

Item No 4

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 2

24 JUNE 2010

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Mowat to be answered by the Convener of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

The Council has declared its commitment to bringing forward 20 mph zones in residential areas in its 2030 Transport Strategy.

Question (1) How are residential areas defined for this purpose?

Answer (1) The definition of 'residential areas' in respect of 20mph zones was agreed by the Transport Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 24 November 2009 as "housing areas enclosed by one or more main traffic/public transport routes." Guidance on what constitutes main traffic/public transport routes is contained in the Lothian Transport Strategy 2007.

Question (2) What measures can be taken to enforce 20 mph zones in the World Heritage Site?

Answer (2) Schemes which are located within the World Heritage Site must be designed in accordance with the Edinburgh Standards for Streets manual. They are submitted to the Streetscape Working Group for their approval to ensure that the scheme is in keeping with the existing fabric and layout of the streets.

QUESTION NO 2

**By Councillor Mowat to be
answered by the Leader of the
Council at a meeting of the Council
on 24 June 2010**

Question (1) What stage has the European Commission's investigation into the Council's sale of land at Caltongate to Mountgrange reached?

Answer (1) In March the European Commission sought observations from the UK Government on the contract entered into by the Council with Mountgrange. The UK Government has responded to the European Commission and the Council has requested a copy of that correspondence. The response of the European Commission is awaited by the UK Government.

Question (2) Given that the transfer of land is exempt from the Procurement Regulations of the European Commission, on what grounds has this matter been referred to the Commission?

Answer (2) The matter was referred to the European Commission to investigate whether the deal agreed with Mountgrange satisfied State Aid Regulations. While the sale of land is ordinarily exempt from the ambit of the Procurement Regulations, recent European case law has clarified that such land sales may be caught by those Regulations, where the terms of the contract are such that the contract could be said to be a procurement of works by the selling authority.

Question (3) What further action does the Council expect to be taken?

Answer (3) The European Commission's response is still awaited and the Council will respond as appropriate. The Council anticipates the European Commission's investigation will be concluded amicably without necessitating further action.

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Johnstone to be answered by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question (1) How much is currently spent on space and water heating on the school estate? (If possible break into two separate costs.)

Answer (1) In 2009/10 the Council spent £5,494,338 on total energy usage across the primary and secondary school estate.

Gas accounted for £2,324,496
Electricity £2,819,842
Oil £350,000

The majority of these schools are heated using gas but there are currently 4 oil sites and 3 sites with complete electric heating and hot water.

As the majority of supplies are fed through a single meter in order to minimise standing charges, it is difficult to attribute an exact figure to the consumption for each individual element. However, an industry rule of thumb is normally used, heating 65%, hot water 25%, other 10%.

Question (2) What steps are currently taken to monitor temperatures in individual classrooms?

Answer (2) The Council has automated heating controls in most establishments. These controls are used to inform the electronic local control device in schools which controls the temperature of buildings. Monitoring of individual classrooms does not take place on a systematic basis unless problems with over or under heating occur.

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Henderson to be answered by the Convener of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

- Question** (1) What consultation took place prior to the decision to introduce a £20 charge for Blue Badges?
- Answer** (1) The introduction of the charge was included in the budget which was agreed at the Council meeting on 11 February 2010. There was a pre-budget meeting on 29 January to which key stakeholders from equality, diversity, human rights and poverty groups were invited.
- Midlothian Council was also consulted, as it had introduced the charge the previous April. The Scottish Government consulted with PAMIS, DPTAC (Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee), Blue Badge Network, Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland and others, prior to making changes to the Blue Badge legislation, which included making provision for local authorities to increase the issuing charge to £20.
- Question** (2) How many Blue Badge holders are registered in Edinburgh and how much income will be raised from the new charge?
- Answer** (2) There are approximately 21,000 Blue Badge holders registered in Edinburgh. There will be approximately £140k of income raised per annum from the new charge.
- Question** (3) What concerns have been raised by any external authorities, such as the European Human Rights Commission?
- Answer** (3) The Equality and Human Rights Commission have raised a number of concerns principally relating to the EQIA (Equality Impact Assessment) screening tool and training/support for Officers and Councillors.

Question (4) What consideration has been given to means testing in order to protect Blue Badge holders who may be in receipt of benefits?

Answer (4) Given that the charge applies to a Badge that has a life of up to three years, the financial impact of the charge on individuals was not considered to warrant means testing. Any means testing would also add to the administration cost of Blue Badge issue.

Question (5) What intentions does the Administration have for consulting the Equality Transport Advisory Group (ETAG) on relevant future budgets?

Answer (5) It was agreed at the last ETAG meeting on 22 April 2010 that a meeting would be arranged for November 2010 when budget options could be discussed allowing an input to the formal budget decisions that will take place in February 2011.

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Ewan Aitken to be answered by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question

In reply to my question regarding academic research on the relative attainment of composite classes of 36 and classes of 18 with a single teacher, you quoted research into team teaching. From the evidence you quoted, can you tell me which outcomes relating to class sizes of 36 are replicated from class sizes of 18?

Answer

The circumstances that Councillor Ewan Aitken describes could not arise. Team teaching is applied only to single year groups. Composite classes cross two or more years but are limited to a class size of 25. A composite class of 36 is therefore not possible. Accordingly, there is no research based evidence available within the Scottish education setting which relates to the specific class sizes raised.

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Munro to be answered by the Convener of the Culture and Leisure Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question (1) What revenue budget has been set for Drumbrae Library?

Answer (1) Drumbrae library will be part of a new £5.7m Community Hub which will also include adult day care services, a neighbourhood office and a community safety unit. Non-staffing revenue costs associated with the Community Hub will be split between all building users. The exact amount will be determined as part of the 2011/12 budget setting exercise. The anticipated staffing costs for the library are approximately £150k.

Question (2) How will Drumbrae Library be stocked and what will the impact of this be on other city libraries?

Answer (2) A capital sum of £200k has been included in the building costs for stock and fit out. Thereafter Drumbrae will be included in the new additions and stock rotation plans along with the rest of the city libraries. The £200k referred to will increase the materials available in our libraries and the offer available to all residents.

Question (3) How will Drumbrae Library be staffed and what will the impact of this be on other city libraries?

Answer (3) Approximately 6 FTEs will be required to staff the library. This will have no impact on other city libraries. The costs will be met from within the existing Library Service resources.

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Munro to be answered by the Convener of the Culture and Leisure Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question (1) In what ways have the conditions of service for staff in libraries been changed and how will this impact on the service? If such changes have not been implemented, is consideration being given to making changes and what is the nature of the changes?

Answer (1) The conditions of service have not been changed. However, we are currently in consultation with Unison about the working patterns and extending weekend openings, as recently reported to Culture and Leisure Committee on 27 April 2010.

Question (2) Why has public approval for libraries in the city declined dramatically, as indicated in the most recent Annual Neighbourhood Survey (ANS)?

Answer (2) The most comprehensive gauge of customer satisfaction with libraries is the CIPFA surveys which specifically target actual library users. Of the 6,794 adult respondents in Edinburgh in 2009, 90% were satisfied or very satisfied with their library, 97% said that the library was easy to get to and 92% rated customer care as good or very good.

The decrease in satisfaction recorded in the ANS is thought largely to relate to a change in interview locations, with significantly fewer surveys being completed near libraries in the second survey.

The ANS results between 2008/09 and 2009/10 are under review and a report on the Library Performance Improvement Plan is to be taken to the Culture and Leisure Committee in September.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Munro to be
answered by the Convener of the
Education, Children and Families
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 24 June 2010**

Question (1) What income is received annually from Stevenson College in respect of their use of Duncan Place Resource Centre?

Answer (1) Annual income is £13,089.

Question (2) When will the full property condition report on Duncan Place Resource Centre promised by the Convener be made available to the public?

Answer (2) It is anticipated that the full property condition report for Duncan Place Resource Centre will be available for public scrutiny by 30 September 2010.

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Child to be answered
by the Convener of the Transport,
Infrastructure and Environment
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 24 June 2010**

Question

What progress is being made towards the collection and recycling of Edinburgh's food waste?

Answer

The intention to introduce a food waste recycling scheme in Edinburgh has been approved as part of the Council's Recycling Strategy. This is being progressed through a review of schemes in comparable authorities and by development of an indicative cost and performance model. Recycling of food waste will also be discussed with bidders as part of the Alternative Business Models tendering process. It is anticipated that trial collections will be followed with a full service being provided by 2013.

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Godzik to be
answered by the Convener of the
Education, Children and Families
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 24 June 2010**

Question

To ask the Convener when she last met with the Scottish Government to discuss funding for the redevelopment of Boroughmuir High School, St Crispin's Special School and St John's Primary School.

Answer

I highlighted the urgent need for the redevelopment of the remaining three schools within the Wave 3 programme directly to Michael Russell MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, at the Education, Children and Families meeting on 18 May 2010.

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Godzik to be answered by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question (1) To ask what Edinburgh schools were considered to be in poor condition in the School Estate Survey 2009.

Answer (1) The information below relates to a Council estate wide condition survey undertaken during 2009/10 which is reported in the Children and Families Asset Management Plan 2010. This also incorporates separate condition surveys undertaken for the Council's Wave 3 schools at the end of 2008. Surveys were not conducted for PPP establishments and these schools are expected to be in good condition. The surveys were undertaken in line with the guidance issued by the Scottish Government on measuring condition in the school estate. The guidance uses the following categories:

- A Performing well and operating efficiently
- B Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration
- C Showing major defects and/or not operating adequately
- D Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure

Category 'C' is considered poor condition. No schools in Edinburgh have been graded 'D'.

The Asset Management Plan is based on data received by 2 June 2010 and highlighted that there were four properties considered poor. These are:

- Portobello High School
- James Gillespie's High School
- Boroughmuir High School
- St John's Primary School

Question (2) To ask what action has been taken to improve the condition of each of these schools.

Answer (2) The Council has approved these schools as priorities for replacement under its Wave 3 Programme. Plans to progress the replacement of Portobello and James Gillespie's High Schools – the top two priorities – are underway. The Council has also approved £11.7m over the next four years for Essential Improvement Works at these schools (plus St Crispin's, the fifth Wave 3 project) to maintain the existing buildings in an operational state for the period they require to be retained before replacement.

Question (3) To ask for the total expenditure for improvements in local primary schools, broken down by their condition rating as laid out in the School Estate Survey 2009.

Answer (3) See table below.

Question (4) To ask for the total expenditure for improvements in local secondary schools, broken down by their condition rating as laid out in the School Estate Survey 2009.

Answer (4) See table below.

Question (5) To ask for the total expenditure for improvements in local special schools, broken down by their condition rating as laid out in the School Estate Survey 2009.

Answer (5) See table below.

The table below indicates the spend on school buildings for the financial year 2009/10. It incorporates spend on fabric renewal and devolved and non-devolved repairs and maintenance. It is understood that this information is requested to illustrate the potential differences between the survey position last year and the current position. It should however be noted that the estate survey spanned a period of around 18 months. Some of the work undertaken in 2009/10 will have been undertaken before the survey and thus reflected in the school's condition rating. It is assumed that all PPP schools are condition A.

Fabric Renewal and Repairs and Maintenance Spend on the School Estate 2009/10

	Condition Rating							
	A		B		C		Survey Awaited	
	Schools	£ ('000)	Schools	£ ('000)	Schools	£ ('000)	Schools	£ ('000)
Primary Schools	14	111	54	2,510	1	16	22	903
Secondary Schools	11	211	7	690	3	323	2	154
Special Schools	3	9	3	69	0	-	8	159

*Represents fabric renewal (capital) and maintenance (revenue) expenditure 2009/10
 No Edinburgh schools have condition rating D

QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Godzik to be
answered by the Convener of the
Education, Children and Families
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 24 June 2010**

Question (1) To ask the Convener if she will outline the receiving schools and number of pupils received from all school closures since May 2007.

Answer (1) Please see Appendix 1 attached.

Question (2) What funding has been provided to these receiving schools to assist this process?

Answer (2) Please see Appendix 2 attached. In the original round of closures the audit provision for individual children followed the children to the receiving schools. Where there was additional need arising when the children were in their schools the department responded to need, as in the case of Murrayburn. Provision for the new session has been based on pupil numbers, vulnerability, audit provision and school contexts.

Schools Closed Session 2008/2009**Lismore**

School Transferred To	Total
Brunstane Primary School	13
Craigour Park Primary	1
Duddingston Primary	13
Moffat Early Years	4
Newcraighall Primary	3
Niddrie Mill Primary	8
Parson's Green Primary	1
Prestonfield Primary	1
St Francis' Roman Catholic Primary	3
St John's Roman Catholic Primary	8
The Royal High Primary	1
Grand Total	56

Bonnington

School Transferred To	Total
Broughton Primary School	7
Fort Primary	2
Forthview Primary	1
Kelty Primary	1
Leith Primary	4
Lorne Primary	3
Tollcross Primary	2
Trinity Primary	10
Victoria Primary	3
Moved Abroad	1
Grand Total	34

Westburn

School Transferred To	Total
Canal View Primary	22
Clovenstone Primary	2
Juniper Green Primary	1
Murrayburn Primary	40
Sighthill Primary	9
Stenhouse Primary	4
England	1
Fife	1
Grand Total	80

Schools Closing Session 2009/2010

Burdiehouse

School Transferred To	Total
Gracemount Primary	71
Paradykes Primary	2
St Catherine's Roman Catholic Primary	26
Abroad	2
Grand Total	101

Fort

School Transferred To	Total
Prospect Bank	1
Towerbank Primary	1
Trinity Primary	61
Grand Total	63

Drumbrae

School Transferred To	Total
Clermiston Primary	9
East Craigs Primary	25
Fox Covert ND Primary	11
Fox Covert Roman Catholic Primary	1
Prospect Bank	1
Grand Total	47

Royston

School Transferred To	Total
Granton Primary	62
Forthview Primary	17
Pirniehall Primary	13
St Davids Primary	6
Victoria Primary	4
Wardie Primary	2
St Francis Primary	1
Flora Stevenson Primary	10
Ferryhill Primary	3
Broughton Primary	2
	120

Additional Support to Receiving Schools**Drumbrae**

Schools	Numbers of Children
East Craigs	25+5[P1]
Clermiston	9+4[P1]
Fox Covert	11+4[P1]

Burdiehouse

Schools	Numbers of Children
Gracemount	71+10[P1]
St Catherines	26+5[P1]

Royston

Schools	Numbers of Children
Granton	62+20[P1]
Forthview	17+2[P1]
Pirniehall	13

Fort

Schools	Numbers of Children
Trinity	61+30

All receiving schools have been allocated a fully funded probationer teacher from August 2010. Negotiations are nearing completion regarding additional support for learning teachers and learning assistants and will be confirmed as soon as possible.

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Godzik to be answered by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question (1) How many Temporary Learning Assistants are currently employed and what is the average number of years' service?

Answer (1) **382** (Figures compiled manually from Trent e-hr staff in post report 30 October 2009)

Length of Council service:

0-1yrs	148
1-2 yrs	60
2-4 yrs	97
4-6 yrs	52
6-8 yrs	11
8-10 yrs	4
10 yrs+	<u>10</u>
	<u>382</u>

Note: Temporary learning assistants may have multiple temporary and / or permanent posts e.g. playground supervisor; dining room supervisor.

Question (2) What arrangements are in place to ensure that, when pupils are making the transition to a new school, Learning Assistants, where desirable, follow children to their receiving schools?

Answer (2) Assessments are made on a case by case basis. If there is sufficient support already in the new school, then there will be no requirement for Learning Assistants to follow the children. However if the numbers and needs of the children going to the new school are unable to be met by the present staffing, additional staff will be required and Learning Assistants from the former school may be matched to any additional posts in line with the agreed protocol.

Question (3) What redeployment opportunities are made available to Learning Assistants whose posts are declared surplus and what arrangements are in place for redundancy pay?

Answer (3) Where Learning Assistants are at risk of redundancy, the Department of Children and Families will seek other posts for individuals. In conjunction with this, the Council's Redeployment Procedure sets out the arrangements to support the Council's legal obligation to avoid or limit potential redundancies.

Revised Redeployment and Redundancy Policies were approved by the Council on 28 January 2010 and the Finance and Resources Committee on 4 February 2010.

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Burgess to be answered by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question

Having signed up to the '10:10 campaign' pledge to reduce the Council's own climate changing pollution by 10% this year, what progress is being made towards achieving this target?

Answer

The Administration is committed to developing a realistic and ambitious carbon reduction programme. The Council signed up to the Campaign on 1 April 2010 to lend support and bring focus to our emissions reduction activity.

Work is underway on programmes to reduce energy usage in Council buildings, including smart meters and the setting up of a web based facility that will provide property managers with accurate consumption information. There will also be further investment through the Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) in energy efficiency measures. Work to achieve reductions in carbon emissions from air travel and other transport modes is also ongoing.

A progress report will be considered by the Policy and Strategy Committee in April 2011.

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor Burgess to be answered by the Convener of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 24 June 2010

Question

What progress has been made towards introducing 20mph speed limits (as opposed to 20mph zones) in residential areas?

Answer

Work is ongoing on proposals for a pilot 20mph speed limit area to the south of the city. Discussions on the proposal are underway with both Lothian and Borders Police and the Scottish Government. A report will be provided to the September meeting of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on this matter ahead of which there will be a member/officer workshop.

QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Burgess to be
answered by the Convener of the
Finance and Resources Committee
at a meeting of the Council on 24
June 2010**

Question

How many Council tax payers have taken up the Council's discount scheme for installing loft insulation?

Answer

The loft insulation rebate, being led by British Gas, was introduced in April 2010. Promotion of the scheme has just begun with a feature included in the latest Outlook and publicity on the Council website. Flyers will soon be placed in libraries etc to raise awareness. The Finance Department has not, as yet, been notified of any loft insulation discount being claimed. This is not unusual given the lead-in times for such works.

QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Burgess to be
answered by the Convener of the
Planning Committee at a meeting of
the Council on 24 June 2010**

Question

What are the implications of the recent EU opinion on the Caltongate development?

Answer

I refer Councillor Burgess to the answer provided for question 2.