

Committee Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2001/2002

Meeting 5 - Thursday, 18 October 2001

Edinburgh, 18 October 2001 - At a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council.

Present:-

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Eric Milligan

COUNCILLORS

Ewan Aitken
Donald Anderson
Phil Attridge
Ian J Berry
Andrew Burns
Robert Cairns
Lezley M Cameron
Stephen Cardownie
Maureen M Child
Bill Cunningham
Trevor J Davies
Jennifer A Dawe
Paul G Edie
Edward B Fallon
William Fitzpatrick
Moyra E M Forrest
Hugh D G Fraser
James Gilchrist
Sheila Gilmore
George Grubb
The Hon David Guest
Kenneth Harrold
Ricky Henderson
Lesley A Hinds
Brian Houston
George A Hunter
Allan G Jackson
Sheila M Kennedy

Douglas J Kerr
John Longstaff
Jim Lowrie
Kate MacKenzie
Fred Mackintosh
Marilyne A MacLaren
Elizabeth Maginnis
Lawrence Marshall
Brian A Meek
Marion Morton
Robert Munn
Jack O'Donnell
Alastair Paisley
Ian Perry
Thomas V Ponton
Michael S R Pringle
Frank K Russell
Andrew A Scobbie
Daphne M W Sleigh
Kingsley E F Thomas
Alan Tweedie
James L Walls
Rev Elizabeth J Wardlaw
Brian W Weddell
Philip Wheeler
Iain Whyte
Donald Wilson

1 Welcome

The Lord Provost welcomed Councillors Trevor J Davies and Philip Wheeler, the newly elected members for Broughton and SE Corstorphine wards.

2 Questions

Questions put by members to this meeting and the written answers and supplementary questions and answers are contained in Appendix 1 to this minute.

3 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the meeting of Council on 20 September 2001, as submitted, as a correct record.

4 By Elections - No 19 Broughton and No 24 SE Corstorphine Wards

Decision

To note the election of Trevor J Davies as Councillor for No 19 Broughton Ward and Philip Wheeler as Councillor for No 24 SE Corstorphine Ward.

(Reference - report no CEC/57/01-02/RO by the Returning Officer, submitted.)

5 The Pool Trust - Nomination to the Board

The Council had been invited to nominate a representative to the Board of Trustees of the Pool Charitable Trust.

Decision

To nominate Councillor Perry to the Board of the Pool Charitable Trust.

(Reference - report no CEC/51/01-02/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

6 Lothian NHS Board

Decision

To note the appointment of Councillor Thomas to the Lothian NHS Board.

(Reference - report no CEC/54/01-02/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

7 Appointments to Committees and the Forth Road Bridge Joint Board

The Lord Provost ruled that this item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that it be dealt with timeously.

Following the resignations of Councillors Mark Lazarowicz and John Barrett from the Council and resignations of members from a number of Committees, the Council was asked to make appointments to the resultant vacancies.

Decisions

- 1) To appoint Councillors Davies and Wheeler to the Regulatory Committee in place of Councillors Fitzpatrick and Barrett.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Davies as Vice-Convener of the Regulatory Committee.
- 3) To appoint Councillors Burns and Henderson to the Forth Road Bridge Joint Board in place of Councillors Lazarowicz and Hinds.
- 4) To appoint Councillor Davies to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Morton.
- 5) To appoint Councillor Davies to the Social Justice and Older People Scrutiny Panel in place of Councillor Harrold.
- 6) To note the appointment of Councillor Wheeler as the Scottish Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Corporate Resources.

(Reference - Act of Council No 2 of 20 September 2001; report no CEC/60/01-02/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

8 Leader's Report

Councillor Anderson presented his report to the Council. Members raised a number of questions on the report as follows:-

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Jackson | - | Use of City Chambers quadrangle by City Car Club |
| | - | Pavement damage caused by chewing gum removal machine |
| Councillor Walls | - | Proposal to revive Civil Defence and other volunteer services following the events of 11 th September 2001 |
| Councillor Paisley | - | City Development Department correspondence |
| | - | Juniper Green Library - failure of computer system |
| Councillor Sleigh | - | Cost of Fireworks Display |
| Councillor Meek | - | Director of Recreation - Spylaw Park play equipment correspondence |
| Councillor Gilchrist | - | Director of Recreation - correspondence |
| Councillor Whyte | - | IT investment at Wellington School |
| | - | Financial close of Education PPP project |
| Councillor Dawe | - | Source and reliability of youth unemployment statistics in Leader's Report |

9 Banning of Election Posters on Lamp Posts and Other Street Furniture

The Council had continued consideration of the action proposed to manage the attachment of election posters to lighting columns and other street furniture. The issue had arisen as the result of a motion by Councillor Pringle to the former Transportation Committee and had been referred to Council by the Executive without recommendation.

Decision

- 1) To note that a wide divergence of opinions had been received from the main political parties on the issue and that opinion within the main parties was equally divergent.

- 2) To note the serious concerns, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report by the Director of City Development, that had been raised about the problematic issue of enforcing the interpretation of the legislation in question.
- 3) To note that any such ban on election posters would potentially be a further contributory factor to poor turnouts at local government (and other) elections.
- 4) To ask COSLA to report further on the position throughout the whole of Scotland including the implications of imposing such a ban and the legal issues raised.
- 5) To request that COSLA produce the report in time for any actions to be fully implemented prior to the next local government elections in May 2003.

(References - Act of Council No 9 of 20 September 2001; report no CEC/32/01-02/EXEC by the Executive, submitted.)

10 Measuring Scotland's Progress Towards Smart, Successful Scotland - Consultation Paper

The Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning had published a strategy for enterprise entitled 'A Smart, Successful Scotland' which set out a foundation for sustained improvement in economic performance in Scotland.

The Council had been asked to respond to the Scottish Executive's Consultation Paper "Measuring Scotland's Progress Towards a Smart Successful Scotland", which proposed measures to enable performance to be judged against the challenges identified in the strategy document.

The Executive, having considered a proposed response, had agreed that it should be revised to address social and environmental issues and had referred the matter to the Council. A revised response was now submitted.

Decision

To approve the Council's response to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper "Measuring Scotland's Progress to a Smart, Successful Scotland" detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive.

(References - Executive of 9 October 2001 (item 20); report no CEC/59/01-02/EXEC by the Executive, submitted.)

11 Capital City Government - Standing Orders

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 conferred the statutory power to make Standing Orders for regulating Council proceedings and business on local authorities. The Council was asked to approve revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which took account of its new political management arrangements.

Motion

- 1) To approve the draft Standing Orders and the draft Financial Regulations as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To apply the new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations from the conclusion of the meeting.
- 3) To thank the Council Secretary and staff involved in producing the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

- moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Henderson (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Amendment

To approve the draft Standing Orders and the draft Financial Regulations, with the following amendments:

- 1) SO 41(1), Social Work Complaints Review Committee - delete the words "not appointed to the Executive".
- 2) SO 49 - Add "(5) At a Local Development Committee if the Convener is absent (s)he should appoint a substitute from the same political group to chair the meeting, and if necessary, the agenda and pre-meeting with officials."
- 3) SO 72(1) and (2), 73(1) and (2) and 74(2) and (3) - substitute "£1 million" for "£1.5 million".

- moved by Councillor Dawe, seconded by Councillor Grubb.

Councillor Wilson, with the agreement of his seconder and the mover and seconder of the amendment, agreed to add as an addendum to his motion that a report be submitted on the proposal in paragraph 1 of the amendment.

The Lord Provost directed that the vote on the amendment be taken in two parts, as follows:

Vote 1

SO 49 - To add "(5) At a Local Development Committee if the Convener is absent (s)he should appoint a substitute from the same political group to chair the meeting, and if necessary, the agenda and pre-meeting with officials."

For - 22 votes
Against - 32 votes

Vote 2

SO (72)(1) and (2), 73(1) and (2) and 74(2) and (3) - substitute "£1 million" for "£1.5 million".

For - 11 votes
Against - 31 votes

Decision

- 1) To approve the draft Standing Orders and the draft Financial Regulations as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To call for a report on the proposal to delete the words "not appointed to the Executive" from Standing Order 41(1), Social Work Complaints Review Committee.
- 3) To apply the new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations from the conclusion of the meeting.
- 4) To thank the Council Secretary and staff involved in producing the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

(References - Act of Council No 7 of 14 December 2000; report no CEC/53/01-02/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

12 Bus Service Developments - Update

Details were given of further developments within the competitive bus network in the city, in particular the decision by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to launch an investigation into the Edinburgh bus market. Details were also given of bus service changes.

Motion

- 1) To note the report by the Director of City Development.
- 2) To note that the Executive Member for Transport would write to the Office of Fair Trading concerning the current 'bus wars'.
- 3) To note the forthcoming bus service changes that had already been registered.
- 4) To note that, despite the notices of cancellation of both the contract and registrations covering Lothian Buses services 13 and 38, discussions were in progress aimed at the continuation of the services.
- 5) To note that the operation of bus service 20 had been extended for a further four weeks.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Henderson (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Amendment

- 1) To restate the Council's concern at the current impact and potential future impact of the "bus war" on socially necessary bus services in Edinburgh.
- 2) To reaffirm the Council's commitment to provide socially necessary supported bus services to the communities served by the current network of supported bus services.

- moved by Councillor Mackintosh, seconded by Councillor Dawe.

Councillor Burns, with the agreement of his seconder and the mover and seconder of the amendment, agreed to accept the amendment as an addendum to his motion.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns, as adjusted.

(References - Act of Council No 21 of 20 September 2001; report no CEC/56/01-02/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

13 Scottish Executive Consultation - A Modern Complaints System

The Scottish Executive had sought comments on proposals to establish a 'one stop shop', combining the Scottish Parliamentary, Health Service, Local Government and Housing Association Ombudsman's offices, to provide the public with a more simple and effective complaints system.

A response to the Scottish Executive consultation paper was proposed.

Decision

To endorse the response to the Scottish Executive consultation - 'A Modern Complaints System' detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Services.

(Reference - report no CEC/58/01-02/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

14 New Transport Initiative - Next Steps

The Executive's decision on the New Transport Initiative - Next Steps had been called in to the Environmental Quality Scrutiny Panel who had agreed to let the decision of the Executive be implemented. The decision of the Scrutiny Panel had been called up to the Council.

Motion

- 1) To welcome the report "New Transport Initiative - Next Steps" that:
 - summarises the work undertaken on the New Transport Initiative since Phase 2 of the project had been approved in May 2000;
 - recommends taking the Initiative on to the next logical stage.
- 2) To recognise that many positive 'development pressures' within and around the City of Edinburgh meant that, in terms of Edinburgh's transport infrastructure, the status quo is simply not an option. To do nothing would abdicate political responsibility and would harm the long-term health of the city's economy and its social fabric.
- 3) To adopt the 'Preferred Strategy', detailed in the report by the Director of City Development, of major transport investment part funded from congestion charging revenue as set out in the Local Transport Strategy approved by the Council on 19 October 2000.
- 4) To recognise:
 - any final decision on implementation would be subject to further consideration by the Council at future dates;
 - stage 1 'Approval in Principle' allows further consultation to take place on options but would not lead irreversibly to charging;
 - there would be a major 'SESTRAN-wide' public consultation following the decision;
 - there would be significant investment in public transport before any potential charging commences;
 - all charging monies would be ring fenced by national legislation;

- charging monies would be used primarily for a major transport investment programme;
 - charging monies would also be used for road/footway maintenance and improvements;
 - all charging monies would be new money (added value);
 - there would be no charging until at least 2005.
- 5) To undertake detailed development work and consultation as detailed in the report on the 'Preferred Strategy' based on a city centre congestion charging cordon, aimed at tackling city centre congestion and other traffic related problems.
- 6) To consider extending charging beyond the city centre to tackle congestion and related problems on the major radial routes at the edge of the city, as well as in the city centre, by means of a charging cordon inside Edinburgh within the City Bypass in combination with the city centre cordon.
- 7) To submit the application to the Scottish Executive, for approval in principle of an 'Integrated Transport Initiative for Edinburgh and South East Scotland' as detailed in the report by the Director of City Development.
- 8) To note the next major milestone for Council decision in relation to the New Transport Initiative would be to consider a single scheme proposal to take forward the statutory order procedures anticipated to take place in summer 2002.
- 9) To approve, in principle, the establishment of a company fully owned by the Council to deliver the major projects included in the transport investment programme and:
- a) to approve the draft memorandum and articles of association for the company detailed in the report by the Director of City Development;
 - b) to approve the draft shareholders agreement between the company and the Council detailed in the report by the Director of City Development;
 - c) to approach appropriate individuals from the private sector with a view to membership of the board of the company; at least one such individual to be a Member from the Board of Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and the Lothian's (SEEL) drawn from their private sector representation;
 - d) to nominate three elected members to the new board of the fully owned Council company, as follows:

- Executive Member for Transport
 - Executive Member for Finance
 - Administration Group Secretary
- e) to authorise the Directors of City Development and Finance in consultation with the Council Solicitor and the new board members to finalise the shareholders agreement and establish the company.
- 10) To participate in the EUROPRICE 2 project, at a total cost of EURO 15,200 (£9,300) over 18 months, to be funded by the New Transport Initiative budget.
- 11) To thank all staff involved in the development of the New Transport Initiative to its current level of detail. This was a significant achievement and all officers involved should be commended for their flexibility and sheer hard work.
- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Amendment 1

- 1) To note that the present Administration has failed to deliver any park and ride sites in Lothian, to re-open the South Suburban Railway, to construct a light rapid transit link to the west of the City or to open a railway station at Edinburgh Park.
 - 2) To agree that the present administration has lost the confidence of the citizens of Edinburgh to deliver major transport projects in Edinburgh and that such confidence must be rebuilt before radical solutions such as the introduction of Road User Charging could ever be considered.
 - 3) To take no action on the proposed application to the Scottish Executive, for approval in principle of an 'Integrated Transport Initiative for Edinburgh and South East Scotland' as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report by the Director of City Development and to call for a report from the Director of City Development on how the Public Transport Fund and Integrated Transport Fund might be used by the Council to deliver the improvements to public transport that have been promised, but not delivered, by the present Administration.
 - 4) To declare that while the Council has no objection to the use of partnerships with the private sector to deliver discrete projects within the Transport Strategy the responsibility for co-ordination of the delivery of the City's Transport Strategy lies with the members of the Council, meeting in public, and that the establishment of a company along the lines of ENTICO would be inappropriate and an abrogation of responsibility by the Council.
- moved by Councillor Mackintosh, seconded by Councillor Dawe.

Amendment 2

To welcome many of the transportation etc proposals contained in the New Transport Initiative but to call for a report on:

- a) ways of achieving/financing an improved public transport network without resorting to a Toll Tax; and
- b) ways of implementing a master plan for general traffic as well as public transport.

- moved by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Whyte (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

Voting

The voting was as follows:-

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----|
| For the motion | - | 30 |
| For amendment 1 | - | 10 |
| For amendment 2 | - | 13 |

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(References - Environmental Quality Scrutiny Panel of 3 October 2001 (item 4); Executive of 11 September 2001 (item 33); report nos CEC/52/01-02/EQSP by the Environmental Quality Scrutiny Panel and E/207/01-02/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

15 By Councillor Grubb - Conditions of Cemeteries in the City

The following motion by Councillor Grubb was submitted in terms of Standing Order 29:

“Council deplores the senseless acts of vandalism to Edinburgh’s cemeteries with particular reference to South Queensferry where 40 gravestones were damaged recently.

Council calls for a report on the state of the City’s cemeteries, including their safety, maintenance and accessibility to the public.”

Decision

To approve the motion and that the report be submitted to the Executive.

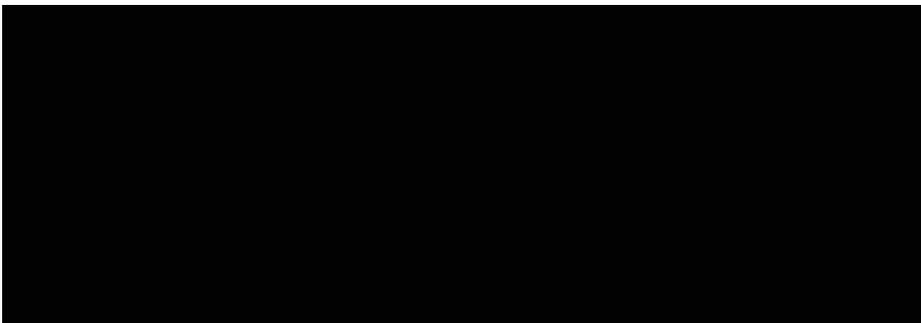
16 By Councillor Tritton - Timetable for the Servicing and Cleaning of Communal Wheelie Bins

The following motion by Councillor Tritton was submitted in terms of Standing Order 29:

“To ask the Director of Environmental and Consumer Services to produce a timetable for the regular servicing and cleaning of communal wheelie bins.”

Decision

To approve the motion and that the report be submitted to the Executive.



APPENDIX 1

(as referred to in Act of Council No 2 of 18 October 2001)

QUESTION NO. 1

**By Councillor Berry answered by
the Executive Member for the
Environment**

Question (1)(a) Please identify separately year by year the total Base Budget reductions approved by the Council to the Base Revenue Budget for the Department of Environmental and Consumer Services for each of the following years:

1996/1997
1997/1998
1998/1999
1999/2000
2000/2001

Answer

(1)(a)

| | Budget Increases | Budget Reductions | Net Increase |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1996/1997 | 0 | 0 | 0 information not available |
| 1997/1998 | 4,893,673 | -174,735 | 4,718,938 |
| 1998/1999 | 2,534,818 | -1,817,982 | 717,836 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,119,975 | -751,607 | 368,368 |
| 2000/2001 | 1,226,675 | -329,549 | 897,126 |

Question

(1)(b) Please also identify on a year by year basis as above what savings were imposed on the Environmental and Consumer Services Department budget.

Answer

(1)(b)

| | Act of Council Increases | Act of Council Reductions | Net Increase/ Decrease |
|-----------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1996/1997 | 0 | -1,991,375 | -1,991,375 |
| 1997/1998 | 571,225 | -2,279,793 | -1,708,568 |
| 1998/1999 | 605,000 | -2,123,731 | -1,518,731 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,190,447 | -977,408 | 213,039 |
| 2000/2001 | 1,332,262 | -896,000 | 436,262 |

- Question (2)** How much money has been saved from the "other cleaning contract" as a result of containerisation already implemented?
- Answer (2)**
- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1996/1997 | −£100,000 |
| 1997/1998 | −£183,000 |
| 1998/1999 | −£ 74,000 |
| 1999/2000 | +£ 80,000 |
| 2000/2001 | −£ 4,000 |
| | <u>−£281,000</u> |
- Supplementary Question (1)** Would the Executive Member for the Environment not agree that these reductions in 1(b) are contrary to the predictions he makes in the press about getting Edinburgh cleaned up.
- Supplementary Answer (1)** I agree that the decreases to the budget did not help and we are trying to redress that slight imbalance. We put extra money in this year and we intend to, I hope, I certainly wish to support within my own Group more money into the budget next year providing we can get that resource. It is worth recalling though that with regards to 1996/1997, of course, that was a Conservative Government and they were reducing Local Authority budgets at that time. The following two years the Labour Government was conscripted to the Conservative budget for the first two years so that was one of the major problems we had. You will see though from 1(b) that for the last two years we have in fact increased the net to the budget.
- Supplementary Question (2)** Should these savings not have gone directly back into your budget rather than go into some sort of a black hole in the Council.
- Supplementary Answer (2)** These savings went back into the Corporate Finance as was agreed at the start of each of those financial years.

QUESTION NO. 2

**By Councillor Paisley answered
by the Executive Member for
Education**

Question (1) Can you please list all Community Centres at risk from a lack of funding?

Include the Greenway Centre Wester Hailes, the Prentice Centre Granton and Oxfgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

Answer (1) It is unclear what Councillor Paisley means by Community Centres. If he is referring to the 42 Community Centres in the city funded by the Education Department, then none of these is at risk from a lack of funding.

If he is referring to SIP funded centres, then in relation to the 3 referred to in the question, the following is the case.

The Greenway Centre is still trading with the exception of the fitness centre which was closed last year. Negotiations are underway for new subtenancy agreements for the building under the Civic and Leisure Trust. This will include separate tenancies for the commercial and civic areas of the building, with community use protected by the terms of the Council's head lease to the Trust. It is likely that local community organisations and possibly the Council's Community Education team will occupy parts of the building. There is a reasonable prospect of a stable financial position for the Trust. A Report to the Executive including an assessment by the Director of Finance will be made in due course.

The Prentice Centre was, until the current financial year, fully funded by the Pilton Partnership. In the current year the Council is providing £24,210 (approximately 1/3 of the total cost) and the Partnership funds the balance. The proportion of costs to be met by the Council in 2002–2003 and subsequent years will be determined as part of the budget review process.

The Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre is funded by the Strategic Social Inclusion Programme. Continuation of funding from this source is not assured at this stage and the possibility of Council funding will be discussed as part of the budget review process.

**Supplementary
Question**

The answer states that I am unclear what a Community Centre is. I think it is perfectly obvious what a Community Centre is and I think that the collapse of the Greenway Centre owing £100,000 of public funds and the Press are trailing with the Prentice Centre and Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre are about to follow. Can this be denied?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes.

QUESTION NO. 3

**By Councillor Dawe answered
by the Executive Member for
Education**

- Question** (1) Which schools have complained about the poor standard of cleaning in their schools since January this year?
- Answer** (1) Schools have been encouraged to resolve minor difficulties, in the first instance, at a school level and these are logged within each school. The school passes on more serious, or recurrent, difficulties to Client Services (Education Department). As part of this monitoring process, the following schools have complained either to the Education Department (or in 2 cases directly to Direct Cleaning) since January 2001:
- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Abbeyhill PS | Bonaly PS | Broomhouse PS |
| Buckstone PS | Carrick Knowe PS | Calder Glen NS |
| Clovenstone PS | Comiston PS | Corstorphine PS |
| Davidson's Mains PS | East Craigs PS | Greendykes PS |
| James Gillespie's PS | Leith PS | Oxgangs PS |
| Moredun PS | Queensferry PS | Roseburn PS |
| Royal Mile PS | St Catherine's PS | St Cuthbert's PS |
| St John Vianney PS | Towerbank PS | |
| Currie HS | Craigmount HS | Forrester HS |
| Leith Academy | Liberton HS | |
- Question** (2) What reasons have been put forward to explain the poor standard of cleaning?
- Answer** (2) Direct Cleaning, the Council's own cleaning direct service organisation, which undertakes over 90% of cleaning in schools continues to experience problems recruiting and retaining cleaning staff in parts of Edinburgh. Direct Cleaning consider the main difficulties to be:
- a wage rate that is not competitive – some cleaning contractors in Edinburgh pay a higher hourly rate
 - many more attractive job opportunities, especially for female workers
 - unattractive working hours, with some cleaners required to start at 6 am and work split shifts
 - higher than average absence rates for cleaners required to work an early morning shift

Question

(3) What actions are being taken to address the problem?

Answer

(3) The terms of the agreement with Direct Cleaning requires them to monitor cleaning in schools. Within its quality system, which is accredited to ISO9002, Direct Cleaning operates a computerised monitoring programme for recording the results of management inspections of the cleaning service. This system allows trends and problem areas to be identified so that appropriate preventative and corrective action can be taken.

Additionally, the Department's Client Services staff monitor the standard of cleaning in schools and liaise with Direct Cleaning as necessary about quality issues.

The Department, working closely with Direct Cleaning, has been proactive in seeking to ensure that all schools are cleaned to the specified standard. The measures taken include:

- liaison meetings held between head teachers and the manager of Direct Cleaning, these are chaired by the Head of Education Support Services and have fostered closer relationships between schools and Direct Cleaning as well as a better understanding of each other's problems.
- to try to overcome the difficulties of recruitment and staff attendance for a 6 am start, there is a programme to move primary schools to an afternoon only clean. This helps to increase staff attendance and also increases productivity by giving a longer single working period.
- night-shift cleaning has been piloted at one high school, this has resulted in a stable workforce and a more consistent standard of cleaning. It is hoped to extend this pilot to other schools subject to the agreement of the trades unions.
- Direct Cleaning have tried to enhance recruitment by direct targeting of vacancy advertising in areas where the greatest shortage of cleaners exists
- in certain circumstances Direct Cleaning employs agency cleaners to fill vital staffing gaps

- Direct Cleaning has recently enlarged their area management teams to ensure that any reported problems are dealt with swiftly.

**Supplementary
Question**

I am actually very grateful for the very full answer that was supplied. What it omits, as I didn't ask directly, is the number of complaints from each school and what it cannot portray is the actual dirt and dust in which many of our school pupils and staff are having to operate. I wonder whether Councillor Aitken agrees that it would be worthwhile to investigate how to make more money available for school cleaning to enable a more competitive wage rate to be paid to cleaning staff given that that seems to be an important factor in the difficulties reported. Maybe instead of, or indeed as well as, laptops for every pupil, we should be looking at clean surroundings for every pupil.

**Supplementary
Answer**

First of all I would like to thank Councillor Dawe for recognising the openness in which we have responded to this. This is the way this department works. We are honest about the difficulties we have and we are up front about the issues that we have to face. However what we have here is not as enormous a problem as it might seem. There is a significant issue with regard to recruitment and that is one we have to deal with. Although very interestingly, and Councillor Dawe did refer to the input of new money, the most effective Group with a track record of maintaining staff has been the organisations, particularly, like ESP with whom we are going into PPP. Their track record is far better than ours. So that is one area where we are looking for lessons to learn so that we can create the kind of jobs that are attractive to people and help them stay. To give you an indication of our turnover of staff is somewhere between 23 and 25 per cent. Their track record so far through in Glasgow in the last 18 months is to reduce that to less than 7 per cent. So it is not only about putting in more money but it is about how you spend the money and we are going to have to learn ways of doing that and I look forward to Councillor Dawe's support in that particular area of PPP.

QUESTION NO. 4

**By Councillor Paisley answered
by the Deputy Leader of the
Council**

- Question** (1) Can you please list the Directors of Craigmillar Opportunities Trust who were present at the Board Meeting when the decision was taken to purchase 30 Whitehill Street, Newcraighall?
- Answer** (1) This decision was taken at a Board Meeting on 19 June 2000. The Directors present were Mr W McEwan (Chair), Mr J Lisgo (former Principal of Jewel and Esk Valley College), and Mr G Cunningham (Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise).
- Question** (2) Did any of the Directors declare any interest and was this noted in the Minute?
- Answer** (2) No declarations of interest were noted. However it was recognised by those present that Councillor J O'Donnell was both a COT Director and CFS Organising Secretary, and that Mr D Brown a Director of COT lived next door to the property.

QUESTION NO. 5

**By Councillor Paisley
answered by the Leader of the
Council**

Question (1) The Craigmillar Children's Services raised £20,000 for a trip to South Africa.

Were these fund-raising efforts liable to registration and was this done prior to the fund-raising efforts?

Answer (1) Craigmillar Children Services Ltd successfully raised £20,000 to fund a visit to South Africa by 12 children accompanied by 2 staff members, 3 youth monitors and the Chairperson.

The £20,000 was raised by staff and parents through a variety of fundraising events, including a sponsored walk and parachute jump and donations from local businesses. All planned events were discussed with the Licensing Board and permits were obtained for the two events which required permission. These were a Quiz night at the Jack Kane Centre and the "Big party" at Portobello Town Hall.

QUESTION NO. 6

**By Councillor Paisley answered
by the Deputy Leader of the
Council**

Question (1) Can the Directors of the Craigmillar Initiative account for the residual balance from this project?

Answer (1) The audited accounts of the Craigmillar Initiative Limited for the year ended 31 March 2000 show fund balances of £74,894. Cash and bank balances were £119,284, creditors were £62,638 and debtors were £18,248.

Creditors at 31 March 2000 included £22,167 payable to the City of Edinburgh Council for over claim of SIP grant. The Council has pursued recovery of this amount. In response the Secretary of the Craigmillar Initiative, has offered to pay £57.90 to the City of Edinburgh Council and indicated on 6 September that he would provide a detailed note on how funds had been used on the winding up of the affairs of the Craigmillar Initiative. A statement was received on 15 October showing expenditure of £31,271.56 since 1 April 2000.

The audited accounts for the year to 31 March 2001 have not yet been prepared. These must be submitted to Companies House by 31 January 2002.

Question (2) How were they disposed of and if not will they be returned to the funding authority and if so when?

Answer (2) As stated above the Company Secretary has indicated that £57.90 will be returned to the City of Edinburgh Council. The statement provided by the Company Secretary does not account for the fund balances which were reported at 31 March 2000. Audited accounts must be submitted to Companies House by 31 March 2001.

A revised account is to be issued next week for £22,167 (original account was issued for £21,167). This account will follow normal debt recovery procedures.

**Supplementary
Question**

I was fascinated by the response to this question. You have to admire the audacity of the man who owes us £22,167 and sends us £57.90. Is the Executive Member confident that we are going to get the balance?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Technically he has not sent us £57.90. That is what is left in the account. So if you do a deduction and if the £22,000 is accounted for in some other way then that is what is left in the account. That is technically what he has done, just to clarify that. Clearly the issue is about the £22,000 which was identified in the accounts last year and how that was accounted for. I am not suggesting that it is not in the accounts - of course it is in the accounts, you need to get an explanation of how that has been dealt with.

What I have done is asked our officials to meet with the officials of the Opportunities Trust of the Initiative and to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. You will note that this doesn't have to be resolved until January 30 next year when we have to submit the final account. Clearly we don't want that dragging out until January so we are going to meet as a matter of urgency to resolve the problem.

QUESTION NO. 7

**By Councillor Mackintosh
answered by the Executive
Member for Corporate
Resources**

Question (1) What was the cost of production and distribution of Councillor Anderson's second annual report to constituents in his Kaimes Ward for the year 2000/2001?

Answer (1) Councillor Anderson's 2nd Annual Report was produced by the staff allocated to support him as Leader and Councillor for Kaimes Ward, as part of their normal duties. I understand that he contributed the majority of the content himself.

The photocopying cost was £84 for 1,050 copies – 8p per copy.

The Report was mailed in bundles to local schools and Centres, various residents', tenants' and other organisations, local medical centres and churches. The postage cost was £74.37.