional payments are required for upgrade or maintenance, that are:

- a) desk tops
- b) lap tops
- c) tablets
- d) of any other type

**Answer** (2) a) 4,248  
b) 627  
c) This is not applicable to be replaced by CGI. These are not centrally managed devices.  
d) This is not applicable to be replaced by CGI. These are not centrally managed devices

**Question** (3) The number of computer suites, to include the following information:

- a) the number of individual computer / terminals for students use per suite
- b) the principle area of the curriculum supported by the suite
- c) any additional charges CGI are entitled to make, to refresh and maintain each suite?

**Answer** (3) a) 20 for pupils plus 1 for the Teacher (NB: exception is Boroughmuir which is 25 for pupils plus 1 for the teacher).  
b) Computing, Business Studies and CDT (Graphics Comms courses mainly). These suites are also used for general IT use by other subjects when available.  
c) No additional charges are applicable, unless these suites are made up of non-centrally managed devices, which would be a school consideration for replacement.

## Item no 5.11

### QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Jim Campbell for  
answer by the Convener of the  
Transport and Environment  
Committee at a meeting of the  
Council on 13 December 2018**

Since the introduction of the new waste collection rounds at the beginning of October, can the Convener break down by home waste depot:

- Question**
- (1) a) The number of unique property references recorded on Routesmart at the point the new routes went live.
- b) The number of unique property references recorded on Routesmart on 7th December 2018.
- c) Any instances where all domestic properties on a street and had previously received waste uplifts, were omitted from Routesmart at the point the new routes when live?
- Answer**
- (1) a) There were 130,581 properties on Routesmart for the kerbside service at the point the new routes went live (which increases to 156,488 when this includes properties which only have a kerbside food waste collection).
- b) On the 6 December 2018 there were 132,433 properties on Routesmart (a 1.4% increase from the 130,581 at the point when the new routes went live).
- c) The addition of the properties above has impacted 124 streets, bringing the total street numbers on Routesmart to 3,628. This will include a mix of streets that had individual properties and full streets omitted.

**Question**

- (2)**
- a) The average time between a failed waste uplift reference being generated and it being close.
  - b) The number of unique properties recorded on Routesmart that have had more than one failed waste uplift reference generated.
  - c) The number of failed waste uplift reference that appear to have been closed before the remedial uplift took place?

**Answer**

- (2)**
- a) For the period 8 October to 2 December 2018 the average time between a service requested being opened and closed was 9 days (including weekends) for kerbside collections. It is important to note that service requests are not closed at the point when collection takes place. Notification of uplift is provided to a central team who will then close the service request.
  - b) Missed bin reports are managed via the Confirm system rather than Routesmart. However, 2,077 unique households have reported two or more missed kerbside collections between 8 October and 2 December. These totalled 5,833 reports (0.19% of the scheduled uplifts during this period).
  - c) It is not possible to identify reports that have been closed before the remedial uplift took place.

## Item no 5.12

### QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Staniforth for answer  
by the Convener of the Education,  
Children and Families Committee at a  
meeting of the Council on 13  
December 2018**

- Question** (1) Is it the case that children living on Council school bus routes, not normally eligible for home to school transport, have recently been barred from taking up empty seats on school buses?
- Answer** (1) In certain circumstances pupils who are not eligible for home to school transport support can be offered transport places if one is available. As the contracts and means of providing home to school transport changes depending on supply, demand and procurement so does the opportunity to provide places to non-eligible pupils.
- Question** (2) What is the reason for any change in school busing policy and how was this change considered and approved?
- Answer** (2) There has been no recent change in the home to school transport policy and any proposed change to the policy would have to be subject of appropriate Committee reports for consideration.
- Question** (3) Has there been any assessment of the environmental impact from the increase in car journeys to and from school as a result of empty seats on school buses not being filled?
- Answer** (3) No. The provision of home to school transport for non-eligible pupils is not a consideration taken into account when the home to school transport provision is determined or procured. The most efficient solution for eligible pupils is put in place in line with policy without an assessment of environmental impact that may result from no longer providing travel support for non-eligible pupils.

## Item no 5.13

### QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

#### Question

To ask the Convener how much money in grants and project funding has been received by the Place Directorate in the last 24 months;

- a) which organisation has this money/benefit in kind come from;
- b) what this money has been used for ie to which project it has been assigned;
- c) how much of the grant has been spent?

#### Answer

It has not been possible to prepare the requested information within the timescale to respond to Council Questions. A report, detailing all of the requested information, will be prepared for Finance and Resources Committee on 1 February 2019

## Item no 5.14

### QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

#### Question

Given the recent UN report on the need for urgent action to reduce climate-changing pollution, what progress has been made towards providing climate change literacy training for council staff and councillors?

#### Answer

The Transport and Environment Committee received an update on the Carbon Literacy Project in [August 2018](#).

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee considered the independent review of sustainability carried out by Professor Andy Kerr of the Centre for Carbon Innovation at the University of Edinburgh sustainability audit on [4 December 2018](#). The recommendations contained in the research will be responded to by the Council with a follow up report at Corporate Policy and Strategy committee in February. Leadership, skills and training in the Council will form part of that response.

## Item no 5.15

### QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

The bus gate camera on Kirklands Park Street is understood to continue to generate a significant number of penalty fines on a monthly basis. Please provide the following statistics where known:

**Question** (1) The number of vehicles fined, each calendar month from 1st January 2018 until 30th November 2018?

**Answer** (1) The number of vehicles fined, each calendar month from 1 January 2018 until 30 November 2018?

Jan 18	198
Feb 18*	173
March 18*	0
April 18*	69
May 18	103
June 18	193
July 18	136
Aug 18	176
Sept 18	162
Oct 18	150
Nov 18	147

\* camera was not operational between 26 February and 17 April due to winter weather and a subsequent equipment fault.

**Question** (2) How many of these vehicles are repeat offenders versus first time fines?

**Answer** (2) 1,032 were first time offenders, 477 were repeat offenders.

**Question** (3) How many of the drivers fined, have paid within the deadline and prior to passing for third party collection?

**Answer** (3) 1,095 Bus Lane Charge Notices were paid before being passed to the Sheriff Officers.

**Question** (4) How many drivers appeal the fine?

**Answer** (4) Between 1 January and 30 November 2018, five cases were appealed at the Parking Adjudicator.

**Question** (5) How many appeals are successful?

**Answer** (5) Of these five cases, four were not successful and one is awaiting a decision from the Adjudicator.

## Item no 5.16

### QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 13 December 2018**

As we reach the end of the 2018, can you please provide information on events and projects which have taken place this year, up until 30th November by the Convenor/Vice Convenor, by the Council Leader and by the Young People Champion, specifically in relation to the “Year of young people” (YoYP)celebration, broken down as follows:

- Question** (1) Number of events hosted by any of the above councillors specifically for YoYP, split by Host.
- Answer** (1) Numerous events throughout the year have been hosted and attended by the Councillors mentioned. A report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2019 will include a detailed programme of events and the involvement of elected members but much more importantly, the gathered issues that matter to the young people and the action we have taken in response.
- Question** (2) Number of external YoYP events attended by each of the councillors above.
- Answer** (2) See answer 1.
- Question** (3) List of projects or initiatives specifically dedicated to YoYP objectives or commitments, and whether these have concluded or continue into 2019.

**Answer**

**(3)** See answer 1.

YoYP objectives were incorporated into existing events for young people to make use of networks and ensure a holistic approach, reaching a wide range of young people and collecting a breadth of opinion.

YoYP 2018 has inspired a number of plans to further involve and consult with young people which will be realised in 2019 and beyond. This includes work that is already underway to more directly involve schools and young people in the policies of the Education, Children and Families Committee, and legacy projects are beginning to emerge with schools and lifelong learning partners in arts, sport, and third sector partners, and also with planning, transport and city development colleagues and partners.

Child Friendly City will also be officially launched in 2019 as a key legacy to the YOYP, embedding the rights of children and young people into all related decision making across the life of this city.

What Kind of Edinburgh will also end in March 2019 and the youth participation team are currently in discussion with Youth Talk (leads) in localities to explore the potential for creating a citywide group of young people who would meet with the What Kind of Edinburgh Champions.

Further details on the above will also be included in the March 2019 report

**Question**

**(4)** Budget allocated and spent to cover each of items 1-3.

**Answer**

**(4)** There was no budget allocated to Year of Young People 2018 and all activity was covered from within service budgets and with reduced staff capacity.