

Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 21st March, 2024

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Questions and Answers

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Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question (1) What notification was / is being given to Council staff and contractors on the enforcement of Pavement Parking?

Answer (1) Numerous awareness raising activities have been undertaken to inform Council staff, especially those who drive on behalf of the Council, about the start of enforcement in relation to the new parking rules. These activities included:

- Providing briefings for the contact centre, including provision of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs);
- An email was sent to all employees with council driving permits;
- Two Newsbeat articles were published; and
- Articles were also published in: Managers News, Colleague News (which includes colleagues without a work email address), the Leader's Report and in Housing and Neighbourhood Environmental Services service area blogs.

The Scottish Government also ran a national publicity campaign, with press articles, radio adverts, social media promotion and on-street advertising, e.g. adverts on phone boxes around the city centre. In addition, there was significant TV interest in Edinburgh being the first Scottish city to start enforcement (with items on BBC Breakfast and other news bulletins).

Information was also displayed on the Council's website homepage, at the car pound, and on lamp post wraps around the city. Thousands of warning flyers were also issued to vehicles in advance of the start of enforcement.

Overall, I feel the Council's media and parking teams have done a fantastic job promoting and implementing enforcement of the ban in Edinburgh.

Question (2) How is feedback of problematic areas gathered from Council staff and contractors so mitigations can be explored to continue to deliver Council services without parking on footways or drop kerbs?

Answer (2) Incorrect footway parking can be reported directly to the Council's enforcement provider through the [report incorrect parking](#) web form.

Officers are also working together (particularly Parking and Waste) to identify and address problems (such as double parking which prevents communal bins from being emptied) to ensure services continue to be delivered effectively.

Council teams, contractors and public transport operators have been contacting the Council directly and working with them on proposed mitigations including the introduction of parking restrictions through a Traffic Regulation Order process.

Enforcement action will be taken against Council and contractor vehicles parked in contravention of the regulations.

Item no 10.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question (1) Trades permits for builders and contractors in Controlled Parking Zones currently finish at 4.30pm. Why is this?

Answer (1) Trades parking permits are valid for all day parking in pay and display and shared use parking places.

However, they can only be used between 9.00am and 4.30pm (Monday to Saturday) and all day on Sundays in residents' parking places within the Controlled Parking Zone.

This is to give residents priority in permit holder only parking places at the start and end of the day.

Question (2) Is there scope to extend the finish time until 5pm or 5.30pm so residents within Controlled Parking Zones are not subject to a potential earlier finish time from tradespeople?

Answer (2) Officers have advised me that they would not recommend extending the hours that Trades permit holders could park in residents' parking places. Allowing residents priority after 4.30pm is the aim of the current scheme. Trades permit holders can park in pay and display and shared use parking places until 6.30pm in the city centre.

Question (3) Is there scope to review to align zones N, S and B with central zones which allow trades permit parking until 6.30pm on a Sunday?

Answer (3) There are currently no plans to extend the operational hours of the Extended (N and S) Controlled Parking Zones (which operate Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm) or the Priority Parking Areas (B areas) (which operate for a set 90 minutes period between Monday and Friday).

Question (4) How were the annual rates for trades permits set, and are there any incentives for more fuel-efficient or electric registered trades vehicles?

Answer

- (4)** Prices for monthly and annual Trades parking permits are set as part of the Council's budget setting process.

There are currently no incentives for more fuel-efficient or electric vehicles, as Trades permits can be used by several registered company vehicles, but only one at a time.

Item no 10.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Development Management Sub- Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

- Question** (1) What is the total amount of Section 75 healthcare contribution money received so far from planning permission 16/06280/FUL?
- Answer** (1) The total amount of healthcare contributions received to date is £57,555.82
- Question** (2) Can the convener confirm that all the money received so far has been transferred to NHS Lothian?
- Answer** (2) No money has been transferred. The separate agreement between the Council and NHS Lothian is currently being developed.
- Question** (3) What remaining Section 75 healthcare contribution money is still to be received from this development?
- Answer** (3) There is one remaining contribution payment (to be paid prior to the completion of the 255th residential property) of £17,902.50 (to be indexed – for example, if paid before the end of March 2024, the payment would be £20,841.72).

Item no 10.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question

To ask the Convener of Transport and Environment, when does he expect the consultation to be launched on the Granton to Bioquarter tram extension?

Answer

On 1 February 2024, Transport and Environment Committee:

Approved a consultation to begin in Spring 2024 on the Strategic Business Case for taking trams from Granton to the Bioquarter and beyond, with a report is due back to Committee in Autumn 2024.

Committee agreed that the consultation should:

- a) Present objectively the pros and cons of both the Roseburn and Orchard Brae routes.
- b) Provide objective analysis of the following which should be incorporated within the consultation response report to Committee in Autumn 2024:
 - The potential to install a high-quality walking and cycling route alongside the tramline on the Roseburn Path;
 - Market research undertaken to understand what a demographically representative sample of Edinburgh feels about the plans; and
 - The potential to protect and enhance the local ecological network as part of either tram route.
 - The potential to protect and enhance the local ecological network as part of either tram route.

In light of these additional requirements, officers are currently updating the consultation content. A date for the start of the consultation will be confirmed in due course.

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question

Much work has been done on making the new bin hubs more accessible for all to use. Can the Convener tell me what analysis has been done on making sure that the new bins can actually be used by all, in particular lifting the lids and placing waste within the units for those with limited mobility or of anyone below a certain height now that there is no foot pedal?

Answer

An [Integrated Impact Assessment](#) (IIA) was undertaken in consultation with the Access Panel as part of the project development.

In the IIA, it is acknowledged communal bins are not easily accessible to wheelchair users due to their height, but there are no practicable mitigation measures which can be taken with regard to this on a citywide basis (e.g. using underground bins) or using bins with accessible apertures (as these do not physically work due to waste spilling out of the aperture and also as, once material inside the bin rises above this level, it then renders the aperture unusable). The 1100/1280 bins now being used have a lid which is easier to lift than the previous version.

In order to support users with disabilities, an assisted bin collection can be requested to enable them dispose of their waste and recycling.

In addition, Transport and Environment Committee also agreed that large side loading bins with foot pedal should be discontinued.

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor McFarlane for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

In the 2024/5 budget £500,000 was allocated “for the Edinburgh 900 Project” and a subsequent amendment was passed at Culture and Communities Committee to agree any monies set aside and not required will be retained and redistributed to Strategic Partner Organisations.

Question (1) Can you detail what these funds are currently intended to be used to deliver as part of Edinburgh 900?

Answer (1) The draft Edinburgh 900 programme currently consists of two key strands: a civic event strand and a community strand.

The community strand is intended to be open for application and will focus on local events. In addition, it is proposed that there will be a small allocation for website development and marketing purposes to ensure the Edinburgh 900 Programme is appropriately branded and promoted.

An Edinburgh 900 Programme Board of Council officers has been convened and will meet for the first time on 20 March 2024 to agree terms of reference and monitor, review, and oversee the Council’s contribution to the Edinburgh 900 programme (based on the funding agreed by the Council on 22 February 2024). The Programme Board will report developments and decisions including the content of the civic strand, regularly to the relevant committee.

Question (2) Do you agree that any funds spent creating an Edinburgh 900 Project Fund should be fully open for bids from grassroots culture organisations?

Answer (2) The proposed purpose of the community strand is to have a fund that is open for application to support and facilitate local celebrations and activities across the city that are based on the anniversary. The Edinburgh Local Heritage Network, a network with representatives from 30 community groups and societies across the city, has been instrumental in providing guidance and input around the creation of a community fund. The development of detailed criteria will be overseen by the Programme Board.

Question (3) Will the Convenor ensure that any and all funding is open for applications by community organisations, third-sector organisations, educational establishments, CEC museums and galleries and our other creative partners who form the year-round fabric of our city and would ensure that Edinburgh's 900 is delivered for the city, by the city and across the entirety of the city?

Answer (3) The community fund is intended to support local activity around Edinburgh 900, and to ensure that communities, citywide, can celebrate the anniversary in their own way. The fund is not intended for Council services, though the Council's heritage services can work in partnership with groups that want to use our collections to tell their stories.

Item no 10.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question

Why, despite assurances that they would all be contacted to offer help, at least one resident who took in Gorgie Farm animals is yet to receive any contact or offer of help?

Answer

At time of taking over the lease, EVOC got in touch with all of those believed to have taken in animals to offer a range of individual support.

If Councillors are aware of individuals who have either not received, or responded to, this approach, then I would be grateful if they could arrange (with the consent of the individuals) to provide their contact details to EVOC who will then contact the individuals directly.

Item no 10.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question

Has transferring ownership of the Gorgie Farm site to a new Gorgie Farm organisation has been discussed between herself, the Leader and/or any Council official with the Edinburgh Council of Voluntary Organisations?

Answer

No, there have been no discussions on this.

Item no 10.9

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question

What checks are in place to ensure the accuracy of eligibility criteria for local social security entitlements on Council websites and websites of ALEOs and other organisations delivering services in partnership with the Council, including Edinburgh Leisure?

Answer

The content on the Council website is checked by identified publishers in each service. This activity is formally undertaken twice a year, with more regular updates undertaken where a change needs to be communicated.

To ensure the ongoing accuracy of benefit and welfare information, links are typically provided to the administering body e.g. Social Security Scotland, DWP etc. This ensures the information is current.

The websites of ALEOs and other Partners remain the responsibility of the specific organisations, however, it would be possible to share the Council's website welfare content to allow them to review their information and ensure it is up to date.

Item no 10.10

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Heap for answer by the
Leader of the Council at a meeting of
the Council on 21 March 2024**

Question

Has the leader or Council officials approached, for the purposes of identifying Edinburgh families who are eligible for but do not claim Scottish Child Payment, (a) the Department for Work and Pensions to request access to data on those who claim Scottish Child Payment qualifying benefits but not SCP itself and (b) Social security Scotland to request data on those who claim SCP?

Answer

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not permit the Council to use data for this purpose. As a result it is not possible to cross reference with any potential Social Security Scotland data to identify those who are eligible for, but do not claim Scottish Child Payment. Access and use of DWP data is strictly controlled and the Council will be part of a routine external audit regarding this access in October 2024.

The Council continues to promote the Scottish Child payment on its website and in related welfare engagements.

Item no 10.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Vice-Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

- Question** (1) Can they please explain the nature of the insurance and PVG checks that were not done on the large healthcare provider that are referred to in report 8.3 (p.13) presented to the GRBV Committee on 20 February 2024?
- Answer** (1) We have progressed the matter with the provider in question. We have since received assurances that PVG checks are and have always been routinely carried out for anyone who requires it and that processes are in place to ensure this happens prior to commencing employment. Again, appropriate checks are undertaken to ensure insurance requirements are in place.
- Question** (2) Can they please detail what enquiries have been made to ascertain whether the problem regarding a lack of insurance and PVG checks on the large healthcare provider that is referred to in report 8.3 (p.13) presented to the GRBV Committee on 20 February 2024 are not more widespread?
- Answer** (2) We have sought assurance from the wider market and can confirm there are no issues with PVG not being in place and that appropriate insurance checks are in place. We routinely assess for compliance in respect of insurance and PVG check via targeted contract monitoring.
- Question** (3) Has the failure of a large healthcare provider to conduct PVG and insurance checks that is referred to in report 8.3 (p.13) presented to the GRBV Committee on 20 February 2024 presented a risk to service users and/or staff?
- Answer** (3) As per response to Q(1) we have received assurances from the provider in question that appropriate recruitment and selection procedures, including PVG and Insurance checks are in place and routinely carried out.

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question

Further to the answer to my question 10.24 at full council on 22 June 2023, please will the convener provide an update on progress towards the introduction of a school street at Stanwell Street to serve Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce?

Answer

During development of the School Travel Plan for Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce, only one parent questionnaire response requested a school street at Stanwell Street with more parent responses requesting parking restrictions.

The potential for a school street in Stanwell Street is, however, something that officers will investigate further and will consult on with residents and the school.

Officers are also progressing the following actions around Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce:

- Investigate further speed reducing measures on Bonnington Road;
- Create a cycle gap at the junction of West Bowling Green Street with The Quilts; and
- Run a Parksmart Campaign with the school.

Item no 10.13

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor O'Neill for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

- Question** (1) As of February 2024, how many people have a disabled National Entitlement Card (NEC) issued by the City of Edinburgh Council?
- Answer** (1) Using current data, 1,525 cards have been issued since February 2023.
- Question** (2) In the past year, how many people applied for a disabled NEC?
- Answer** (2) The system only keeps a record of approved applications. As noted in answer (1), 1,525 cards have been approved.
- Question** (3) How many journeys were taken on a Lothian bus last year using a disabled NEC?
- Answer** (3) There are two categories of disabled NEC cards, one for the visually impaired and one for other disabilities. In total, there were 6.3 million journeys taken on Lothian Buses last year using a disabled NEC card. This is a reminder of how much people with disabilities in Edinburgh rely on public transport.
- Question** (4) How many officers are dedicated to the administration of the disabled NEC scheme?
- Answer** (4) It is not possible to identify the dedicated resource that supports the administration of the disabled NEC scheme. This is because the activity is undertaken by team that supports various services. At this time, nine Contact Centre team members are trained to take calls and process emails that support all bus cards, with more than 250 Library staff potentially providing face to face support for the NEC process.
- Question** (5) How much does the disabled NEC scheme cost for the Council?

Answer (5) Due to the configuration of the team and the wider activities that are undertaken, it is not possible to accurately confirm the specific service cost.

Question (6) How much would it cost to allow users of the disabled NEC to travel for free on Lothian Night Buses?

Answer (6) Lothian Buses are unable to confirm the cost as current usage levels are unknown (as all passengers pay full fare and no records are available to determine if a passenger may or may not have a disabled NEC).

Item no 10.14

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Mitchell for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Please could the Convener confirm that:

- Question** (1) the information provided in response to Question 11 on 14th December 2023 is accurate.
- Answer** (1) Yes, officers have confirmed that the information provided in December was accurate.
- Question** (2) How many metres of single-yellow lines have been removed within CPZ 5A to accommodate bin hubs.
- Answer** (2) Officers have confirmed that this information is not held in a form that would easily enable it to be provided.
- Question** (3) How many metres of double-yellow lines have been removed with CPZ 5A to accommodate bin hubs.
- Answer** (3) Officers have confirmed that this information is not held in a form that would easily enable it to be provided.

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question (1) Given that approximately 25% of high school age pupils in Edinburgh attend independent schools, what assessment has the Council made of the numbers who would transfer to local authority schools should there be an imposition of VAT on independent school fees under a future government?

Answer (1) The [2019 report to ECF](#) (see section 4,13-4.19) officers set out the demographics of school rolls, including the information available on independent schools.

Council officers have met with representatives from the Independent Sector (IS) to discuss the impact that could ensue should the charitable status of IS be revoked as per the Labour Party's manifesto. IS representatives are preparing a national strategic analysis and have indicated that they will share the Edinburgh data with us. Meanwhile a steering group has been set up to explore and scope short, medium and longer term solutions. As school capacities are already under review to ensure that timetables run efficiently and that all learning and pastoral spaces are used to their maximum, this information will be used, when complete, to scope any potential increases in capacity.

In addition, digital consortia and other plans are being explored to improve the offer in local authority schools, and plans are in place to invite the IS to partner with city schools, should that operating model suit both needs.

Question (2) What are the capital and revenue implications for the Council of accommodating an increase in school pupils in such circumstances?

Answer (2) Scenario planning including estimating capital and revenue implications will be part of the ongoing work of the steering group which has been established.

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Following the work on Trams to Newhaven, "Spaces for People" and other projects a large number of planters have been placed on Edinburgh's streets including within the World Heritage Site.

Question (1) Does the Council have a complete inventory of street planter assets? If so can this please be published? If not, can one please be produced?

The inventory should provide a list of streets, the number of planters located in those streets, a description of the materials they are made of (wood, metal, mixed), the date they were 'installed', the project or funding stream that initially purchased them (i.e. how they came to be there) and whether they are regarded as a permanent or temporary feature of the public realm.

Answer (1) The Council does not currently have a single inventory of street planter assets. Officers are currently investigating the potential to combine existing data to create an inventory which includes, where possible, the information requested in this question.

In response to this Council Question, a summary of the information available for individual projects is provided below.

Question (2) Has a list of all street planters, particularly those which are blocking roads, been shared or is continuously available in an up to date form with the emergency services?

Answer (2) The emergency services are consulted as a matter of course of all temporary, experimental and permanent Traffic Regulation Orders. The information provided to them includes details of all measures, such as road closures or

other restrictions on vehicle movement, contained within those Orders. The information does not specifically cover the locations of planters, but rather the measures that enable planters to be placed so as to reflect the effect of the associated Order.

- Question** (3) What is the total cost to the taxpayer of acquiring street planters (both Council and other public funding including through methods such as Sustrans)?
- Answer** (3) The total cost is not known. The cost of some planters has been provided in Table 2 below.
- Question** (4) How many street planters are located within the World Heritage Site area?
- Answer** (4) See Table 1 below.
- Question** (5) Is there an agreed City of Edinburgh Council design or style for street planters? When and how was that agreed and what engagement took place with local communities and Edinburgh World Heritage? If there is not, how are designs chosen?
- Answer** (5) There is no agreed style for the planters within the World Heritage Site. However, the planters in place were installed around 2010, in partnership with the Council (Planning and Roads teams) and Edinburgh World Heritage.
- If new planters are proposed, these would be discussed with the Council's planning and roads teams prior to installation.
- Question** (6) How many of the street planters which City of Edinburgh Council is responsible for are actually planted with any flowers, shrubs or trees and what method is used to ensure species chosen are suitable for such planting?
- Answer** (6) Information available is provided in Table 1 below.
- Question** (7) When will those street planters that are not currently planted up be completed with a planting scheme?
- Answer** (7) This information is not currently available.
- Question** (8) What is the weeding and replanting plan/regime and performance standards for the street planters? Have communities been consulted/involved in determining this?

- Answer** (8) There are no performance standards set for the weeding and planting of street planters.
- Question** (9) Who is responsible and accountable for the maintenance of the street planters including initial planting and future maintenance of planting? What are their performance standards and objectives in relation to these assets?
- Answer** (9) The information received in preparation for this response is provided in Table 1 below.
- Table 3 provides details of planters which have been adopted and are maintained by local people. To support this, Inch Nursery provides plants, compost, tools and advice.
- Question** (10) How can members of the public or Councillors report problems with planters including broken and damaged items and lack of planting or the need for weeding and what is the performance standard for responding to reports of failures with our street planter assets?
- Answer** (10) Councillors can report issues with planters maintained by the Council's Parks and Openspace Operations Team can be reported by emailing the Neighbourhood Environmental Services team. For all other planters, issues can be reported by emailing customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Table 1 - Planter Summary – Information collated for question response

Location	Number	Project/Programme	Planting and Maintenance Arrangements (if known)
Moffat Way at Collier Place	1	Spaces for People - Schools	Maintenance and watering arrangement for the duration of the contract.
Moffat Way at St Francis Way	1		
Collier Place at Collier Place beside no. 10	1		
Collier Place at Hay Gardens	1		
Sighthill Loan at Sighthill Avenue	1		
Sighthill Loan at Sighthill Gardens	1		
Montpelier at Montpelier Park	3		
Bruntsfield Avenue at Bruntsfield Place (beside cycle hangar)	1		
	2		
Sciennes Road at west school gate	2		
Sciennes Road at Livingstone Place	1		
Paisley Drive at Paisley Avenue	1		
Paisley Drive at Meadowfield Drive	1		
Magdalene Drive at Magdalene Gardens	1		
Magdalene Drive at no.35	1		
Magdalene Drive at Magdalene Avenue	1		
Prestonfield Road at no. 71	1		
Clearburn Road at Prestonfield Road	1		
Clearburn Road at Prestonfield Avenue	1		
Lampacre Road at Tylers Acre Road	1		
Lampacre Road at Tylers Acre Gardens	1		
Tylers Acre Avenue at Tylers Acre Gardens	1		
Baberton Mains Wynd at Baberton Mains Drive	1		
Broomhall Drive at South Gyle Road	1		
Wester Broom Place at South Gyle Road	1		
Craighall Terrace at Craighall Road	1		
Featherhall Road at Featherhall Terrace	1		
Manse Street at Manse Road	1		

Oxgangs Green outside no. 18	1		
Crarae Avenue at Ravelston Dykes	1		
Ivanhoe Crescent at Rutherford Drive	1		
Woodstock Place at Rutherford Drive	1		
Ivanhoe Crescent at Glenvarloch Crescent	1		
Gracemount Drive at Balmwell Grove	1		
Gracemount Drive at entry into car park to 34/36	1		
Gracemount Drive at entry into school car park	1		
Gracemount Drive at Balmwell Avenue	1		
Balmwell Avenue at Captains Row	1		
Wester Drylaw Avenue at Groathill Road North	1		
Wester Drylaw Avenue at No. 96	1		
Wardieburn Street E at Boswall Parkway	1		
Wardieburn Street E at Wardieburn Terrace	1		
Wardieburn Street W at Boswall Parkway	1		
Wardieburn Street W at Wardieburn Terrace	1		
Moredun Park Street at fence to Scotmid delivery entrance	1		
Moredun Park Street Moredun Park Loan	1		
Forth View Crescent at Curriehill Road	1		
Forth View Crescent at Palmer Road	1		
Bonaly Brae at Bonaly Grove	1		
Redhall Grove at its junction with Redhall Road	2		
Redhall Grove at its junction with Redhall Drive	1		
West Pilton Crescent at West Pilton Bank	1		
West Pilton Crescent at Pennywell Road	1		
Buckstone Circle at High Buckstone	1		
Buckstone Loan East at Buckstone Close	1		
Canaan Lane	2		
Silverknowes Road			
Silverknowes Road South			

King's Place – north end at roundabout	12	Spaces for People – Various	Maintenance and watering arrangement for the duration of the contract.
Links Place – between Salamander Place and Gladstone Place	3		
Hope Lane – North of Christian Grove	2		
A71 London Road – Junction with Hillside Crescent and Junction with Southfield Road West	4		
A90 Queensferry Road – Junctions with Buckingham Terrace and Claredon Crescent	4		
Seafield Road East	6	Fillyside Road Crossing	Maintenance arrangement in place for the duration of the contract.
Coburg Street	6	Leith Connections	All planted with a mix of native and non-native pollinator species. Maintenance contract in place for the duration of the contract.
Sandport Street	11		
Burgess Street	8		
Tolbooth Wynd	1		
John's Place	21		
Wellington Place	5		
Elm Row	2	Trams to Newhaven	Contractor responsible for defects following planting for a period of one year. No responsibility for third party damage.
Haddington Place	2		
Brunswick Street	2		
Croall Place	3		
Albert Street	2		
Crighton Place	1		
Middlefield	2		
Leith Walk	14		
Pilrig Street	1		
Iona Street	4		
Arthur Street	1		
Jamieson Place	1		
Constitution Street	7		
Blenheim Place	3		
Waverley Bridge	10		

City Chambers	12 (11 window boxes also)		Maintained by the Council's Parks and Openspace Operations team
Grassmarket	18		Some maintenance carried out by residents
High Street	8		
Tollcross	3		
High Riggs	3		
Mound Precinct	6		
Lauriston Place	1		
George Street	Not Known		
Rose Street	Not Known		
Waverley Court Entrance	2		Maintained by the Council's Parks and Openspace Operations team
Morrison Street, Festival Square and Conference Square	20 (including tree planters)		Maintained by the Council's Parks and Openspace Operations team
TOTAL	274		

Table 2 – Costs where known

Project/Programme	Cost of Installation	Cost of Maintenance
Spaces for People (including schools)	£67,492	£7,584
Leith Connections	c. £123,000 (fully funded by Sustrans Places for Everyone)	Not known

Table 3 – Planters adopted and maintained by residents

Location	Quantity	Maintenance
Causewayside	6	Supported by Inch Nursery – compost, plants and advice provided
Ferry Road	3	
Walter Scott Avenue	4	
Meadows	5	
Old Dalkeith Road	1	
Marchmont	7	

Item no 10.17

QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Nols-McVey for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 21 March 2024**

Question

Will all surveys conducted by the Council, tram project or any other body acting on behalf of the council into the condition of 4 Anchorfield and the attributed causes be published?

If yes, when and at what committee will this information be presented to councillors?

If no, why not?

Answer

The Survey Report commissioned by the Council to enable the temporary make safe works to be completed, has been shared with owners of the tenement.

A report relating to Anchorfield has been instructed as part of an ongoing claim against the Trams to Newhaven project (TTN). An insurance claim is a legal process, and there is no automatic right to compensation. The report commissioned as part of the ongoing claim will assess whether the TTN is liable for any of the allegations made as part of the claim. The report is legally privileged as it is prepared in contemplation of litigation and is not subject to disclosure except in the event of court proceedings.

Item no 10.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question (1) Can the Convener confirm the entire allocation of money approved in the budget will be added to the DSM?

Answer (1) Yes.

Question (2) Can the Convener confirm the additional allocation per school?

Answer (2) DSM is delegated to headteachers and therefore we are working with the finance board to agree allocation.

Question (3) Can the Convener confirm if the budget proposals next year will include the £8.2m of cuts to education?

Answer (3) Budget allocations for next year will be considered through the 2025/26 revenue budget process with final decisions taken by Council in February 2025, following consideration of key funding parameters including the Local Government Finance Settlement and proposals on Council Tax.

Item no 10.19

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Key for answer by the
Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 21 March 2024**

Question (1) Of the 7,200 homes reported as long-term empty by City of Edinburgh in 'Housing statistics: Empty properties and second homes' report published by Scottish Government on 12 December 2023, how many of these were owned by the local authority or were last occupied as social housing via a housing association or other social housing provider?

Answer (1) It is not possible to provide information on how many empty homes were previously council houses at the time of reporting these figures to the Scottish Government. However, in terms of social housing relating to housing associations, 267 of these properties were last occupied as social housing.

Question (2) Of these properties, how many had been empty for a) six months or longer at the time information was collected for the report; and b) how many had been empty for twelve months or longer at the time information was collected for the report?

Answer (2) a) 106 of the properties that were last occupied as social housing were empty for 6 months or longer at the time the information was collected for the report.

b) 64 of the properties that were last occupied as social housing were empty for 12 months or longer at the time the information was collected for the report.

Item no 10.20

QUESTION NO 20

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 21 March 2024

Question (1) Given the rollout of the new style travel tracker displays is due to be completed by March 2024 but alignment with real time information as provided in the TfE app is not scheduled to be delivered until June 2024, can the Convenor confirm that no bus stops in the city will be providing accurate up to the minute public transport service information on Lothian Buses services until at least June, i.e. a three month period?

Answer (1) As reported to Transport and Environment Committee earlier this month, a VPN (Virtual Private Network) link has been implemented between Lothian Buses new Real Time System and the City of Edinburgh Council's On-Street Content Management System (CMS) to allow testing to begin on Lothian Buses' Service Interface for Real Time Information (SIRI) data feed (the feed that will transfer their data to the Council's system).

Testing SIRI data feeds can be a complex process and both Lothian and the Council must be sure that the end product provides a high level of reliable real time information to customers.

The testing may prove that a reliable solution is in place well before June 2024, but given the volume and complexity of the data exchange and the likelihood of development work being required to overcome some issues, it is not currently possible to confirm this.

Question (2) Will information be presented to councillors on the delivery of the system, effectiveness of the delivery and the value for money of the system."

Answer (2) Transport and Environment Committee will now receive monthly Business Bulletin updates on progress with the testing and will be updated when the system is operating

effectively with real time information from all bus operators. The effectiveness of the system and value for money can only be measured when development work is complete, and a comparison can be made against the old system. However, I am sure value for money would have been - considered when the 2017-22 administration procured the system.