

# Five things you need to know today

## Jock's Lodge plans changed

The developer of the proposed purpose built student accommodation at Jock's Lodge has made a few changes – including lowering the height of the building on Smokey Brae.

[Read more here.](#)



## Transport and Environment Committee on Thursday

The council says it will double spending on the city's roads and pavements in a plan to spend more on improvement projects in almost a decade.

The Roads and Infrastructure Investment – Capital Delivery Priorities for 2023/24 report, to be considered by [Transport and Environment Committee on Thursday](#) allocates an additional £11 million approved in February as part of the Council's budget-setting process. The extra investment brings the total roads and infrastructure capital budget to £21.781 million.

A proposed £11 million investment in roads will significantly increase the number of carriageway renewal schemes carried out over the next year, helping to slow deterioration and improve network condition.

[Read more here.](#)

# Deposit Return Scheme – Scottish Government delay

The First Minister, Humza Yousaf, [announced plans yesterday](#) which will form a template for all Cabinet Secretaries to follow for the next three years. It is introduced as a fresh start under new leadership.

One of the matters which has been put on the back burner for now is the Deposit Return Scheme, now delayed until March 2024.

Scottish Conservative MSP Maurice Golden responded to this and said: “This delay will come as a huge relief to businesses and consumers across the country.

“They will be glad the decision has been taken out of Lorna Slater’s hands and that they have some kind of stay of execution.

“But how the SNP-Green government uses this next nine months is absolutely key.

“Most people agree a well-thought out DRS, which brings businesses and customers along with it, would work well for the environment and the economy.

“Ministers urgently need to get back to the drawing board and come up with something that is radically better than what has been proposed so far.

“Their first port of call should be inviting Scottish business leaders to advise how best to move forward.”

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We will be working on our May issue soon so if you are part of something which is happening in May then do get in touch with the details. [editor@theedinburghreporter.co.uk](mailto:editor@theedinburghreporter.co.uk)

Our photo accompanying this article shows a member of the Edinburgh samba drumming group Pulse of the Place who performed in New York last weekend. The young people were magnificent – and featured on our April front page.

