

## Committee Minutes

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### The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2009/2010

### Meeting 13 – Thursday 29 April 2010.

Edinburgh, 29 April 2010 - At a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council.

#### Present:-

#### LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable George Grubb

#### COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken  
Ewan Aitken  
Robert C Aldridge  
Jeremy R Balfour  
Eric Barry  
David Beckett  
Angela Blacklock  
Mike Bridgman  
Deidre Brock  
Gordon Buchan  
Tom Buchanan  
Andrew Burns  
Ronald Cairns  
Steve Cardownie  
Maggie Chapman  
Maureen M Child  
Joanna Coleman  
Jennifer A Dawe  
Cammy Day  
Charles Dundas  
Paul G Edie  
Nick Elliott-Cannon  
Paul Godzik  
Norma Hart  
Stephen Hawkins  
Ricky Henderson  
Lesley Hinds  
Allan G Jackson

Alison Johnstone  
Colin Keir  
Louise Lang  
Jim Lowrie  
Gordon Mackenzie  
Kate MacKenzie  
Marilyne A MacLaren  
Mark McInnes  
Stuart Roy McIvor  
Tim McKay  
Eric Milligan  
Elaine Morris  
Joanna Mowat  
Rob Munn  
Gordon J Munro  
Ian Murray  
Alastair Paisley  
Gary Peacock  
Ian Perry  
Cameron Rose  
Jason G Rust  
Conor Snowden  
Marjorie Thomas  
Stefan Tymkewycz  
Phil Wheeler  
Iain Whyte  
Donald Wilson  
Norrie Work

## **1 Condolences – President Lech Kaczynski of Poland and First Lady Madame Kaczynska – Motion by the Lord Provost**

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council records its sorrow at the death of President Lech Kaczynski and First Lady Madame Kaczynska, together with many of Poland's leading figures.

Edinburgh values its strong links with Poland and recognises the significant contribution that Edinburgh's Polish community continues to make to the success of the city.

Council notes that the Lord Provost has written to the Consul General of Poland Thomaz Trafas on behalf of the people of Edinburgh to express to the whole Polish nation our deepest sympathy for this tragedy.

As Edinburgh and the City of Krakow share a special relationship as formal Partner Cities, the Lord Provost has also sent a letter of condolence to the Mayor of Krakow Jacek Majchrowski.”

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

## **2 Condolences – 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles – Motion by the Lord Provost**

The following motion by the Lord Provost was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

"Council expresses its sympathy to the families of the following dedicated and brave soldiers, based in Edinburgh, who have lost their lives in service of their country:

Serjeant Steven Campbell, serving with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles, who was killed whilst on patrol near Sangin on 22 March 2010;

Rifleman Daniel Holkham, serving with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles, who died in an explosion near to the Sangin Bazaar on 27 March 2010; and

Rifleman Mark Turner, serving with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles, who was killed as a result of an explosion whilst on patrol in the Kajaki area of Helmand province on 4 April 2010.

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Council records its condolences for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Rifles as they mourn the loss of their colleagues."

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by the Lord Provost.

## **3 Deputations**

### **(a) Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC) – Funding for 2010/2011 (see item 4 below)**

The deputation was concerned at the shortfall in the core funding provided by the Council for 2010/2011 compared to that provided for 2009/2010 and at how this would impact on other sources of potential funding. They asked the Council to justify this reduction objectively and to explain what they expected ELREC to have done. They reminded the Council that it had duties in terms of the Race Relations Act and asked that consideration be given to providing the same level of funding as for 2009/2010.

(Reference – e-mail dated 22 April 2010, submitted.)

### **(b) Community Learning and Development Review – Proposed Closure of Community Centres (see item 5 below)**

#### **Gorgie War Memorial Hall Management Committee**

The deputation raised concerns at the proposed closure of the Gorgie War Memorial Hall which currently provided a wide range of activities for all ages. A move to Tynecastle High School would mean a loss of facilities such as the garden, some groups would be unable to use the new facilities and times of use would be restricted. The saving to the Council would be minimal whilst the facilities which would be lost were priceless. The deputation was also concerned about the future of the memorial wall which was housed within the building.

#### **Colinton Mains Community Centre Management Committee**

The deputation advised that Colinton Mains Community Centre served a wide catchment area and expressed concern that the service it provided would not be available in other facilities. The Management Committee was keen to formulate a business plan to enable the Centre to remain open but conflicting information had been provided on maintenance costs. They asked that the Council clarify this so that a business plan could be finalised.

(References – e-mails dated 27 and 28 April 2010, submitted.)

#### **4 Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council – Funding for 2010/11**

The Policy and Strategy Committee had referred recommendations in terms of Standing Order 53 following consideration of a motion by Councillor Blacklock requesting a report on the impact of the Council's 2010/11 funding award to Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC).

The Council had heard a deputation on the matter from ELREC (see item 3(a) above).

##### **Motion**

To reject the call for a report on the 2010-11 grant decision on ELREC taken at the meeting of the Council on 11 March 2010 on the grounds that the information sought was part of the grants review deliberations and that:

- (a) ELREC's application for grant funding had not shown the required link to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) outcomes, to vulnerable client groups or to targeted interventions to tackle persistent inequality (as required by EDHR09-12 Scheme);
- (b) the relevance assessment gave a score below the threshold for a full Equalities Impact Assessment; and
- (c) the Council's Equalities Manager had already discussed with ELREC Board members and the Director possible forward strategies including a major service review, to better align services to SOA priorities.

- moved by Councillor Dawe, seconded by Councillor Brock (on behalf of the Administration).

##### **Amendment**

To call for a report outlining the impact of the significant cut of 14% to ELREC's core funding from the Council. The report should include the effects this cut would have on the BME community and, in particular, vulnerable members of this community."

- moved by Councillor Blacklock, seconded by Councillor Burns (on behalf of the Labour Group).

##### **Voting**

For the motion	-	40 votes
For the amendment	-	17 votes

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### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Dawe.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 23 March 2010 (item 15); report no CEC/132/09-10/PS by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

## **5 Community Learning and Development Review – Proposed Closure of Community Centres**

The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership had referred recommendations following consideration of a motion on the proposed closure of community centres in Edinburgh and in the South West Neighbourhood area in particular.

The Council had heard two deputations on the matter (see item 3(b) above).

### **Motion**

- 1) To note that Ward 8 Colinton/Fairmilehead, among other wards in the city, was affected by the current proposals for the redesign of Community Learning Development (CLD), including the proposed closure of Colinton Mains Community Centre.
- 2) To recognise the importance of community centres to local communities and the invaluable work undertaken by those involved in their management and running of such centres for local residents of all ages.
- 3) To note that the Strategic Redesign Group included five members of the Liberal Democrat/SNP Council Administration and five officers of the Council, with no opposition representation.
- 4) To note that the Review Group decision was not communicated to staff or to Management Committee members or to local Councillors prior to the decision being communicated through the media and there was still no official Council report that showed in detail how this review had been undertaken or attempting to justify the proposals that were trailed in the Evening News against any kind of clear criteria.
- 5) To note that the impact of the proposals fell disproportionately on the south west of the city.
- 6) To note that no substantial alternative delivery models had been considered, representing a missed opportunity.

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- 7) To request that that Council cease the current CLD Review forthwith and initiate a new review with involvement from opposition group members and consultation with Neighbourhood Partnerships and local communities across the city.

- moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Elaine Aitken (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note that this Administration was committed to the continuation and sustainability of high quality and efficient CLD services in Edinburgh. To note the ongoing work to reconfigure and redesign CLD services in the city.
- 2) To note also the current consultation concerning the services being delivered at six locations, the results of which would be reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 18 May 2010.
- 3) Given that Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership had raised specific concerns, to instruct CLD officers to take immediate steps to ensure that Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership was engaged with the CLD redesign process.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Beckett (on behalf of the Administration).

### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	28 votes
For the amendment	-	29 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the amendment by Councillor MacLaren.

(References – Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership 30 March 2010 (item 3); report no CEC/133/09-10/PNP by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

## **6 Questions**

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

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### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Hart declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Management Committee of Gracemount Youth and Community Centre.

## **7 Minutes**

### **Decision**

To approve the minute of meeting of the Council of 11 March 2010, as submitted, as a correct record.

## **8 Leader's Report**

The Leader presented her report to the Council. The Leader congratulated Councillor Balfour on his election as Conservative Group Leader and acknowledged the input to the work of the Council by the former Group Leader, Councillor Whyte. The Leader commented on:

- the moving ceremony at Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service headquarters to mark the service of Firefighter Ewan Williamson who had been killed in the line of duty;
- the retirement of Norman Ireland, Events and Special Projects Manager and appreciation for his many years of service to local government;
- the static tram on Princes Street and the presentation of special ceremonial key.

Questions on the following issues were raised:

Councillor Burns	- Modernising Pay negotiations - Early Years and Nursery Education Service – staffing review
Councillor Balfour	- Education – service delivery models
Councillor Munro	- Alternative Business Models – tendering for Council services
Councillor Jackson	- Traffic disruption – communication with local ward members
Councillor Cardownie	- Lothian Buses – attendance at political fundraising dinner

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- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Aldridge       | - UK Parliamentary Election – campaign leaflets   |
| Councillor Whyte          | - Alternative Business Models   |
| Councillor Mowat          | - Static tram – traffic disruption  |
| Councillor Morris         | - Financial reserves following 2007 local government elections  |
| Councillor Coleman        | - Events and catering sections – appreciation   |
| Councillor Work           | - Big Clean Up – South Queensferry<br>- Neighbourhood Survey – Almond Ward – best place in city to live                             |
| Councillor McIvor         | - Edinburgh Tram – concessionary fares<br>- UK Parliamentary Election – excellent service provided by Lothian Valuation Joint Board |
| Councillor Godzik         | - UK Parliamentary Election – campaign leaflets<br>- Neighbourhood Survey – satisfaction levels                                     |
| Councillor Blacklock      | - Youth employability services – funding  |
| Councillor Kate Mackenzie | - Edinburgh Tram  |
| Councillor Brock          | - New skatepark – invitation to members to attend opening on 8 May  |
| Councillor Buchanan       | - European Cities of the Future – Edinburgh – winner of best small cities award<br>- Foreign travel by previous Administration      |

(Reference – report no CEC/138/09-10/L by the Leader, submitted.)

**9 Report of Pre-determination Hearing – Land 426 Metres Northwest of 113 Glasgow Road Edinburgh – Operational Inter-modal Railway Station and Interchange Facility to Tram Stop (Application 09/02589/FUL)**

The Development Management Sub-Committee had referred recommendations of a pre-determination hearing on a planning application for an operational inter-modal railway station and interchange to the tram stop at Gogar.

**Motion**

1) To grant planning application 09/02589/FUL, subject to:

- (a) in relation to cycle access, that the applicant bring back revised proposals giving consideration to an element of shared use and access to the cycle slip route; and
- (b) the conditions and informatives detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, including a legal agreement, subject to the rewording of informative No 8 to read as follows: -

“Supporting infrastructure, such as car parking, is likely to be required to allow the local transport network to cater for future intensification of the station use. Appropriate mitigation to address the impact upon the local transport network may also be sought when the Dalmeny Chord proposals are brought forward.”

2) To agree that any decisions resulting from revised proposals made by the applicant on cycle use and access be considered by the Development Management Sub-Committee.

- moved by Councillor Lowrie, seconded by Councillor McIvor.

**Amendment**

To approve the motion subject to the insertion of the following at the end of paragraph 1(a):

“and access through the underpass on a 24 hour basis”.

- moved by Councillor Johnstone, seconded by Councillor Mowat.

**Voting**

The voting was as follows:

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For the motion - 34 votes  
For the amendment - 20 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Lowrie.

(References – Development Management Sub-Committee 1 April 2010 (item 1); report no CEC/134/09-10/DM by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Buchan declared a financial interest in the above item as an employee of a firm acting as a technical adviser to **tie** and left the Chamber during the debate on the matter.

Councillors Jackson, Gordon Mackenzie, Perry and Wheeler declared a non-financial interest in the item as non-Executive Directors of **tie Ltd** and TEL.

Councillor Chapman declared a non-financial interest in the item as a non-Executive Director of TEL.

Councillors McKay, Munro and Rose declared a non-financial interest in the item as members of SPOKES.

## **10 Lothian Buses – Board Appointments**

The Annual General Meeting of Lothian Buses was due to take place on 15 June 2010. Instructions were sought on appointments to the Board.

Reference was also made to progress on the development of the governance structures required to facilitate the integration of bus and tram services across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

### **Motion**

- 1) To confirm the re-appointment of Ian Craig, William Campbell and Norman Strachan as Executive Directors of Lothian Buses plc.
- 2) To thank Alison Ross and Irene Kitson for their services to the Board.

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- 3) To defer the decision on filling vacancies given the ongoing review of the governance arrangements of Lothian Buses, Transport Edinburgh Limited (TEL) and Transport Initiatives Edinburgh (**tie**).

- moved by Councillor Dawe, seconded by Councillor Cardownie (on behalf of the Administration).

#### **Amendment**

- 1) To approve paragraphs 1 and 3 of the motion.
- 2) To invite Irene Kitson and Alison Ross to continue as board members until the review of the structure of **tie**, TEL and Lothian Buses had been completed.

- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Burns (on behalf of the Labour Group).

#### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	40 votes
For the amendment	-	17 votes

#### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Dawe.

(References – Act of Council No 7 of 17 December 2009; report no CEC/135/09-10/CE by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

#### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Jackson, Gordon Mackenzie, Perry and Wheeler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as non-Executive Directors of **tie Ltd** and TEL.

Councillor Chapman declared a non-financial interest in the item as a non-Executive Director of TEL.

## **11 Revised Management Rules for Libraries**

Approval was sought for revised Management Rules for Libraries which had been drafted in accordance with the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

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**Decision**

- 1) To approve the revised Management Rules for Libraries as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To note the timescales described in the Director's report.

(Reference – report no CEC/136/09-10/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

**12 Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee – Appointments**

The Council was invited to make two appointments to the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee and designate two reserves in case of future vacancies.

**Decision**

To appoint Ms A McCusker and Mrs J Balfour as members of the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee and hold Mr M Comeau and Mr W Ferguson as first and second reserves respectively.

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 17 September 2009; report no CEC/137/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

**Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Balfour declared a non-financial interest in the above item as his wife was a nominee to the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee.

**13 Home to School Transport – Motion by Councillor Rust**

The following motion by Councillor Rust was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

- i) notes that the journey distance criterion for transport from home to school has been changed by the Administration;
- ii) notes that many parents, school staff and church leaders were not aware of any proposal to change this criterion prior to receipt of a recent letter informing them that the change had already been made;
- iii) notes with concern that parents do not feel that they have been adequately consulted and that concerns over the safety audits have arisen;

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- iv) instructs the Director of Education, Children and Families to hold further consultation discussions with parents and church representatives on this matter to explain and detail the safety review process.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion.

- moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Elaine Aitken (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

### **Amendment**

To note that there were rigorous processes in place to ensure that full and comprehensive safety audits were undertaken.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Beckett (on behalf of the Administration).

### **Voting**

For the motion - 28 votes  
For the amendment - 29 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the amendment by Councillor MacLaren.

## **14 Garden Aid – Motion by Councillor Ewan Aitken**

The following motion by Councillor Ewan Aitken was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes:

- that the Administration's budget included a proposal to charge those receiving Garden Aid for the first time;
- that there was no indication of this in any part of the text of the Administration motion.

Council further notes that there have been a number of unintended consequences including:

- common green areas are now being cut at the expense of some residents but for the benefit of all residents;

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- there is anecdotal evidence that when residents in receipt of garden aid move house, the service continues to be delivered at their original address. It is necessary to ensure that those addresses where garden aid is being delivered actually have residents who are in need of garden aid;
- that the charging system has in some cases turned neighbour against neighbour.

Council calls for a report which looks at how the service can be adapted to take account of change, a growing elderly population remaining at home rather than in residential care and the need to make sure common and communal areas are maintained in a manner befitting the capital city.”

The Lord Provost ruled that the motion was incompetent in terms of Standing Order 22 as a decision on this issue had been taken as part of the budget motion on 11 February 2010 and there had been no material change of circumstances since then. This decision had been taken following consideration by the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on 8 December 2009 of a report entitled “Garden Aid – Options for Change” which had covered all aspects of the scheme. The Committee had noted the report and that the future of the service needed to be considered by each group as part of the budget process. Any consequences of this decision could be raised with the Director of Services for Communities.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 8 December 2009 (item 4); Act of Council No 2 of 11 February 2010.)

## **15 Storm Damage to Coastal Defences – Motion by Councillor Child**

The following motion by Councillor Child was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council calls for an urgent report on the recent severe storm damage to coastal defences, from Cramond through Portobello to Eastfield; the costs of making good the damage, including Portobello beach; resources required for coastal defences going forward.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

## **16 “Bank on Owen” Campaign – Motion by Councillor Murray**

The following motion by Councillor Murray was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes the Bank on Owen campaign, which seeks to highlight the achievements of Robert Owen, by campaigning to have him commemorated on Scottish banknotes in time for the International Year of the Co-operative in 2012.

Further notes the great contribution of the co-operative movement to the development of Edinburgh, believes that the Council should support the Bank on Owen campaign and requests that the Council Leader write to both the Bank of Scotland and RBS to highlight this support.”

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Murray.

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Murray declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Co-operative Party.

## **17 Traffic Management in the Shore, Leith – Motion by Councillor Thomas – for remit to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee**

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Thomas in terms of Standing Order 29:

“Council notes the success of the Traffic Free Day on the Shore in September 2009 and the local support from many residents and traders for reducing through traffic on the Shore, particularly the stretch from Sandport Bridge to Bernard Street.

Council, therefore, calls for a report into the feasibility of removing through traffic, excepting emergency vehicles, public transport and cycles, from Sandport Bridge to Bernard Street to be provided to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee within two Committee cycles.”

### **Decision**

To remit the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee, subject to competency.

**Appendix**  
(As referred to in Act of Council No 6 of 29 April 2010)

**QUESTION NO 1**

**By Councillor Jackson answered  
by the Leader of the Council**

**Question**

Please supply the following information for Neighbourhood Management areas. Please supply the specific figures and also indicate what they represent as a percentage of the whole:

- population of Edinburgh per area;
- staff complement per area;
- budget allocation per area.

**Answer****1. Population of Edinburgh per area<sup>1</sup>**

Neighbourhood Office	Population of Edinburgh per area	% of total Edinburgh population
South West	110,479	23%
West	69,768	15%
North	115,127	24%
City Centre	23,771	5%
East	49,171	10%
South	103,334	22%
Total	471,650	100%

<sup>1</sup> Statistics from 2008 Mid Year Population Estimates, General Register for Scotland <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/mid-year/index.html>

**2. Staff complement per area**

Neighbourhood Office	Staff complement per area	% of total neighbourhood staff
South West	227	21%
West	113	10%
North	284	26%
City Centre	107	10%
East	170	16%
South	190	17%
Total	1084	100%

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**3. Budget allocation per area<sup>2</sup>**

Neighbourhood Office	Budget allocation per area	% of total NH budgets
South West	£7,424,136	19.%
West	£3,211,872	8%
North	£9,740,222	25%
City Centre	£5,101,736	14%
East	£6,542,347	17%
South	£6,484,730	17%
Total	£38,505,072	100%

<sup>2</sup> 2010/2011 Budgets

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**QUESTION NO 2**

**By Councillor Buchan answered by  
the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question** (1) What percentage of educational additional support placements has been granted by the Council per year since 2005?

**Answer** (1) This information is being compiled and will be provided as soon as it is available.

**Question** (2) What is the logic behind the Council use of legal advisors in additional support tribunals?

**Answer** (2) The Tribunal is a formal legal body and legal advice is sought when there may be questions concerning the interpretation and/or application of the legislation. In circumstances where there is a complex case (often involving substantial long term financial implications) legal representation may be appointed. In most cases this involves the Council's own legal services.

**Question** (3) What is the cost to the Council in contesting additional support placement appeals per year since 2005?

**Answer** (3) This information is not routinely held and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. It would require detailed and time-consuming audits and would necessitate complex calculations, as cases may be conducted over an extended period and can involve a number of Council staff.

**Supplementary Question** In relation to the Convener's reply to part 3, whilst I appreciate it would be very difficult for internal staff time, perhaps she would be able to release third party costs in terms of legal advice and other agencies that the Council may have employed in these cases as that information should be easily obtainable from these people's invoices.

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**Supplementary  
Answer**

The simple answer is I do not know whether we can provide that but I am happy to find out and if we can easily enough, then I certainly will provide it.

**QUESTION NO 3**

**By Councillor Buchan answered by  
the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

What provision is there in Edinburgh to provide 24 hour support care needs for autistic children? If there is no provision, please outline the alternative providers and locations.

**Answer**

Provision of (assessed and planned) residential respite for children with autism is accessed via The Resource Allocation Panel. Children are then offered from 34 to 80 nights per year depending on their assessed need. Many of the children involved will also be offered a day service on a weekly basis to supplement the residential support.

There are four provisions available within Edinburgh:

**Action for Children**

This is a jointly funded unit with NHS Lothian for children with severe and challenging behaviour.

**Caern/Seaview**

Caern and Seaview offer residential support to families with children who have autism in a group care setting.

**Family Based Care**

Full time and high frequency respite in family placements can be offered via the Specialist Carers Scheme. Less frequent respite can also be offered via the 'Share the Care' scheme.

**Emergency Unplanned Respite**

If a child requires emergency respite there are several options that we pursue. We can buy a bed (£400 - £600) from Action for Children; Caern or Specialist Family Based Care (in-house and the independent sector).

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**QUESTION NO 4**

**By Councillor Burns answered by  
the Leader of the Council**

**Question**

On Tuesday 6 April 2010, an electronic briefing on 'Modernising Pay' informed all staff (and Councillors) that:

*"The statutory consultation period, which began on 5 January 2010, is well underway and our negotiations with the trades unions have been positive. The consultation is required to last for at least 90 days and we have agreed with the trades unions to extend this to allow us more time to explore any further improvements to the package."*

Can the Council Leader clarify how long the extension to the consultation period will last, and confirm when a formal Council report will next go before a Committee of the Council giving a full update on the 'Modernising Pay' negotiations?

**Answer**

A report providing a full update on the Modernising Pay negotiations will be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 11 May 2010. This report will give details of the key stages and timescales of this exercise. In the meantime, constructive and meaningful discussions with the trades unions are ongoing.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I certainly welcomed the last sentence when the Leader indicates that constructive and meaningful discussions are ongoing with the trade unions. Given the very potential impact of this issue on the local authority, a very serious potential impact of this issue on the local authority, doesn't the Council Leader believe that constructive and meaningful discussions with all political groups on the Council just might, just might, be helpful to an eventual agreed position on this issue?

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**Supplementary  
Answer**

The negotiations as you are well aware are conducted at officer level with the unions and with our HR people in the Council. As an Administration we are kept fully up-to-date and when the unions wish to come and speak to us, we have got an open door to that so we speak then. You will have every opportunity at the Policy and Strategy Committee on 11 May 2010 to ask questions and make positive contributions. If you have got some ideas that you think will save this Council money and ensure that relations with our employees are as positive as possible, of course that would be very welcome.

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**QUESTION NO 5**

**By Councillor Blacklock answered  
by the Leader of the Council**

**Question**

Which polling stations in the City of Edinburgh do not have disabled access?

**Answer**

Sciennes Primary School and the St Stephen Centre are the only two polling places that are not fully accessible. The Returning Officer puts special measures in place to accommodate voters with disabilities. Despite considerable efforts, no alternative fully-accessible buildings have been identified for Sciennes Primary School and the St Stephen Centre for the UK General Election on 6 May 2010.

A full review of all polling places/districts will take place later this year. A core aim of this review will be to produce a list of fully compliant polling places. Elected members will be canvassed for their views on amendments to polling places/districts before recommendations are submitted to the Council.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I would like to ask the Council Leader, do you think that it is acceptable that we still have polling stations which are not accessible to the disabled in this day and age?

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**Supplementary  
Answer**

No, it is not acceptable but if you can come up with alternative polling places to replace Sciennes Primary School and St Stephen's Centre then you will have done more than all of the combined forces of officers and Councillors have managed to do so far. As you will see from my answer there will be a review later in the year. There are regular reviews of polling places, everybody knows that every Councillor gets asked if they can think of any other polling places in their ward which perhaps might mean that we do not have to use a school or if there issues over disabled access. Of course it is not acceptable, but we are desperately looking for a solution. What happens at the moment of course, does not mean that people who have disabilities and cannot access the polling station easily are disenfranchised. There are instructions as to how those people can exercise their vote in privacy. But I completely agree it is not good that we do have two polling places that we have not managed to make accessible to everyone in the city.

**QUESTION NO 6**

**By Councillor Day answered by the  
Convener of Education, Children  
and Families Committee**

**Question**

What is the current status of West Pilton Children and Families Centre and what consultation has taken place with service users to manage the transition to Craigoyston Community High School?

**Answer**

The West Pilton Children and Families Centre moved into the Early Years (EY) Centre at Craigoyston from 1 April. The staff and families are settling in.

A steering group consisting of staff and service users enabled service users to air their concerns and influence the use of space. The group of parents who were previously using the Craigoyston EY service has designated space and staff for the drop in service.

The service is being monitored to ensure that all families are able to access the service they require. The Steering Group continues to operate and the next meeting is on 3 June.

**QUESTION NO 7**

**By Councillor Day answered by the  
Convener of Education, Children  
and Families Committee**

**Question** (1) What arrangements are in place to support the transition of Royston Primary School pupils and parents to their new primary school?

**Answer** (1) The Head Teacher has already been in contact with schools who have received children prior to Easter and has shared information. Transition arrangements will take the form of the following opportunities:

- pupils and parents to visit the receiving schools;
- sharing of information with receiving schools staff;
- transfer of records; and
- joint activities, meetings with Forthview and Granton

The City's Inclusion Co-ordinator is visiting the school to discuss vulnerable children with a view to looking at provision in the receiving schools and will visit the receiving schools.

The Neighbourhood Manager is supporting schools in this.

**Question** (2) What building works are being carried out on Granton Primary school in preparation for new pupils?

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**Answer**

- (2)** Two primary classrooms will be brought back into use for August 2010 and the nursery class, toilets and outdoor play area will be ready for the increased roll. The school already has a care facility which provides changing, showering and toilet facilities for disabled pupils from nursery upwards and the ground floor is wheelchair accessible.

Other works include provision of a new medical room and accommodation for the after school club which will have access to toilets, providing facilities for girls, boys, staff and disabled children and adults. A new waiting area and a new parents' room will be provided.

**QUESTION NO 8**

**By Councillor Ewan Aitken  
answered by the Convener of  
Education, Children and Families  
Committee**

**Question**

Given the planned reduction in the number of QIO (Quality Improvement Officer) posts, how will the workload of the current number of QIOs be carried out?

**Answer**

The workload of the QIOs is being reviewed with a revision of processes and tasks currently undertaken. It is anticipated that there will need to be a more proportionate approach to our support and challenge of schools, recognising where schools require a "light touch" if they are performing well and providing additional support where schools are underperforming.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I just wonder if the Convener could tell me if what she says means that the work of QIOs will be shared amongst other staff or whether some of that work will no longer be done?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Councillor Aitken we are awaiting a report on the reorganisation of QIOs but no it is not my understanding that the work will not be done. It will not be done in the same way that it is carried out at the moment and there will I think be a differentiation between those schools who are doing very well and need the light touch and those schools who are struggling for one reason or other and maybe need more assistance and more support which the QIOs would then give.

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**QUESTION NO 9**

**By Councillor Munro answered by  
the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

How much has been spent to date in developing the lift plans and obtaining planning permission and when will the lift works for Duncan Place Resource Centre commence?

**Answer**

Planning permission has been applied for and obtained. An estimated cost of £5,404 has been spent to date in developing the lift plans.

A date for the installation will be determined following the conclusion of the discussions currently taking place with workers and user groups at Duncan Place about provision of Community Learning and Development services in the Leith area.

**Supplementary  
Question**

What discussions, where and when are taking place today with the Users' Group at Duncan Place Resource Centre. I understand the Convener might not have that information to hand so I will accept an answer in writing. And will the User's Group demand for the lift works to proceed be met.

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I am due to meet the Duncan Place User's Group. I have a feeling it is next week but to be quite honest I am not sure. There is definitely a date in the diary. I can definitely give you that and I think it is next week and all issues at that meeting will be discussed with the Users.

**QUESTION NO 10**

**By Councillor Munro answered by  
the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

What are the plans for Stevenson College's Community Based English As A Second Language service currently operating from Duncan Place Resource Centre?

**Answer**

The service is continuing at Duncan Place Resource Centre. As the service expands and develops, consideration will require to be given to ensuring that the location facilitates the optimum learning experience for students.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Now this may be the position at present, however, I understand that Stevenson have already viewed space at Fort Primary School with a view to it hosting this service. Is the Convener, or her officers, aware of this and in her view does this create uncertainty about the future of Duncan Place?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I was not aware that they had actually visited Fort but that is not a problem to me. I was aware that Stevenson was thinking about the future and where they should be located in the future but I would stress that no decisions have been made either from Stevenson College or from ourselves.

**QUESTION NO 11**

**By Councillor Munro answered by  
the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

Can the Convener confirm what plans are in place for the vacated Fort Primary School building?

**Answer**

The Fort Primary School building will be retained as an integrated Early Years Centre, Community Centre and an office location supporting delivery of services in the community as reported to Council on 17 December 2009.

The potential for other users to move into the building as an office location is currently being scoped, with Children and Family Social Work Centre staff being the principal anticipated users, accounting for around 70% of the office space.

The building will continue to have a Community Learning and Development presence in it.

**Supplementary  
Question**

How wide is the scope of this and does it include partner agencies such as Stevenson. I know they are part of the secretive group?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I do not know quite what you are meaning by that. At the moment the people who will be moving into Fort will be Children's Social Work staff and that will count for that 70% of the space so we have about 30% of the space left and there is quite a line of organisations and groups who would like to use Fort and they are not all going to fit in. So we are continuing negotiations and discussions as what would be the best use of the rest of the 30% of space in Fort Primary School.

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**QUESTION NO 12**

**By Councillor Murray answered by  
the Convener of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Environment  
Committee**

**Question**

To ask what action has been taken to improve orbital bus routes serving south Edinburgh.

**Answer**

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran), of which the Council is a member, is conducting a feasibility study on proposals for orbital bus services in Edinburgh and is expected to publish its findings this year. The implementation of any proposed new orbital bus services and associated infrastructure in Edinburgh would be dependent on the availability of funding.

The Council has, for a number of years, provided funding in support of Lothian Buses service 18 (Gyle to Royal Infirmary) and a report recommending continued funding for the service will be considered by the Transport Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 4 May 2010.

The Council also funds a frequency enhancement on Lothian Buses service 38 (Granton – Ravelston – Balgreen – Morningside – Royal Infirmary). In addition, work is underway to provide Bustracker real-time information displays at a number of bus stops on the route of service 38, which will further enhance customer confidence in the service.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I just wondered about the report that was going to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee next week, if the Convener would consider an extension of these services and ask Lothian Buses whether or not they would consider bringing back the much loved 32 and 52 routes that criss cross the orbital routes of south Edinburgh?

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**Supplementary  
Answer**

You will have the opportunity to raise that or the Labour Group will have the opportunity to raise that next week when the report is there. You will have the opportunity to question officers about what is available. I notice that the 32 service was one of the services that was cut by Labour several years ago.

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**QUESTION NO 13**

**By Councillor Perry answered by  
the Convener of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Environment  
Committee**

**Question** (1) To ask for details of the amounts spent in 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 on the maintenance and repainting of bus lanes.

**Question** (2) To ask for details of the amounts spent in 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 on the maintenance of the city's cycle ways.

**Answer** Under increased investment by this Administration, the condition of Edinburgh's roads and pavements has improved by 33%.

Information on bus lane and cycleway maintenance and repainting has never been held separately. It is contained within three budget heads as detailed below, none of which identify works carried out specifically to bus lanes and cycleways:

- (1) Road Services Capital budget, which is used to resurface roads including bus lanes and markings that are replaced as part of the resurfacing works;
- (2) Road Services Revenue budget, which is used to re-mark, re-sign and re-line Greenways to ensure that these are fully enforceable; and,
- (3) Neighbourhood Revenue budgets which are used to carry out small road repairs and lining etc which can include bus lanes.

Recording systems are in the process of being reviewed so that this information will be available in future.

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**Supplementary  
Question**

I welcome the fact that we are in the process of getting the figures together and that would be useful. I just wonder if the Convener could tell me when that would be done?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I do think I was asked this question several months ago so I will be chasing it up. I already have chased it up and I will get the answer to you in writing.

**QUESTION NO 14**

**By Councillor Child answered by  
the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

Your Administration accepted a budget cut of £650,000 to Community Schools. We understand that Community High Schools are subject to a review taking place in parallel with the Community Learning and Development Review, but as a separate strand of work. What are the terms of reference of this Community High School review; how many service users will be affected by savings taken at each of the Community High Schools under review and how will all these service users be consulted?

**Answer**

Council approved a £650K reduction in Community High Schools at the Budget meeting on 11 February 2010.

The further work on Community High Schools is part of a wider consideration of budget options for schools and central support services for 2011/12. This has only recently commenced.

Head teachers, officers and parents are contributing to this work and further information will be available in due course.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Councillor MacLaren's answer I am afraid leaves nobody any the wiser about the impact of this £650k saving in your Administration's budget and I take issue with the statement that work has only recently commenced in paragraph 2. I quote from her Department's November 2009 budget papers "the Community High School review is part of a process involving third parties and will be completed in April 2010". I know that no trade union, no parent and no service user has been involved in this process from Castlebrae Community High School so where, when and how will all Community High School stakeholders in all establishments be properly consulted and involved as part of your budget cutting process?

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**Supplementary  
Answer**

There seems to be confusion as to the kind of budget decision which has already been accepted as £650k which has come from the Community High Schools and any future budget efficiency savings which would need to be taken in future years. There has been consultation on the immediate reduction in the Community High Schools with staff and I think with community groups and if there were further reduction then in the fullness of time there would also consultation on that.

**QUESTION NO 15**

**By Councillor Hart answered by the  
Convener of Education, Children  
and Families Committee**

**Question**

What progress has been made in resolving the issues at Gracemount Youth and Community Centre since the cross-party meetings took place?

**Answer**

The Council is in a position to offer Gracemount Youth and Community Centre (GYCC) a three year partnership together with a new lease for three years on renunciation of the old lease. The offer is currently with legal services and they shall be contacting GYCC shortly. If the terms of the lease are acceptable in principle to the GYCC Board negotiations will start on a 3 year Service Level Agreement to run concurrently with the lease.

The Council continues to meet the running costs of the building.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I thank the Convener for her response and I welcome the suggestion that there is some progress with the mansion in this response. I do have a couple of supplementary questions. Firstly, I believe the mansion has a 25 year lease at the moment with more than 15 years still to run. Why would they give up that position for a three year lease without knowing the details of the Service Level Agreement? My second question is would it be possible to negotiate the lease and the Service Level Agreement in parallel and thirdly when might the mansion expect to hear something concrete from the Council on this matter?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

The lease and Service Level Agreement will be signed at the same time and will be debated and discussed at the same time. They rely on each other. I have just been given a copy of these documents; I need to read them through and they will then be handed over to the Management Committee for their perusal and hopefully agreement.

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The bit about the SLAs and lease agreement are with me at the moment I need to read them and once I am happy with them I will hand them over to the officers who will hand them over to the Gracemount Youth and Community Centre Management Committee and I think I said for their perusal and ultimately I hope agreement.

**QUESTION NO 16**

**By Councillor Hart answered by the  
Convener of Education, Children  
and Families Committee**

**Question**

What plans are in place to support the transition of Burdiehouse Primary School pupils and parents to their new primary school?

**Answer**

The head teachers of Burdiehouse and Gracemount primaries have had several meetings to plan a comprehensive programme of transition for pupils. This includes visits by pupils and joint activities such as a ceilidh for P3 and outings for all classes. The head teacher at Gracemount has visited pupils at Burdiehouse and has plans to meet with the Parent Council. An open morning for all parents is planned at Gracemount PS on 29 April.

There have been meetings with both head teachers and senior managers with regard to resources and proposed class organisation. There will be further meetings to discuss children with additional support needs. Joint pupil committee meetings are also planned.

**QUESTION NO 17**

**By Councillor Godzik answered by  
the Convener of Culture and  
Leisure Committee**

**Question** (1) To ask the convener to outline the original budget and proposed delivery date for the following projects:

- Usher Hall
- Assembly Rooms
- City Art Centre
- Commonwealth Pool.

**Answer** (1) **Usher Hall**  
Original budget: £19,064,223 approved by Council on 26 October 2006, subsequently increased to £19,164,223 following a successful application for Disability Discrimination Act funding.

Proposed delivery date: The original programme for phase II construction works was scheduled to commence in January 2006 and be complete by December 2008. The eventual start date was April 2007 with a revised delivery date of Spring 2009, as reported to Culture and Leisure Committee in November 2007.

**Assembly Rooms**

Original budget: £12m  
Proposed delivery date: 2012

**City Art Centre**

Original budget: An estimate of £710,000 reported to Culture and Leisure Committee in February 2009, before receipt of tenders; increased to £807,194 following receipt of tenders.

Proposed delivery date: December 2009

**Royal Commonwealth Pool**

Original budget: £37,129,556  
Proposed delivery date: Autumn 2011

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**Question** (2) To ask for the actual/most recent projected cost and delivery date for these projects.

**Answer** (2) **Usher Hall**  
Most recent projected cost: During the first six months of 2008 adverse physical conditions discovered in the foundations, sub-structure and fabric of the Usher Hall seriously delayed the construction programme. To address this the Council approved an additional £4.7m in February 2009. The total cost will be confirmed once phase III works are complete and a report will be submitted to Council later this year.

Actual delivery date: December 2009 (Phase II)

**Assembly Rooms**

Most recent projected cost: A review of the project scope is currently being undertaken by the Project and Design Teams on the instruction of the Project Board. The revised projected cost will be available later this summer.

Proposed delivery date: 2012

**City Art Centre**

Actual cost: £789,389

Actual delivery date: December 2009 (as reported to Culture and Leisure Committee on 27 April 2010).

**Royal Commonwealth Pool**

Most recent projected cost: £37,129,556

Proposed delivery date: This is currently being assessed and a report will be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee in June 2010.

**Supplementary Question** With regard to the projects that are still to be completed can the Convener confirm if any of them will come in on time and on budget?

**Supplementary Answer** Councillor Godzik apparently does not appreciate that the Council has established project boards for all major projects and they report back to the proper Committee at the proper time. You are presumably aware of proper Council procedures so by speculating in this way I can only assume you are seeking to score political points.

**QUESTION NO 18**

**By Councillor Godzik answered by  
the Convener of Culture and  
Leisure Committee**

**Question**

To ask what progress has been made towards reopening Warrender Pool for public use, and what the expected date for the reopening will now be.

**Answer**

As reported to the Culture and Leisure Committee of 2 February 2010, in compliance with statutory European Union procurement legislation and UK public sector procurement procedures, a contractor was appointed to undertake the necessary works. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by mid June 2010.

Following the handover of the pool, Edinburgh Leisure will undertake essential preparations to open it to the public. Edinburgh Leisure estimates that this will take between 7 – 10 days.

**QUESTION NO 19**

**By Councillor Godzik answered by  
the Leader of the Council**

**Question**

To ask what discussions the Council have had with the Scottish Government with regard to the legislation surrounding the sale of NHS land.

**Answer**

There have been no discussions with the Scottish Government specific to the legislation surrounding the sale of NHS land. Discussions do, however, take place regularly between the Council and NHS regarding joint services/projects/land use and property sharing. Most recently these have been focussed around the introduction of Hub and the joint sharing of premises. The preparation of a joint asset register remains an intention.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Can I ask the Leader of the Council if she recognises the statement there, it did come from the Lib Dem manifesto, Winning a Bright New Future for Edinburgh, and it was mentioned in the context of providing land for new schools in Edinburgh. I take it from the answer that this is not progressing.

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**Supplementary  
Answer**

I was well aware of where you were probably coming from on that and when we were in opposition previously I can recall, and indeed I searched through cpol but could find no evidence of it, but I can recall that we did have amendments up about trying to make submissions to the then Scottish Executive which we did do, but I cannot find a record of it, seeking a change to the rule that was in being that NHS property sales have to go basically to the highest bidder and do not take in social or community use which clearly would have helped us when we were looking for sites for new schools. I can tell you that the bit that you have got there from our manifesto was fed in to the Affordable Housing task group that Councillor Harry McGuigan chairs for COSLA and that group has been in discussions regarding the sale of NHS land with regard to affordable housing. So it is still something that is on the agenda but as you will be well aware it requires government legislation. We can't actually change the rules ourselves but certainly it would ease the situation as regards sites for all sorts of things in the city.

**QUESTION NO 20**

**By Councillor Henderson answered  
by the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

When the Administration decision was taken in December 2009 to close Fort Primary School, assurances were given that the existing Fort Breakfast Club would continue.

It has been reported that the Council is in discussion with a local scout group, next to Trinity Primary “about the cost of using their hall as a venue for the breakfast club”.

Could you provide the identity of the scout group and details of meetings held with them for the discussions described above?

**Answer**

The Council has been in discussion with the 7th Leith Sea Scout Group about the use of their hall as a venue for a Breakfast Club to reprovide the service currently operated from Fort Primary School.

Negotiations have concluded successfully and a revised and acceptable letting rate has been agreed. Progress can now be made in establishing a hire agreement with the Scouts for this facility.

**QUESTION NO 21**

**By Councillor Henderson answered  
by the Convener of Education,  
Children and Families Committee**

**Question**

In Members Briefing 181 "Changes to criteria for home to school transport" we are advised that an appeal procedure will be put in place.

Could you please outline what criteria will be used to assess appeals; what timescales are involved and what arrangements will be put in place should appeals be successful?

**Answer**

The Appeal process is available specifically for claims relating to appeals against distance measurement and safety matters. It is not a process to be used for general complaints relating to changes in the distance criteria for travel assistance as a result of budget decisions.

Appeals concerning the distance criteria are made to the Children and Families Department. A further check on the distance measurement is then undertaken.

Appeals regarding safety result in a safety assessment conducted by Corporate Health and Safety staff.

All stages in the process are managed in line with departmental policies on mail logging and response times.

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**Supplementary  
Question**

Can I thank the Convener for her answer on the home to school transport issue. We all had cause to become a bit more acquainted with the Schools Consultation Act 2010 earlier this week when we debated the issue surrounding the proposed swap of Broomhouse and St Joseph's schools and, when perusing the various bits of information that I was using around that Act and the provisions of the Act, I unexpectedly discovered that when arrangements for home to school transport are changed for denominational schools the provisions of the Act have to be observed in terms of a consultation process. Can the Convener tell us if the Act has been respected in this and did a consultation take place with the denominational sector and if not why not?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

It is my understanding that a consultation process was not required but I will double check for you to be on the safe side and I will then inform you of what that answer is.