

Council Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Tuesday, 25th August, 2020

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

Questions and Answers

Contacts

Email: gavin.king@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 4239

Laurence Rockey

Head of Strategy and Communications

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Agenda Annex

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question

In the past 10 years Council has made decisions to close some public toilets across the city, and to dispose of the buildings. Please provide detail of the current situation for each public toilet closed: when it was closed, whether it remains unsold and if so why, or if sold when this was and what the gross income for the sale, and whether this has been received or is subject to planning permission or other conditions.

Answer

Please find below an update for each of the toilet blocks as requested.

Location	Address	Date Closed	Status	Gross Income	Conditions
Ardmillan Terrace	1 Gorgie Road	September 2015	Sold 8 March 2019	Sale value - £13,500	None
Canaan Lane	7 Canaan Lane	September 2015	Sold 29 March 2019	Sale value - £955,000	Planning was granted 18/01506/FUL
Canonmills	50 Brandon Terrace	September 2015	Sold 19 February 2019	£80,000	None
Currie	215A Lanark Road West	September 2015	Not currently being used.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Granton Square	9 Granton Square	September 2015	Unsold due to title issue and location within a roundabout.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Juniper Green	531 Lanark Road	September 2015	Policy and Sustainability Committee on 16 May 2020 approved a Community Asset Transfer.	£23,000	None
Joppa	82 Joppa Road	September 2015	Under offer for lease subject to contract negotiations.	Under offer subject to lease contract	Not applicable
Corstorphine	199 St Johns Road	September 2015	Sold 16 August 2017	Gross Income £40,000	None

London Road	3 Royal Terrace Gardens	September 2015	Sold 5 June 2017	Gross Income £189,500	None
Tollcross	5 West Tollcross	September 2015	Sold 29 June 2018	Gross Income £105,000	None
Hunters Square	11 Hunters Square	2017	Closed following request from Police Scotland due to extensive anti-social behaviour.	Not applicable	Not applicable
The Mound	2 The Mound	2018	Closed. Extensive repairs work required	Not applicable	Not applicable
Middle Meadow Walk	1 Meadow Walk	2018	This property is not owned by the Council. Quartermile Ventures Ltd have secured Planning permission to demolish and re-design area including this toilet block.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question (1) How many suggestions for safer walking and cycling measures were received through the Commonplace online portal since it was launched in May, broken down by ward?

Answer (1) Over the period that Commonplace was live there were a total of 4,105 comments and 31,687 agreements were registered. This information has not been broken down on a ward by ward basis.

Question (2) What percentage of these suggestions have so far been implemented as a result of one or more of the spaces for people projects?

Answer (2) The map included in the Spaces for People report presented to Policy and Sustainability Committee on [20 August](#) provides a visual representation of the Spaces for People programme with an overlay showing the locations of comments received and the number of agreements with these comments.

Question (3) Can she provide a table listing all the spaces for people projects either implemented or approved for implementation, showing in each case the number of people who had suggested such a change through the Commonplace online portal?

Answer (3) It is not possible to link the comments and agreements received directly to the schemes which have been implemented. The comments and agreements have been analysed by designers of the existing schemes to integrate any changes arising from the comments or are being considered by officers for development into a future scheme.

Question (4) Given current funding levels, what percentage of the suggestions made through the Commonsplace online portal so far are likely to be implemented by the end of 2020?

Answer

- (4) The report which was considered by Policy and Sustainability Committee on 20 August included a breakdown of the budget allocated to each existing scheme and showed that additional funding has been set aside to progress schemes directly arising from comments received which do not form part of the planned schemes to date. It is not possible to provide this breakdown as a percentage of the comments received by scheme.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

At the meeting on 11 June 2020, the Policy & Sustainability Committee resolved that the Council Leader should write to the Board of Lothian Buses asking them to reconsider the inclusion of a bonus for the company's managing director and take the first opportunity to remove this aspect of remuneration when making a permanent appointment.

Question (1) On what date did the Council Leader write to the Board of Lothian Buses?

Answer (1) Verbal communication on this matter was followed up in writing on 19 August 2020. This is in advance of the Lothian Buses Remunerations Committee consideration expected in February 2021.

Question (2) Will he publish a copy of the letter sent?

Answer (2) Yes.

Question (3) Has the Council Leader received a response?

Answer (3) Not yet

Question (4) If he has received a response, will he publish a copy of the reply received?

Answer (4) Yes, assuming there is no information contained in the response that would be inappropriate to publish.

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 25 August 2020

- Question** (1) How many complaints have been received regarding the obstruction of public footways because of overgrown trees, shrubs or hedges in each of the last five months?
- Answer** (1) From 01/03/2020 - 17/08/2020 there have been a total of 1,324 enquires received in relation to obstruction of public footways due to overgrown trees/shrubs/hedges.
- Question** (2) Of these complaints, how many have been inspected by an officer and how many have yet to be inspected?
- Answer** (2) These enquiries are recorded on our systems as actioned or outstanding. To date:
- 857 have been actioned; and
 - 467 remain outstanding.
- Question** (3) Of those inspected by an officer, how many have resulted in
- a) advisory letters being issued and
 - b) statutory notices being issued?
- Answer** (3) This information is recorded in a paper-based system and it has not been possible to collate all of this information in preparing this response. It is intended to circulate this information to Elected Members by the end of August 2020.
- Question** (4) How many officers are currently employed for the purpose of dealing with issues relating to the obstruction of public footways due to overgrown trees, shrubs or hedges?
- Answer** (4) There are five Safety Inspectors whose responsibilities include recording these types of obstructions, as part of their safety inspections and five Roads Inspectors who respond to issues as these are raised.

Item no 5.5

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Neil Ross for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 25 August 2020**

The opportunity to renew a garden waste collection service permit opened on 30 July for the year starting on 9 November 2020. This renewal period ends on 9 September.

Question (1) Why is it necessary to have a two month gap between the deadline for renewal and the commencement of the next service year, given that surely most permit holders are expected to renew?

Answer (1) The two month period between the permit registration period closing and the new service starting enables the routing system to be updated with any additions or changes and to address any operational issues which have arisen in the previous period. This period also allows for eligibility checks to be completed and any issues resolved and to complete the preparation and mailing of permits to customers in advance of the service commencing.

Question (2) How many email reminders will the Council issue to existing permit holders before the deadline on 9 September?

Answer (2) One email was sent at the start of the registration window for garden waste customers with email address details. The remaining customers (including those with a failed email or out of office) were sent a letter.

No further email reminders are planned.

Question (3) What proposals does the Council have, either under consideration or in progress, to automate the entire permit process in future?

Answer (3) Officers are working on plans to simplify and automate the back office processes for garden waste permits to allow more flexibility to reduce the time taken between registration and the service commencing and to extend the mid-year sign up window.

Question (4) Given the objective to increase space on pavements to help people to keep a safe distance, would it be possible to include a polite message in the next communication to garden waste permit holders, for example as suggested at 2. above, to cut back shrubs and trees that overhang onto pavements and footways?

Answer (4) This will be included in future correspondence to garden waste permit holders and will also be added to wider communications about garden waste.

Item no 5.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

- Question** (1) Prior to a pop up cycle lane being implemented what measures are put into place to ensure that the road surface is fit for this purpose safe to use and not full of potholes/ loose gravel?
- Answer** (1) As part of the Spaces for People Programme, an inspection of the route is carried out and any actionable defects identified are addressed. A budget allocation has been set-aside to undertake appropriate road patching where issues are identified. Over the last 6 weeks significant repairs have been completed on Forrest Road, George IV Bridge, the Mound, Old Dalkeith Road and Crewe Road South.
- Question** (2) What measures are in place to make sure these pop up lanes are cleaned regularly and safe to use?
- Answer** (2) There have been some challenges in ensuring that road space and segregated cycleways are kept clean but Waste and Cleansing and Spaces for People teams are working hard to put measures in place to improve the on-going cleanliness of new cycleways.
- Question** (3) How (and who to) do members of the public report issues such as debris within the pop up cycle lanes?
- Answer** (3) The most efficient way to report any on-street issue is through the Report It section on the Council Web Page <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report> .

Item no 5.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

- Question** (1) To detail the pupil attendance rate for:
- a) secondary schools as a whole
 - b) primary schools as a whole
 - c) special schools as a whole
- for each of the days w/b 17 August and to give the comparable figures for the first full week of term in 2019-20.
- Answer** (1) 12/8/20 – Primary 96.21%, Secondary 98.74%, Special 86.3%
13/8/20 – Primary 96.52%, Secondary 97.75%, Special 86.46%
- 14/8/20 - Primary 94.84%, Secondary 97.78%, Special 84.43%
- 17/8/20 – Primary 95.40%, Secondary 95.90%, Special 91.11%
- 18/8/20 – Primary 95.50%, Secondary 95.08%, Special 90.44%
- Question** (2) To detail the percentage of school-based staff present in school for each of the day's w/b 17 August.
- Answer** (2) This information has been collected and will be circulated to Elected Members when it has been fully verified.
- Question** (3) To indicate which schools have raised concerns about shortages of materials to ensure adequate hygiene standards in schools.

- Answer** (3) Schools that indicated issues in respect of shortages of materials were Broughton High School, Holyrood High School, Craigmoynton High School, Leith Academy and Currie High School. Where there were issue this has been responded to immediately by a dedicated delivery coordinator.
- Question** (4) What pre-symptomatic Covid19 testing is in place or is planned for school staff following the return to school?
- Answer** (4) No plans with regards to testing for asymptomatic staff have been shared with the authority by Health Protection (14.08.20).
- Question** (5) Whether sufficient provision has been made for space around school gates to allow parents to achieve distancing requirements at drop-off and pick-up times?
- Answer** (5) Schools are managing this as part of Scottish Government advice on reopening schools through risk assessment. Where required (again through risk assessment) Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders are in place. As with all risk assessment this should be managed dynamically.

Item no 5.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Chair of the Licensing Board at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question

What systems are in place for police to report to council officers and Licensing Board on investigations into alleged or confirmed breaches of coronavirus-related public health regulations in licensed premises?

Answer

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 include measures which businesses (including licensed premises) must comply with, in order to protect public health. Both the Council and Police Scotland can take appropriate action should a business be found in breach of the Regulations. If not resolved, a breach of the Regulations would ultimately be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Regulatory Services officers are in regular contact with Police Scotland, often several times a week. Regular weekly meetings between senior Council officers and senior Police officers have oversight of any COVID-related activity, including monitoring licensed premises.

Police Scotland and the Council's Licensing Standards Officers have existing powers and well-established processes under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. These powers can be used to call for a review of a premises licence in order to bring a matter to the Licensing Board's attention.

Item no 5.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question

For the current growing season (2020) what volume of glyphosate herbicide has been used to date and projected by season end, compared to 2019; and what changes have been made to operational guidelines on application compared to previous years?

Answer

The table below provides details of the glyphosate herbicide used in 2019 and 2020.

Type of glyphosate herbicide	2019 Usage Litres	2020 Usage (to date) Litres
Round Up	180	90
Nomix	1,200	145
Asteroid	1,800	N/A
Roseate 360 TF	N/A	360
Total	3,180	595

It is anticipated that 820 litres will be used in 2020.

There have been no changes to the operational guidelines in 2020, compared to previous years. Our policy to reduce Glyphosate has been in place since 2016.

Item no 5.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question (1) Please provide, broken down by school, the number of high school pupils whose proposed grade was lower than the teacher estimate (prior to the u-turn confirmed by the minister this week).

Answer (1) See below table. Note that this gives the number of presentations rather than the number of pupils. We are unable to give the pupil-level data at the moment but this can be provided later if necessary.

School	Total number of estimates	Number of estimates moved down	% of estimates moved down
Balerno Community High School	1389	493	35%
Boroughmuir High School	2726	455	17%
Broughton High School	1734	487	28%
Castlebrae Community High School	181	30	17%
Craigmount High School	2167	479	22%
Craigroyston Community High School	571	206	36%
Currie Community High School	1349	302	22%
Drummond Community High School	471	150	32%
Firrhill High School	2469	602	24%
Forrester High School	835	309	37%
Gracemount High School	560	267	48%
Holy Rood High School	1500	421	28%
James Gillespie's High School	2604	506	19%
Leith Academy	1343	538	40%
Liberton High School	723	384	53%
Portobello High School	2285	807	35%
Queensferry High School	1236	320	26%
St Augustine's High School	1104	357	32%
St Thomas of Aquin's High School	1555	385	25%
The Royal High School	2547	667	26%
Trinity Academy	1432	390	27%
Tynecastle High School	837	284	34%
Wester Hailes Education Centre	247	85	34%
All secondaries	31865	8924	28%

Question (2) If known, please provide the same information, by school, for the independent secondary schools within the Edinburgh Council area.

Answer (2) We have no access to this data.

Item no 5.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question

As of 17/08 please confirm the following:

- a) How many council run clubs have recommenced? How many are still not operating? And when will the start back up?
- b) How many independent clubs who use council venues (eg. Schools or community centres) are recommenced and how many are still not operating?
- c) Of those Independent clubs not operating, how many have asked to use the venue but the request has been denied (and please state reasons).

Answer

- (a) 88/89 schools have a breakfast club and should be available to parents by 1 Sept at the latest. Data will be gathered at that point.

All OOSC clubs have been supported to open by 31st August. Data will be gathered at this point.

- (b) 10 Community Centres are accessed by 10 providers delivering OoSC. One provider is not yet able to access the Community Centre

34 providers deliver OoSC in 67 schools. Services were requested to commence Monday 17th August.

- (c) None. 1 is currently in process.

Item no 5.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Young for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question

Recognising the extended deadline to implement 1140 hours in early years provision please confirm:

- a) how many children who were already receiving 1140 hours have had their allocation reduced - please list affected nurseries if any have a greater than average proportion
- b) How many children who had been advised of an 1140 allocation (but had not started it yet) have now been allocated a lower amount? Please list affected nurseries if any have a greater than average proportion.
- c) For children who were having their allocation reduced, when was this information given to parents?

Answer

- a) 1140 funded places have not been removed from children already receiving this.
- b) 293 children were allocated a lower amount of hours.
- c) Following the SG guidance published on 30 July headteachers were informed of their revised models of delivery on 5 August. Returning parents were informed of their new offer on 7 August, with new start families being informed from 10 August.

Item no 5.13

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Webber for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

In July, the Convener told Council that Safe Travel to Schools proposals would be subject to consultation with Parent Councils. After his answer, that same message was available on the Council's website for all to see. Inexplicably, this message can no longer be found on the Council website

- Question** (1) Can the convener confirm the form of consultation that Parent Councils can expect to be part of when enhancements are being considered to the Safe Travel to their Schools?
- Answer** (1) As part of the School Travel Plan review commencing in September, this will be developed in full consultation with Schools, Parent Councils, Parents and Ward Councillors.
- Question** (2) How can Parent Councils request that their school is considered for an enhanced safe travel plan?
- Answer** (2) All schools within Edinburgh will have their travel plans reviewed over the next 18 months. Officers from the Road Safety team will be in touch with schools and parent councils in due course.
- Question** (3) How can Parent Councils suggest specific changes they believe their Parent Forum would support in terms of improvements to the safe travel to their school?
- Answer** (3) This will be part of the school travel plan review process; we will ask the full school for their suggestions.
- Question** (4) Would the Convener agree that safe Travel to Schools should be a priority for the Spaces for People programme and support Spaces for Pupils?

Answer

- (4) Under Spaces for People, council and sustrans officers are undertaking assessments at all schools across the city, to assess for the possibility for immediately taking action to aid social distancing around schools such as one-way gates, pavement widening, road closures etc. Due to time constraints, this is not being done with the Parent Councils but in liaison with head teachers for each school.

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question (1) Can the Leader confirm the potential financial impact on the Council under the terms of the Growth Accelerator Model agreement to finance the St James Quarter redevelopment should future employment and business rates income not achieve the targets set?

Answer (1) The grant offer letter from the Scottish Government provides a payment mechanism for the Council, whereby the prudential borrowing costs linked to the purchase of the Growth Accelerator Model (GAM) growth assets are supported in full, subject to meeting targets on (i) resultant growth in both the St James Centre's rateable value and that of the surrounding area and (ii) employment and training. Achievement of these targets will be measured initially over three years and extended for a further three years if not fully met.

Borrowing has been secured at a rate below that assumed in the model which will help to mitigate any reduction in income received from the payment mechanism.

Question (2) Whether the Council has been able to secure any change to the legal agreements to lower its potential liabilities, either through negotiation with the developer the Scottish Government or both, considering the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic?

Answer (2) Payment to the developer is capped at £61.4m and will only be made upon satisfactory completion of the growth assets. Regular tripartite discussions involving the Council, Scottish Government and the developer have been in place since the project's inception and these remain on-going. Based on information received to date, no changes to legal agreements are considered necessary at this time.

Item no 5.15

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question Provide details of the number of Drain/Gully clearing trucks that are operational and non-operational?

Answer (1) There are currently four gully motors and one towable high pressure jetter operating within the Council.

Question (2) Provide details of how many staff are used to help unblock drains/gullies across the city?

Answer (2) The team includes:

- 9 Skilled Roadworkers;
- 1 Team Leader;
- 1 Technician; and
- 1 Team Manager.

In addition, a Nightshift Team regularly undertake gully works as part of their duties. This team includes:

- 1 Team Leader; and
- 2 Skilled Roadworkers

Question (3) Provide details of how many complaints/notifications for blocked drains/gullies there have been for each ward for the last 13 months including August 2020?

Answer

- (3) Below you'll see a table for all enquires raised in relation to blocked drains/gullies between 01/06/2019 and 18/08/2020

Ward	Enquiries Raised
Ward 1	565
Ward 2	881
Ward 3	377
Ward 4	329
Ward 5	482
Ward 6	687
Ward 7	400
Ward 8	495
Ward 9	404
Ward 10	995
Ward 11	659
Ward 12	278
Ward 13	231
Ward 14	412
Ward 15	790
Ward 16	498
Ward 17	381
Total	8,864

Question

- (4) Provide details of how many drains/gullies have been unblocked in the last 13 months per ward including August 2020?

Answer

- (4) The table below shows both the amount of attended enquiries as well as the number of gullies cleaned on inspection routes per ward.

Officers do not record the outcome of each enquiry raised however the column 'Inspected and Cleaned' shows the number of enquires which have been attended and the number which have been inspected and cleaned by ward.

This information covers the period 01/06/2019 to 18/08/2020.

Ward	Enquiries Attended	Inspected and Cleaned
Ward 1	558	1,901
Ward 2	874	1,680
Ward 3	375	571
Ward 4	325	295
Ward 5	478	510
Ward 6	678	757
Ward 7	396	1,086
Ward 8	482	808
Ward 9	397	593
Ward 10	985	1,080
Ward 11	646	813
Ward 12	272	358
Ward 13	228	778
Ward 14	409	1,307
Ward 15	779	803
Ward 16	483	740
Ward 17	375	2,955
Total	8,740	17,035

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Bruce for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Given the financial challenges community organisations face and the reliance that so many communities have on their services, can the Convener please confirm:

Question (1) Which community organisations (by Neighbourhood Networks area) have submitted applications for the Neighbourhood Grant Scheme that are now outstanding for assessment and the amount in each application?

Answer (1) The following applications have been submitted for community grants funding:

Western Neighbourhood Network

St Thomas Church - £4,276.48 approved and awaiting signed grant conditions acceptance form to be returned.

Gogarloch Community Park Association - £3,495 approved and awaiting signed grant conditions acceptance form to be returned.

Rannoch Community Centre Management Committee - £5,000 approved conditionally, awaiting quotes.

Corstorphine Rugby Football Club - £5,000 approved conditionally, awaiting outcome from another funding source.

City Centre Neighbourhood Network

Edinburgh Lothian Greenspace Trust - £5,000 awaiting assessment and decision.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Network

19th Pentland Scout Group - £1,700 awaiting assessment and decision.

Pentland Community Space - £5,000 awaiting assessment and decision.

South West Neighbourhood Network

Sighthill Community Education Centre - £4,500 awaiting assessment and decision.

Question (2) When the Neighbourhood Grant Scheme will be live and able to assess each application?

Answer (2) The scheme is live currently with applications being assessed under delegated authority or via e-funding panels as appropriate to each locality.

Question (3) When these community groups can expect to hear if their application has been successful?

Answer (3) All community groups in the Western Neighbourhood Network have been informed of the outcome of their application.

The community group in the City Centre Neighbourhood Network is anticipated to be notified of the outcome of its application by 28 August 2020.

Applications in the South West and Pentlands Neighbourhood Networks are still subject to assessment and decision. The timescale for notifying community organisations of the outcome is subject to the arranging of virtual panels to carry out this process but anticipated to be by mid-September.

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Jim Campbell for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Can the Convener explain in regard to the Statutory Requirements of Parent Councils:

Question (1) What support has the Council provided to Parent Councils since March 2020, so that Parent Councils could support their school in its work with pupils; represent the views of all parents and carers; encourage links between school, carers, pupils and the wider community?

Answer (1) Headteachers have been working with their own Parent Councils since March 2020. Headteachers have been reminded in August 2020 to use Microsoft Teams for PC Meetings.

Locality Meetings and CCWP resumed in June 2020.

A new QIEO (Marie Lyon) has taken on Parental Engagement as part of her remit and will be joining Jack Simpson, Arran Finlay and Anna Gray at Locality Meetings in session 2020/21 to discuss this with PC Chairs.

Question (2) What guidance and support the Council has produced to help Parent Forums set up Parent Councils this school year, when Government guidelines would preclude in person meetings of parents or carers?

Answer (2) Headteachers have been reminded in August 2020 to use Microsoft Teams for PC Meetings.

Parent Councils have been asked to share their updated contact details for this session to ease communication.

Question (3) What steps has the Convener taken since lockdown to facilitate meetings between Parent Councils, Head Teachers and other Council Officers within the ICT guidelines set out by this Council?

Answer

- (3)** Locality Meetings and CCWP resumed in June 2020. These have been held on Microsoft Teams.

During August and September 2020, additional Locality meetings have been put in the diary to share updates with PC Chairs on

- Meeting 1 – Health & Safety and Health & Wellbeing
- Meeting 2 – Equalities, Equity and Inclusion
- Meeting 3 – Teaching, Learning (including Digital) & Assessment

Item no 5.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Douglas for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

As part of the Spaces for People programme covering Safe Travel to Schools, can the Convener confirm how many schools have had:

- Question** (1) Enhancements implemented before students return for the start of the new school year?
- Answer** (1) There have been six enhancements implemented to support students returned for the start of the school year.
- Question** (2) Enhancements planned and shared, in line with the curtailed consultation of the Spaces for People programme?
- Answer** (2) All schools within Edinburgh, including independent schools, are currently being assessed for a variety of measures to assist in physical distancing around schools. Outwith this project, officers are looking to review routes to school, and measure the success of school streets, park smart, and park and stride travel plans in place at many schools.
- Question** (3) No changes compared with February this year?
- Answer** (3) Every school has been or will be offered the opportunity to make interventions. These are being or will be assessed and it hoped that most changes will be in place by mid-September.

Item no 5.19

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Johnston for answer
by the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 25 August 2020**

Will the Convener please detail:

Question (1) The range of Council employees that have been furloughed and the time frame for which job retention scheme applications were made?

Answer (1) The range of Council employees/workers placed on Furlough leave was previously detailed in the Members Briefing Note 640 issued by the Head of Human Resources on 10 June 2020, specifically within Section 5, *“Eligible Groups within CEC”*.

In terms of the time frame for making applications, employees/workers were required to be placed on furlough leave by 10 June 2020 at the latest and the last date that applications in respect of those employees could be made to HMRC was 31 July 2020.

Question (2) The date from which council employees were unable to work due to Covid- 19?

Answer (2) This varies depending upon the nature of the role employees/workers were undertaking, for example when the Council implemented the lockdown arrangements a number of employees/workers were unable to work due to the office, building or school they are normally based in being closed. Other employees/workers have been able to continue to work remotely or were repurposed to undertake necessary alternative duties.

Question (3) Any engagement undertaken with Dundee Council, CoSLA or any other Scottish local authorities as to their job retention scheme applications?

Answer (3) Senior Council Finance and Human Resources Officers engaged with their counterparts at Dundee City Council in respect of their Job Retention Scheme (JRS) applications to discuss implementation mechanisms. No other Scottish local authorities were engaged with in respect of this matter and CoSLA did not provide any guidance or comment upon on Local Authorities accessing the JRS.

Question (4) What consideration has been given to applying for the job retention scheme bonus from February 2021 and the current status of this work?

Answer (4) As reported to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 23 July 2020, which Councillor Johnston attended, in section 4.12 of the Revenue Budget 2020/21 Update, there was the potential for the Council to consider applying for a payment for each employee/worker “returning” from furlough leave. This was subject to confirmation of the scheme’s full applicability to the Council.

The details of this scheme have only recently been published by the UK Government. This will be given consideration, in due course, and will be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee, as necessary.

Question (5) Whether any Council employees have been ‘flexibly’ furloughed since 1st July 2020 and, if so, how many and in which department(s)?

Answer (5) No Council employees/workers have been ‘flexibly’ furloughed.

Item no 5.20

QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Laidlaw for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Question (1) Can the Convener confirm how many newly qualified (probationer) teachers have been offered roles within City of Edinburgh schools?

Answer (1) 147 (50 so far in secondary. An advert with a closing date of 24th August is currently on *Myjobscotland* targeted at the current CEC supply list, including NQTs without substantive posts, for 23 fixed-term secondary and 9 fixed-term special vacancies as per the Scottish Government's initiative.)

Question (2) What percentage of those meeting employment conditions at interview earlier this year have been offered contracts?

Answer (2) Primary – 100% (if this is referring to the central recruitment)
Secondary – 100% in a variety of recruitment tranches since January 2020

Question (3) Can the Convener confirm how many have been offered permanent vs temporary positions?

Answer (3) 66 permanent (45 permanent in secondary)

Question (4) Can the Convener confirm if hiring has been affected by COVID-19 and if so what is the percentage decrease in hires in 2020 versus 2019?

Answer (4) Hiring has not been affected by Covid-19 for teaching posts and we have been able to offer more posts as a result of Government funding received to support closing the attainment gap.

Item no 5.21

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Can the Convener confirm in regard to Spaces for People TTROs:

- Question** Whether there have there been any legal challenges intimated or underway to the use of TTROs for the implementation of Spaces for People Measures?
- Answer** (1) There has been one intimated legal challenge.
- Question** (2) The outcome of any such legal challenges?
- Answer** (2) No legal challenge was progressed.
- Question** (3) Whether any guidance has been changed as a result of any initiated or actual legal challenge?
- Answer** (3) No guidance has changed.
- Question** (4) Whether any Councillors were informed of the legal challenges, and if yes, who?
- Answer** (4) There was no legal challenges just an intimation of a legal challenge.
- Question** (5) What types of parking/loading bays can be suspended under the current TTROs and whether there has there been any change in advice on this since the start of the project?
- Answer** (5) Under the current TTROs all types of parking/loading bays can be suspended and there has been no change in the advice provided at the start.
- Question** (6) Whether there has been any actual change in the type of bays suspended and the reason for this?
- Answer** (6) There has been no change.

Item no 5.22

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

Can the Convener please advise:

Question (1) In respect of Edinburgh's £1.65million share of the Scottish Government's Food Fund, how much of this money has been allocated and who in the Council is responsible for identifying those in need and qualifying for food deliveries and other essential items?

Answer (1) In March 2020 the Council was allocated £1.651m from the Scottish Government Food Fund to support the supply and distribution of food to vulnerable citizens.

The Council's use of the Fund has included direct payments for free school meals (£1.037m), the provision of food boxes to families with vulnerable children (£0.251m) and payments to EVOC (£0.312m) to facilitate the provision of food support through community organisations. Expenditure on small grants totalling £20k and emergency food boxes totalling £31k have also been incurred.

Those who contacted the Council through the special helpline which was established as required by the Scottish Government and met the Scottish Government's criteria were referred to EVOC so they could be given the support they required.

Question (2) In respect of the £50,000 announced as being made available by the Council to provide targeted support to smaller scale community groups in their efforts to help vulnerable residents should they fail to be successful in applying for available grants, how much of this money has been allocated and to which community groups?

Answer

- (2)** From the allocated 50k grant fund, the Council received 14 applications from which the following allocations were made. The criteria for applications was set out as follows;

Criteria

- 1) A CEC fund of £50,000 will be made available to Edinburgh third sector organisations, voluntary projects, faith groups and other projects undertaking work to support vulnerable groups amid the COVID-19 crisis. Funding must be used to meet new and additional need or demand as a result of COVID-19, not to back-fund an existing resource or project. Funding is subject to approval by City of Edinburgh Council, at its discretion.

- 2) In order to be eligible to apply, groups must:

Have applied for Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) or other funding and been declined. I.e.
<https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/for-organisations/wellbeing-fund/guidance-for-applicants>.

or

Have been approved for funding, but for financial reasons are likely to cease operating before the payment is released.

or

Because of their status are ineligible to apply for the funding outlined above and require financial support to sustain their project.

- 3) Fund allocations will be made in tiered amounts, from £100 to a maximum of £5,000.

- 4) Following referral, funds can be made available the following day if required. An application form must be completed by each requester in order to have a documented audit trail. Each application is assessed by a sub-group of the Board. There is no ceiling in terms of what groups can apply for i.e. maximum amount in combined grants and support.

Organisation Name	Number	Status	Amount
Corstorphine Community Hub	6	Successful	5000
Steps to Hope	4	Successful	2000
Mia's Hope	3	Successful	230
Edinburgh Food Social	2	Successful	5000
Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre	14	Successful in part	2500
Pilmeny Youth Centre	13	Successful in part	240
Empty Kitchens Full Hearts	10	Successful in part	3000
			£17, 970.00

Item no 5.23

QUESTION NO 23

By Councillor Rust for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2020

In relation to Spaces for People proposals for:

- Comiston Road / Buckstone Terrace
- Wester Hailes Road

Question (1) How many comments were received in total for each scheme?

Answer (1) The total number of comments received were as follows:

- Comiston Road / Buckstone Terrace – 167
- Wester Hailes Road - 26

Question (2) How many comments were

- (a) from individuals and
- (b) from organisations in respect of each?

Answer (2) (a) The total number of comments from individuals were as follows:

- Comiston Road / Buckstone Terrace – 152
- Wester Hailes Road - 9

(b) The total number of comments from organisations were as follows:

- Comiston Road / Buckstone Terrace – 15
- Wester Hailes Road - 11

Question (3) For each proposal, how many were

- (a) for/supportive of the proposals;
- (b) against/objections to the proposals;
- (c) neutral

Answer

(3) For Comiston Road/Buckstone Terrace:

- 38 were for/supportive;
- 123 were against/objections; and
- 6 were neutral.

For Wester Hailes Road:

- 2 were for/supportive;
- 17 were against/objections; and
- 1 was neutral.