

Council Deputations

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 10th December, 2020

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

Deputations

Contacts

Email: gavin.king@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 4239

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

10 DECEMBER 2020

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

| Subject | Deputation |
|--|--|
| 3.1 In relation to item 9.6 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Mowat – Supporting Our City Centre | a) Unite the Union Edinburgh Cab Branch b) Keith Falconer and Whizz Kidz |
| 3.2 In relation to item 9.11 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor McVey – Public Sector Pay Freeze | Joint Trade Unions of City of Edinburgh Council SJC Trade Unions; UNISON, GMB and Unite the Union |

From: [Dunn, Jacqueline \(Branch activist\)](#)
To: [Committee Services](#)
Subject: Deputation for Council Meeting 10th December 2020, Regarding 9.6 Supporting the City Centre
Date: 09 December 2020 11:16:28

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Unite the Union Edinburgh Cab Branch to request a deputation be heard by the Full council on the 10th December 2020 at 1000 regarding item the motion:-

9.6 By Councillor Jo Mowat - Supporting the City Centre.

I trust this is in order and would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this request.

Please find the text of the deputation underneath my signature.

Jacqueline Dunn
Edinburgh Cab Branch Secretary

Deputation for full council meeting 10th of December 2020

Regarding item 9.6 Supporting the City Centre.

Edinburgh Cab Branch fully supports Councillor Mowat's Motion for supporting the city centre as the pandemic and the restrictions have had a detrimental effect upon it.

We were all hoping to be placed into level two on Friday 11th of December 2020 but the First Minister decided against it, despite the data saying otherwise. Going into level 2 would have given a small boost to the hospitality trade and those who rely on it.

One of your communications campaign, is maybe highlighting the use of a taxi coming in and out of the city centre as it would be cheaper than parking for a couple hours in George Street. Taxis are fully accessible and is the safest method of public transport with the partition and sanitised secure compartment.

Free parking may bring some more customers into the city centre but one issue this will cause is the public parking in our taxi ranks, as they already do this on a Sunday, where it is free parking at the moment. We have addressed this issue constantly with you and even tweet our frustration that we can't access our ranks.

With our trade seeing a 90% drop in work, our ranks are more important than ever so we can be accessible for the public.

We recently gave you a comprehensive taxi rank report highlighting the ranks that needed painted and signed correctly so we can be enforced, we were told this was happening imminently.

If council today fully supports Free parking for an hour then we ask that you paint and sign our ranks as soon as possible, to prevent the public parking in them and if they do, can be enforced.

George IV bridge is one area of the city centre that is now a ghost town, despite having some small cafés on it. This is down to inaccessibility caused by the spaces for people

policy. By reinstalling the parking bays and the taxi rank in this area, you would see a return of custom.

As taxi drivers we are experiencing and seeing the devastation this pandemic and restrictions are having on our City, especially at this time of year when we should be bustling with Christmas shoppers, parties and gearing up for our street party at Hogmanay. It's imperative that Council protects and supports it's local traders, businesses and all those who rely on them so they can once again thrive and flourish when we reopen and get back to normal, one of those to help the taxi trade would be to use us to transport PPE and now the vaccine that has arrived in Scotland, we are the easiest and quickest transport provider to get this around the town to clinics and care homes.

Thank you.

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The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

09/12/2020

Submission to City of Edinburgh Council Meeting, Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Councillors and Officials,

RE: Agenda Item 9.6 - Supporting our City Centre by Councillor Mowat

We welcome Cllr Mowat's call for support of City Centre businesses and the appropriate measures suggested to encourage local residents to access shops safely and with proper facilities in place.

We ask the Council to ensure that any measures put in place to facilitate local residents' access to shops also include those residents with disabilities.

'The Purple Pound' which refers to the spending power of a disabled household¹ notes that nearly 1 in 5 working adults have a disability. Disabled people in the UK and their households have a combined spending power of over £274 billion. The UK High Street alone miss out on £267 million per month due to poor accessibility.

Disabled Scottish Travel Blogger, Simply Emma was kind enough to tell us of her experiences visiting central Edinburgh. *"Accessibility in Edinburgh is something I've found is lacking. I don't find it particular easy to get around in terms on kerbs, getting into shops/restaurants etc with steps and lack of accessible toilets. For these reasons, I don't often visit Edinburgh which is such a shame as it's a beautiful city."*

If the Council is to ensure local residents are encouraged to return to the City Centre to support businesses, provisions must be made for ALL of its residents whether they be able-bodied or disabled.

We would ask the Council to work with disabled people to include sufficient disabled parking bays, improved dropped kerbs and access to appropriate toilet facilities and changing places in any plans to encourage local residence to access shops.

Kind Regards,

Tartan Silk on behalf of Edinburgh Resident and Disability Advocate, Keith Falconer and Whizz-Kidz, UK Charity supporting disabled young people.

¹ 'The Purple Pound' by Purple Zest Limited, UK registered Charity <https://wearepurple.org.uk/the-purple-pound-infographic/#:~:text=1%20in%205%20%E2%80%93%20More%20than,UK%20consumers%20have%20a%20disability.&text=%C2%A3249%20billion%20%E2%80%93%20The%20spending,per%20year%20to%20UK%20business.>

Deputation City of Edinburgh Council Full Council Meeting 10 December 2020

Item 9.11 By Councillor McVey-Public Sector Pay Freeze

The local joint trade unions welcome the motion in the name of Cllr McVey.

Council staff, in all services, have been providing essential, preventative and lifesaving services throughout the pandemic without a break. Many of them have worked beyond their normal hours and in difficult circumstances to continue with the provision of essential services in the communities in which they live, work, and serve.

Through the 10 years of austerity, we were subjected to pay freezes, below inflation pay rises and cuts to jobs and services.

The UK Chancellors announcement was nothing more than a slap in the face to the hundreds of thousands of local government workers who have gone above and beyond their duties to deliver essential services:

- social care workers have been working in dangerous situations in homes of clients with COVID-19
- care home workers have been at the coalface supporting and looking after vulnerable clients who have not had access to family or friends during this period
- school support staff and other staff have supported the education provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers
- social work staff who have seen substantially increased caseloads with fewer staff available for work due to the pandemic
- environmental health officers where we no longer have enough staff to cope with emergencies such as the pandemic
- refuse workers keeping our streets clean
- janitorial and cleaning staff keeping our hubs, schools, and offices safe,
- staff working from home providing first point of contact to the residents of the city
- Housing officers providing essential services to our most vulnerable homeless people
- Mortuary staff and crematorium staff continuing to provide essential services under extreme conditions and risk
- The list is endless

If *“the Council Leader and Depute Leader write to the UK and Scottish Governments to make clear that public sector workers should be paid fairly and appropriately by fully funding any future pay increases that are agreed between employers and trade unions.”* Will they also be committed to ensuring that the value of any past or future pay award is not undermined by internal processes that diminish the Pay and Benefits of the staff that they claim to support, and that they would treat any such proposals as being unfair and inappropriate and act accordingly?

GMB - UNISON - Unite the union

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