

# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Planning decision on Royal High due today

Last chance to have your say on council budget

Random Acts of Christmas

Paolozzi beer launched

Council appoints lawyers for next two years



The council's planning committee have a decision to make today on the future of the Royal High School. The proceedings begin at 10.00am and you can follow online [here](#).

The meeting is expected to last most of the day and the sole topic of discussion is the application to turn the former school into a five star hotel.

Here are the papers for the meeting.



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Today is the last chance to comment on the council's budget consultation. The council has to make savings of £126 million over the next four years and they have drafted their proposals on what they will spend the revenue budget on. These proposals can still be changed depending on comment from the public. If you have not yet read any of the council's ideas then you still have time but the budget consultation will end today.

One of the council's statutory duties which it struggles to fulfil is the provision of allotments in the city. One of the suggestions to solve this problem is to sell off one of the city's golf courses. There are all manner of comments and you can add your voice by registering your email address and speaking up.

[Read more here.](#)



Aldi's Random Acts of Christmas tour paid a special visit the Winter Care Shelter in Edinburgh this week to say a festive thank you to staff for all their hard work this year, especially over Christmas and the New Year.



Photo: Rob McDougall

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Staff at the Winter Care Shelter enjoyed a variety of delicious party foods and drinks from Aldi. The tour – that marks the end of an incredible year for Aldi, including celebrating 25 years of retailing in the UK and being crowned Which? Supermarket of the Year – celebrates the festive season

and the great work undertaken by people such as those at the winter shelter that helps homeless and disadvantaged people across Scotland.



Paolozzi lager, the first serving from a new Edinburgh-based micro-brewery, was officially launched last month with a 'pop-art party' at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Two.

Edinburgh Beer Factory, newly-founded by John Dunsmore, ex-CEO of Scottish & Newcastle and C&C Group, held the huge event to launch the new lager and honour the inspiration behind its name and brand, Leith-born artist and sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi.

Over 200 invited guests, including members of Paolozzi's family, attended the event and the entire frontage of the gallery was swathed in stunning projections of some of Eduardo Paolozzi's most famous works.

Speaking at the event, John Dunsmore said: "It's an exhilarating experience to be launching our inaugural beer in such a unique venue. A big thank you is owed to the whole team who have worked incredibly hard to help us reach this milestone.

"At the heart of the Edinburgh Beer Factory is a family-owned business based on strong values and a long term perspective. We're so proud of our inaugural lager and raise a toast to the great Eduardo Paolozzi who we're sure would love to be here enjoying a glass with us."

A reinvention of a beer often overlooked, Paolozzi is a 5.2% lager created with contemporary Italian brewing technology. The result is an exceptionally refined beer with a perfect bitter-sweet balance and fabulously sparkling appearance. In Paolozzi's words, it's something "sublime in the everyday".

Paolozzi is already available in some of Edinburgh's most popular bars and restaurants and is a tribute to the man who helped to create the pop-art phenomenon. Last week it picked up a SIBA award, winning best Scottish bottled premium lager.

✖ Eduardo's artwork 'Illumination and the Eye' is displayed on the bottle and fount, and Edinburgh Beer Factory will be showcasing other artworks at the brewery when it opens next summer to the public. The beer is endorsed by the Paolozzi Foundation, and a charitable donation for every bottle and pint sold will go to promote Paolozzi's work and ideas to the general public.

Housed in a converted industrial unit in west Edinburgh, Edinburgh Beer Factory is a modern, urban micro-brewery. John's wife Lynne and daughter Kirsty are also founding members of Edinburgh Beer Factory. They're joined by fresh brewing talent from local Heriot-Watt university, Head Brewer David Kemp and Mike Meletopoulo; ex-Tennent's and Harviestoun sales manager Gregor Harris; and colleague from HotHouse investments, Rosie Nicholson, herself from the family behind the historic Sunderland-based Vaux Breweries.

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Paolozzi lager is launching in Edinburgh and Glasgow with plans to expand across the UK over 2016. Edinburgh Beer Factory will open to the public in time for summer 2016, providing a visitor attraction for Edinburgh locals and international tourists, local employment and brewery-fresh beer.

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The City of Edinburgh Council has re-appointed Morton Fraser to provide its commercial, planning and property, litigation and employment legal services for the next two years, with the option to extend the contract for a further two.

The top-ten Scottish law firm secured appointment to all four of the lots for which it qualified from The City of Edinburgh Council's Legal Services Framework, which have an estimated combined value of £2.1m. The Framework is also accessible to Stirling Council and West Lothian Council.

Morton Fraser's public sector team, one of the largest in Scotland with over 80 specialists and more than 100 clients, has worked with The City of Edinburgh Council for five years after first being appointed for legal services in 2010.

✖ Rory Alexander, Partner and Local Government Lead at Morton Fraser said: "We are absolutely delighted with our re-appointment and are very much looking forward to continuing our relationship with the City of Edinburgh Council at an important time for local government. It follows our appointment to provide legal services to both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils earlier this year, and provides us with the opportunity not only to work with the City of Edinburgh Council but also with both Stirling and West Lothian Councils.

"The win is also our third from three public sector opportunities that we have tendered for in recent months, which is testament to the strength of our public sector team. We are trusted to provide best value and clarity in difficult circumstances and we are seeing a sustained period of growth for the firm as a result."



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