

QUESTION NO 7

**By Councillor Murray
answered by the Convener of
the Education Children and
Families Committee**

Question (1) What support will the Department be giving the 22 schools that were on the Administration's closure list to ensure their school rolls do not suffer any adverse effect?

Answer (1) We will continue to support schools that were on the consultation list. Schools Services Managers supporting these schools are giving Headteachers whatever support and advice they require. Our Headteacher Support will spend time in these schools as necessary. Some of these schools were also allocated additional staffing this year to provide additional management support.

All these support mechanisms are in place to ensure the schools on the consultation list do not suffer any adverse effect.

Question (2) If no support is planned will the Convener consider any such support?

Answer (2) N/A

Question (3) If the Convener will not consider such support can she explain the reasons for not doing so?

Answer (3) N/A

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**Supplementary
Question**

I wonder if I could ask, with some of the requests and e-mails that I have had from various schools across the city, whether the Convener would be willing to make some kind of public statement regarding the schools that were on the 22 closures list that they are not just open for business but are good schools that should be supported by the local communities.

**Supplementary
Answer**

I shall think about it.

QUESTION NO 8

**By Councillor Paisley
answered by the Convener of
the Education Children and
Families Committee**

- Question** (1) Is the Curriehill/Riccarton School amalgamation operating within budget or is there a cost over-run?
- Answer** (1) The value of the completed work is greater than the tender submitted by the contractor.
- Question** (2) If there is an over-run, please give details of the amount by which the project is over budget and the reasons for this?
- Answer** (2) This information is not yet available. It is intended that a report to Council later this year will provide details of the cost of this project and other projects within the programme.

QUESTION NO 9

**By Councillor Paisley
answered by the Convener of
the Finance and Resources
Committee**

- Question** (1) What is the total value of public funds which have been invested in the Wester Hailes Land and Property Trust since it was formed?
- Answer** (1) Initial research shows no record of any funding provided by the City of Edinburgh Council to this organisation. The organisation previously received urban programme revenue funding from the former Lothian Regional Council. This information has been requested from archive records and will be provided for members as soon as it is available. In addition it is possible that this organisation received further funding from other public bodies but the City of Edinburgh Council has no locus in this matter.
- Question** (2) What is the current value of the assets held by the Wester Hailes Land and Property Trust?
- Answer** (2) The most recent registered accounts for the year ending 31 March 2006 indicate a current asset value of £5.1m.

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QUESTION NO 10

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

Question (1) What areas as identified by the Scottish Executive (by postal code or other criteria used) within the City of Edinburgh Council boundaries are eligible for Community Regeneration Fund allocations?

Answer (1) There are 61 data zones in Edinburgh that occur within the 15 % most deprived data zones in Scotland, ranked according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, which are identified as eligible for CRF allocations by Scottish Government (Executive). These are clustered around six recognised local regeneration areas in Edinburgh – Craigmillar, North Edinburgh, West Edinburgh, South Edinburgh, Leith and Restalrig. A list of the data zones by local area is provided at Appendix One.

Question (2) What projects (name only) within the City of Edinburgh Council area have received a Community Regeneration Fund award in the year 2007/2008 (ie allocated to March 2008) and what was their level of award?

Answer (2) In 2007/2008 the allocation of £6,176,000 in CRF to Edinburgh is distributed to six local areas as follows:

ROA AREA	2007/2008 CRF ALLOCATION
Craigmillar	£1,556,352
North Edinburgh	£1,876,269
South Edinburgh	£820,173
West Edinburgh	£733,709
Leith	£779,359
Restalrig	£410,139

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The above funds are disbursed to projects that address specific outcomes identified in local Regeneration Outcome Agreements. A report to the Executive of the Council on 13 March 2007 summarised the vast majority of allocations of CRF for 2007/2008, detailing 131 projects in Edinburgh, and their levels of award which range from under £5,000 to over £400,000. A list of projects approved for 2007/08 funding is provided at Appendix Two. CRF funded projects address a variety of outcomes all arranged thematically in local ROAs under the following five National Priorities for Regeneration, which are:

- Building strong, safe and attractive communities;
- Improving health;
- Getting people back into work;
- Engaging young people;
- Engaging communities effectively.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Question | (3) At what stage is the evaluation process of Community Regeneration Fund initiatives as currently being undertaken by Communities Scotland through Capital City Partnership? |
| Answer | (3) Two evaluations of CRF activity are currently underway in the city. The first is being undertaken by Capital City Partnership in its capacity to provide overarching monitoring and evaluation functions for the city's ROA. It comprises an evaluation of individual projects in receipt of at least £10,000 CRF funding per year and examines the fit of each project's activity with agreed regeneration outcomes. Currently, 33 projects in Craigmillar and North Edinburgh are being evaluated and this phase will be finalised by end of December 2007. |

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A broader review of the effectiveness of the ROA programme and CRF activities in Edinburgh is being jointly undertaken by the three main organisations involved, namely City of Edinburgh Council, the Capital City Partnership and Communities Scotland. The scope of this review is to establish overall city wide impact of CRF funded activity against the main regeneration themes as mentioned above. This review, which is due to report at the end of this year, will help inform future decisions on allocations of regeneration resources.

- Question**
- (4) Will the Leader of the Council be meeting with Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive to:
- (a) articulate the real concerns of the voluntary sector and community groups in the most deprived parts of our city regarding the deep uncertainty surrounding the future of the Community Regeneration Fund; and
 - (b) ascertain whether a new programme will be announced and if so, the levels of resources to be given to the City of Edinburgh Council?

- Answer**
- (4) An announcement on successive arrangements for regeneration funding beyond 31 March 2008 and the likely levels of any funds is not expected until some stage in Autumn 2007, following the completion of the Scottish Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Officers of the Council are in discussion with Communities Scotland concerning successor arrangements for the CRF fund. The Convener of the Economic Development Committee and I have asked to be kept closely apprised with a view to seeking a Ministerial meeting to advance the case for community regeneration in Edinburgh.

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APPENDIX ONE

SIMD 2004 WORST 15 % DATA ZONES IN SCOTLAND :
61 DATA ZONES IN EDINBURGH, CLUSTERED BY REGENERATION AREA

Craigmillar		2007 Multi Member Ward that all or most of data zone is within
1	SO1001906	Portobello/Craigmillar
2	SO1001935	Portobello/Craigmillar
3	SO1001948	Portobello/Craigmillar
4	SO1001956	Portobello/Craigmillar
5	SO1001957	Portobello/Craigmillar
6	SO1001966	Portobello/Craigmillar
7	SO1001978	Portobello/Craigmillar
8	SO1001982	Portobello/Craigmillar
9	SO1002017	Portobello/Craigmillar
10	SO1002044	Portobello/Craigmillar
North Edinburgh		
1	SO1002319	Forth
2	SO1002321	Forth
3	SO1002324	Forth
4	SO1002312	Forth
5	SO1002291	Forth
6	SO1002296	Forth
7	SO1002281	Forth
8	SO1002282	Forth
9	SO1002247	Inverleith
10	SO1002265	Forth
11	SO1002275	Forth
12	SO1002277	Forth
13	SO1002278	Forth
14	SO1002279	Forth
15	SO1002302	Forth
16	SO1002309	Forth
West Edinburgh		
1	SO1001886	Sighthil/Gorgie
2	SO1001864	Pentland Hills
3	SO1001865	Pentland Hills
4	SO1001874	Pentland Hills
5	SO1001877	Sighthil/Gorgie
6	SO1001880	Sighthil/Gorgie
7	SO1001892	Sighthil/Gorgie
8	SO1001893	Sighthil/Gorgie
9	SO1001894	Sighthil/Gorgie
10	SO1001897	Sighthil/Gorgie
11	SO1001909	Sighthil/Gorgie
12	SO1001923	Sighthil/Gorgie
13	SO1001931	Sighthil/Gorgie
14	SO1001946	Sighthil/Gorgie

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SIMD 2004 WORST 15 % DATA ZONES IN SCOTLAND :
61 DATA ZONES IN EDINBURGH, CLUSTERED BY REGENERATION AREA

Craigmillar 2007 Multi Member Ward that all or most of data zone is within

South Edinburgh

1	SO1001799	Liberton/Gilmerton
2	SO1001809	Liberton/Gilmerton
3	SO1001823	Liberton/Gilmerton
4	SO1001826	Liberton/Gilmerton
5	SO1001870	Liberton/Gilmerton
6	SO1001879	Liberton/Gilmerton

Leith

1	SO1002285	Leith
2	SO1002289	Leith
3	SO1002290	Leith
4	SO1002305	Leith
5	SO1002306	Leith
6	SO1002310	Leith
7	SO1002318	Leith

Restalrig

1	SO1002101	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
2	SO1002155	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
3	SO1002191	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
4	SO1002204	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
5	SO1002211	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
6	SO1002227	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
7	SO1002238	Craigentinny/ Duddingston
8	SO1002239	Leith

61 Total

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APPENDIX TWO

LIST OF PROJECTS AND THEIR LEVEL OF CRF AWARD 2007/2008, BY REGENERATION AREA

	2007/2008
Craigmillar (total budget £1,556,352)	Level of CRF award
1 Partnership Support Team	£232,885
2 Craigmillar Ability Network	£53,195
3 Capacity Building Project	£187,386
4 Capacity Building Project Bingham	£13,151
5 Craigmillar Neighbourhood Alliance	£27,594
6 Edinburgh Community Food Initiative	£5,359
7 Craigmillar Community Arts	£28,385
8 Craigmillar Business Development	£169,719
9 HAYWIRED	£101,041
10 HOT	£105,636
11 Phonelink	£68,639
12 The Chronicle	£38,624
13 Venchie	£89,716
14 Castle Project	£28,597
15 Aberlour Outreach Project	£22,305
16 Café K	£57,624
17 Richmond Café	£8,540
18 Bingham 50+	£5,055
19 Adult Learning Link	£45,286
20 Lismore Parent Action	£11,892
21 Services for Vulnerable Women	£5,946
North Edinburgh (Total budget £1,826,269)	
22 Granton Youth Centre	£93,671
23 Women Supporting Women	£69,017
24 Pilton Partnership	£199,374
25 Black Community Development Project	£114,370
26 Muirhouse Millennium Centre	£107,692
27 Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre	£67,239
28 Muirhouse Youth Development Group	£116,942
29 North West Carers Centre	£60,439
30 PYCP	£141,351
31 North Edinburgh Childcare	£403,395
32 North Edinburgh News	£73,103
33 Stepping Stones	£11,445
34 Community Mediation Project	£16,817
35 Granton Information Centre	£123,709
36 Pilton Elderly Project	£55,452
37 North Edinburgh Arts	£29,694
38 NEAR Support Costs	£71,864
39 North Edinburgh Business Incubator	£32,448
40 North Edinburgh Activist Training	£35,849
41 North Edinburgh European Fund	£5,000

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South Edinburgh (total budget £820,173)

42	Childcare Connections	£115,000
43	Children First	£30,000
44	Community Development Initiative	£65,000
45	Echo (South Edinburgh Community Newspaper)	£25,000
46	Health Opportunities Team	£35,000
47	South Edinburgh Amenities Group	£40,000
48	Home Link	£30,000
49	Bfriends	£15,000
50	Liberton Area Handicapped Association	£35,000
51	Vocal – Family Support Network	£30,000
52	Vocal – Carers Support	£30,000
53	CHAI	£30,000
54	South Edinburgh Voluntary Support Project	£35,000
55	Volunteer Centre South Edinburgh	£11,000
56	Case Tracking Manager	£48,434
57	Small Grants Scheme	£25,000
58	Support Team	£200,000

West Edinburgh (total budget £733,109)

59	Broomhouse Representative Council	£6,784
60	Broomhouse Empowerment Project	£23,975
61	Community One Stop Shop	£19,336
63	Youth Agency	£48,287
64	Dove Centre	£24,789
65	CHAI	£133,150
66	WHALE	£53,839
67	Wester Hailes Health Agency	£37,518
68	Citylife	£2,324
69	One Stop Childcare ⁽¹⁾	£211,373
70	Wester Hailes Representative Council	£92,957
71	West Edinburgh Times	£14,873
72	CHAI (Older Person's Service Forum)	£9,296
73	Youth Agency (Young Person's Service Forum)	£9,296
74	EVOC (West Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Forum)	£5,988
75	WECPP (Evaluation costs)	£22,028

Leith (total budget £779,359)

76	THI Funding	£250,000
77	Aberlour Family Support Outreach	£42,697
78	The Junction (Information and Admin)	£32,000
79	Young Person's Health Worker – Alcohol	£22,200
80	Counselling Service for Young People	£32,800
81	Teenage Health Clinic	£6,232
82	First Steps in Leith	£16,850
83	Older Men's Health and Well Being Project	£8,112
84	Access to Healthy Food Project	£43,060
85	Leith Healthy Living Initiative	£36,967
86	Fort After School and Holiday Provision	£40,270
87	North Edinburgh Childcare	£3,620
88	Bookstart Project	£19,000
89	Youth Participation Worker	£41,121

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90	Study Support	£17,910
91	Leith Festival Association	£15,777
92	Co-ordinated Summer Programme for Leith	£32,187
93	Dr Bells Family Centre	£45,070
94	Customer Support Worker	£22,579
95	Newhaven and Harbour Link Up Project	£48,890
96	Women onto Work	£19,186
97	Transition	£25,485
98	TOIL	£17,000
99	Advice In Health Settings	£17,902
100	Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council	£11,832
Restalrig (total budget £410,139)		
101	Edinvar Community Care	£26,470
102	Toddler Zone	£35,000
103	The Listening Place	£5,300
105	Lochend Community Resource Centre	£13,910
106	Teenage Health Project	£6,232
107	Young Person's Health Worker – Alcohol	£11,100
108	Health Promotion Worker	£12,287
109	Lochend/Restalrig Community Café Project	£50,000
110	Lochend Youth Football Club	£16,643
111	The Youth Bus	£12,906
112	The Ripple Project – Youth Bus	£14,515
113	The Ripple Project – Youth Worker	£29,050
114	Christmas Event	£4,000
115	The Speaker Community Newspaper	£20,600
116	Transition	£19,664
117	Detached Youth Work	£5,532
118	Write On	£4,578
119	FSU – School Liaison Worker	£15,000
120	Restalrig Youth Options Programme	£14,427
121	Action Group	£19,950
122	Schools Curriculum Support	£10,000
123	Restalrig Financial Inclusion Service	£15,700
124	Restalrig Benefits Advice Project	£18,565
125	The Ripple – Lunch Club Transport	£8,230
126	Early Intervention Project	£2,000
127	YWCA Lochend Out of School Club	£400
128	Lochend Youth Development Initiative	£896
129	Lochend Restalrig and Piershill Youth Work Forum	£2,000
130	Craigentiny Parents Forum	£3,500
131	Lochend Community Food and Health Project	£1,500

NB. It should be noted that the level of awards to the above projects were approved by the Executive of the Council on 13 March 2007, however are subject to ongoing adjustments that may be made throughout the year.

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QUESTION NO 11

**By Councillor Burns
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

Question

Please provide further details on:

- a) any discussions that have been held, since May 2007, with the Scottish Government about the implementation of their clear commitment to reducing P1/P2 & P3 class sizes to a maximum of 18 children over the course of the forthcoming Parliamentary term.
- b) Departmental plans, if they exist, to work towards this reduction in class size for P1/P2 & P3.

Answer

- a) There have been no formal discussions. The Council would normally expect the Scottish Government to initiate guidance on how a new initiative such as this would be implemented, including guidance on funding.
- b) Initial consideration has been given to the potential implications of this initiative in terms of the number of additional teachers that would be required and potential adaptations required for school buildings.

**Supplementary
Question**

Will the Convener commit to this issue being fully considered by the City of Edinburgh Council before further plans are brought forward concerning the Children and Families Estate Rationalisation Programme?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

As part of a further Schools Rationalisation Programme, if one did come before this Council, then the issue of the Scottish Government policy of reducing class sizes to 18 would, I think, have to be considered as indeed it was considered in a previous programme. As you will know we have as yet no guidance as to how this could be implemented in our present housing stock and no guidance on cost. We know how much it would cost but yes I think it would be part of the consultation.

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QUESTION NO 12

**By Councillor Burns
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

Question

Please provide further details on:

- a) any discussions that have been held, since May 2007, with the Scottish Government about the implementation of their clear commitment to increase the provision of free nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds by 50 per cent, over the course of the forthcoming Parliamentary term – thus increasing the entitlement from 400 hours a year to 600 hours a year.
- b) Departmental plans, if they exist, to work towards this increase in the provision of free nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds.

Answer

- a) There have been no formal discussions with the Scottish Government on this matter. The Council would normally expect the Government to release formal guidance on the scale, timing and funding of such a development.
- b) Planning for any such increase in free provision will be undertaken once such guidance is issued.

**Supplementary
Question**

Will the Convener commit to this issue being considered either before or during any further plans being brought forward concerning the Children and Families Estate Rationalisation Programme?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Again it would be part of the discussions I think.

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QUESTION NO 13

**By Councillor Burns
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

Question (1) What work, if any, has been undertaken on the possibility of amalgamating any two primary schools with the subsequent replacement for both being a new building on a new site?

Answer (1) Councillor Burns will be aware that the previous Administration had explored with EDI the possibility of amalgamating Lismore and Brunstane schools on one site and there have been further discussions on this possibility.

Question (2) If such work has been undertaken, please provide details of the schools involved and the process for funding and delivering such an 'amalgamation/new-build'?

Answer (2) The Council is continuing to explore this proposal and has asked EDI, who believe that it may be self-financing, to do further work on costings.

Supplementary Question Will the Convener commit to bringing an early report on this issue to the Education, Children and Families Committee?

Supplementary Answer I will commit to bringing the report when negotiations are completed and it is ready to be brought forward, yes.

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QUESTION NO 14

**By Councillor Burns
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

Question

Please provide further details on:

- a) the draft "30 budget priorities" that the last meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) was informed existed
- b) who, if anyone, was consulted on the drafting of these initial "budget priorities" and who instigated their drafting
- c) for the future, in the forthcoming months leading to the setting of the 2008/09 budget, how Departmental partners will be fully consulted about the finalisation of any such "30 budget priorities"
- d) for the future, in the forthcoming months leading to the setting of the 2008/09 budget, how elected members will be fully consulted about the finalisation of any such "30 budget priorities"

Answer

- a) The Partnership was not informed that a draft '30 budget priorities' existed. The Partnership at its meeting on 1 August decided that in preparing future plans we should identify around 30 top priority multi-agency outcomes for the future. These are service provision priorities.
- b) The Planning Sub-Group of CYPSP were charged by the full Partnership meeting with developing a methodology for developing the 30 priorities and reported back to the partnership on 5 September outlining proposals for consultation with partners.

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- c) The Partnership agreed on 5 September that consultation would take place in September/October and that 30 priorities would be drafted by the Planning Sub-Group (which has CEC, NHS and voluntary sector membership). A draft set of priority outcomes will be discussed at the full meeting in November. SMART targets relating to these priorities will then be developed for discussion at the February meeting.

It is important to note that this is a Partnership initiative - it is not a discrete Children and Families Department initiative. (The Partnership is leading on this, not the Children and Families Department.)

- d) The forthcoming Integrated Children and Young People's Service Plan, which would include the agreed top 30 priority outcomes, is expected to be reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2008.

Supplementary Question

I note that Councillor Mrs MacLaren makes it clear that this is a partnership initiative and not a discreet Children and Families Department issue. That accepted, is she content that the service provision priorities will be reported in March 2008, some four weeks after the Council budget will be set?

Supplementary Answer

I am not sure I fully understood you. This is the 30 budget priorities? As you will know they have nothing to do with budgets whatsoever. This was a leak from a meeting held between officers to look at the priorities and the outcomes which then would be brought in front of the Committee and indeed in front of me. I have not yet seen them. This is what officers do. We send them away, they think about the outcomes, they think about their strategy priorities in the light of the priorities that I have given them, then they come back and we discuss. Then the matter comes before the Education Committee; that is what will happen.

QUESTION NO 15

**By Councillor Ewan Aitken
answered by the Convener of
the Health, Social Care and
Housing Committee**

Question

What work has been done to compare the legal advice that other local authorities in Scotland have had on implementation of EU Procurement Directives and, in particular, whether the 'trigger points' for re-tendering are:

- entirely financial;
- based on quality;
- and/or time-bound?

Answer

Comparative legal advice was sought by the Department's commissioning team through the Association of Directors of Social Work. The Contracts Manager advises that these comparisons show the City of Edinburgh Council to be following the same legal advice as other Councils.

This advice is based on a Procurement Information Advice sheet prepared by the Scottish Government in April 2007 and is also directed by the EU legislation for procurement for Part B services.

The trigger points can be financial, qualitative or time bound.

**Supplementary
Question**

Is the Convener aware that although it appears that we are following the same advice as other authorities with regard to the triggers for EU procurement, in fact the impression is that other authorities are taking a broader view on what those triggers might be with particular reference to protecting relationships on care packages for vulnerable people which is a guide on 24 hour care packages that are based very much on the relationship between the carer and the person being cared for?

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**Supplementary
Answer**

We are following the same advice as the other authorities. There is a review of this policy going to the Policy and Strategy Committee in November and I am sure that your concerns can be aired fully at that meeting.

QUESTION NO 16

**By Councillor Burgess
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

Question (1) What impact on services will there be as a result of the proposed cuts to the Children and Families budget?

Answer (1) The Children and Families budget has an in-year pressure of £15.8m. This is a result of:

- recurring budget pressures which were reflected in an overspend on the Children and Families budget of £9.5m in 2006/7
- one off measures of £4m used to offset other pressures in the budget for 2006/7
- the reduction in Children and Families budget of £9m over 3 years to implement estate rationalisation
- further pressures in relation to vulnerable children in 2007/8

£6m additional funding was allocated for vulnerable children. However this was offset by £6m efficiency savings target.

Every effort is being made to protect core, front line service delivery.

Work is underway to develop a sustainable budget for Children and Families in 2008/9.

Question (2) Will there be compulsory redundancies as a result of the proposed cuts to the Children and Families budget?

Answer (2) It is not intended that there will be compulsory redundancies.

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Question (3) How many compulsory redundancies will there be as a result of the proposed cuts to the Children and Families budget?

Answer (3) It is not intended that there will be any compulsory redundancies.

Question (4) Does the Administration acknowledge the vital role that Community Education Workers based in Community Centres play in providing front-line services that build and enhance our communities and will they ensure that this vital role is protected from the proposed cuts to the Community Learning and Development budget.

Answer (4) The vital role of Community Learning and Development workers who are based in Community Centres will be given full and proper consideration as we develop our plans for a sustainable and balanced budget which best protects services and the communities that they serve.

Supplementary Question In answer to part four of this question, the Convener of Children and Families acknowledges the vital role of Community Learning and Development workers based in community centres. Can I ask the Convener how she intends this vital role will be given the full and proper consideration that she refers to in her answer?

Supplementary Answer Through the consultation period. Quite why you have got this idea that we are proposing to remove Community Education workers I do not know because that is certainly not our intention.

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QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Chapman
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

Question

In light of the cuts previously experienced by community projects/groups that run summer school activities, what provision has been put in place to secure funding for summer school activities for both primary and secondary school children for July/August 2008?

Answer

Fundamental to the proposed review of Community Learning and Development is the principle that priority will be given to working with children and young people. Summer programmes for school children have run successfully in the past and the benefits to young people have been widely acknowledged. They provide young people with the opportunity to engage in new activities and interact positively with others, thus forming strong social bonds. It is therefore the intention of the CLD service to continue to provide high quality summer school activities in the future.

**Supplementary
Question**

The answer does not really answer my question because I asked about what provision had been put in place to secure summer school activities. We know that Play4It has been axed this year so over the summer time there was none or very little provision for children under the age of 12 for summer school activities and it is likely that Go4It is going to be axed as well. Can I ask what provision you are putting in, not just an assurance you will and what provision will that be?

**Supplementary
Answer**

If I may be so bold, your question is a little premature. This is something that we will be discussing at budget time because it does have budget implications and we will have to make that decision then.

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QUESTION NO 18

**By Councillor Chapman
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

The Community Learning and Development department has for several years run one of the most successful Adult Education Programmes in Scotland, if not the UK.

Question (1) Can you affirm your commitment to support this vital service to the communities of Edinburgh? In light of the reviews taking place within Community Learning and Development, can you give your assurance that the highly experienced Adult Education Programme staff will not be 'redeployed' in such a way that their skills are lost to the programme, and thereby reducing the effectiveness and long-term viability of the programme?

Answer (1) Adult Education, like all other aspects of Community Learning and Development will be subject to review to ensure that we are able to provide an affordable and effective service. In relation to adult learning priorities will be placed on developing literacy, numeracy and work with families.

Community High Schools throughout the city currently provide an adult education programme which is actually larger than the mainstream adult education programme. We need therefore to look carefully at the most effective way of developing and delivering an adult education programme. We will engage with our adult education and high school staff to harness their expertise as we endeavour to develop a more integrated approach in this area.

Question (2) Have the proposed reviews in Community Learning and Development been equality-proofed?

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- Answer** (2) As an equal opportunities employer we will ensure that the proposed review in CLD will be equality-proofed.
- Question** (3) Have the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) and Scouting Edinburgh been informed about the proposed loss of their Council-employed support staff members? If so, what support will be provided to ensure that these voluntary organisations do not suffer as a result of the loss of a 'background' member of staff?
- Answer** (3) Both these organisations have had access to a briefing paper which identifies that one proposal for savings within Community Learning and Development is a review of current deployment of staff to the voluntary sector. We will engage fully with both organisations to explore ways in which the effectiveness of their services can be maintained with a reduced input from Council staff. LAYC and Scouting Edinburgh will be invited to play a full part in the consultation process.
- Question** (4) Given that CLAN (City Literacy and Numeracy) is funded by the Scottish Executive/Government, can you confirm that this money is ring fenced for literacy and numeracy support? If so, what does the planned review of the CLAN partnership structure intend to achieve?
- Answer** (4) Adult literacy and numeracy funding allocated to the authority as part of GAE is for adult literacy and numeracy support.
- The review intends to achieve a more efficient management of CLAN partnership support structure.

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QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Chapman
answered by the Convener of
the Finance and Resources
Committee**

Question

In an attempt to increase transparency and openness of Council functions, has any consideration been given to the possibility of audio-visual equipment being included as part of the refurbishment of the Council Chambers so that full Council meetings can be viewed on-line by members of the public?

Answer

The Council Chambers brief provided to the Audio Visual consultancy by the Council's Fit For Future team incorporates many of the components required to accomplish this. The current proposal includes replacing the existing audio link to the European Room with an updated audio solution and a video feed from two small fixed cameras to be located in the Council Chamber.

The external broadcast option is technically possible although it would require further investment. For example, there is a requirement to form a control room for the operator. Part of the gallery area may be suitable for this. Additional cameras in the correct position within the Council Chamber would be required to achieve adequate camera coverage. Hardware to encode the audio and video feeds to make them available for webcasting would be required.

Should the Council wish to enable members of the public to view an on line webcast there is an option to broadcast this live or offer a recorded programme. The live option would be more technically challenging and would likely need third party input to host the webcasting. The recorded solution is simpler for the Council to deliver. Start up costs would be circa £40,000 for the recorded option and around £80,000 to broadcast live plus the ongoing revenue cost of third party hosting. The Council's

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ICT service provider would have an interest in this development and their costs are not known. The capital budget for the City Chambers project is fully allocated at this time and there is no available revenue funding.

In the context of other significant spending priorities within the Council it is not considered appropriate to support additional expenditure of this nature.

**Supplementary
Question**

I believe the Convener has some further information about equipment that might be useful for us to hear.

**Supplementary
Answer**

What I wanted to say was that I think the proposal is very interesting. Clearly it is not a time to be looking at that just now. I had a quick look on-line and there are other organisations doing this. The cost seemed to be less in North America but then the cost base is less. What I would suggest is taking this on to the Smart City/ICT Sounding Board and we can discuss it further.

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QUESTION NO 20

**By Councillor Burgess
answered by the Convener of
the Transport, Infrastructure
and Environment Committee**

- Question** (1) What is the City of Edinburgh's contribution to the greenhouse gas pollution that is causing climate change?
- Answer** (1) To date only very broad-brush studies of Edinburgh's carbon footprint have been undertaken. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has produced estimates of CO₂ emissions for all local authorities in the UK based on somewhat 'experimental' estimates of energy consumption and carbon emissions at a local level for 2004.
- Based on the best evidence available Edinburgh is responsible for 3.32 million tonnes of CO₂ per annum, which amounts to 7.3% of the Scottish total of 45.2 tonnes. These are 'net' figures, allowing for emission absorption of CO₂ through process of land use change, including afforestation. However, DEFRA acknowledges that there are many limitations on the accuracy of these figures.
- Question** (2) Does the Council acknowledge that Edinburgh has the potential to lead the world's cities in taking action to minimise pollution that causes climate change?
- Answer** (2) The Council was one of the first signatories of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. This Declaration now has the universal backing of all of Scotland's local authorities. Signatories acknowledge that as one of the worlds' industrialised nations, in the heart of Europe, they have a real opportunity to show commitment, leadership and innovation to tackle the challenge of climate change. As the capital city, the Council can make a big difference through leading by example and encouraging others in the international community to follow our lead.

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- Question** (3) Will the Council open up dialogue with Edinburgh's twin cities around the world to share knowledge and best practice about minimising the pollution that is causing climate change?
- Answer** (3) The Council has been making a number of connections with other cities involved in climate change activities. Links have been made with London in terms of their work and also with Aberdeen and Newcastle. The Council is keen to learn from those cities and towns that are leading on climate change work and in turn have provided information to other cities that are keen to learn from us. The twin cities also provide an avenue for the sharing of best practice and the Council will ensure that dialogue is opened.
- Question** (4) How much greenhouse gas is generated from the Council's own activities in the areas of (i) energy use and sourcing, (ii) travel and transportation, (iii) waste production and disposal, (iv) estate management and (v) procurement of goods and services?
- Answer** (4) Carbon Management Programme
- The City of Edinburgh Council is currently participating in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM). During this 10 month programme which started in May 2007, the Carbon Trust will provide the Council with technical and change management support and guidance to help realise carbon emissions savings. The Council will benefit from consultant support and the programme will aid the Council in a systematic analysis of its carbon footprint and help identify what opportunities are available to help the council manage its carbon emissions.
- A key aim of the council's participation in the Carbon Management Programme is to provide an inventory of its emissions, and then set out the key actions that will be taken to reduce emissions. The focus of the programme is on corporate emissions, so covers areas under the direct influence of the Authority such

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as council buildings, public lighting, transport (e.g. fleet and business travel) and waste management (e.g. emissions from landfill sites). Work in this area is currently underway and it is hoped to be completed within the next few weeks.

Question (5) On what date will the Council produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from its own operations?

Answer (5) The Council has already approved a comprehensive Climate Change Framework document in March 2007 which detailed many of the actions needed to address climate change issues. These ranged from adaptation to mitigation initiatives across a number of areas. The document is available on CPOL at <http://intranet.edinburgh.gov.uk/committee+business/committee+papers+after+may+2003/index.jsp>.

The framework acknowledges that work needs to be carried out to determine the Council's own carbon emissions as an important first step in its climate change work hence its involvement in the Carbon Management Programme. The programme also requires an action plan, with targets and time-scales. This will be finalised and presented to the Council in February 2008.

Question (6) On what date does the Council intend to publish its first annual statement on the monitoring and progress of its climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required?

Answer (6) As a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration the Council is committed to making its first annual statement on its progress towards tackling climate change by spring 2008. A draft annual statement will be brought to Council for approval in January 2008. In addition, as stated, the action plan, with targets and time-scales, resulting from the Council's current participation in the Carbon Management Programme will be finalised in February 2008.

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Question (7) What recycling facilities are there in operation across the Council estate and is there room for improvement in these facilities?

Answer (7) The Council has contracts for recycling paper, toner cartridges, ICT equipment, cans and glass. All parts of the Council estate are encouraged to set up recycling arrangements with the agreed contractors.

There is room for improvement in these facilities, and a report is due to go to the Policy & Strategy Committee on 6 November recommending appropriate actions.

Question (8) How will the Council reduce electricity consumption across the Council estate?

Answer (8) The action plan which will be developed during the Council's current participation in the Carbon Management Programme will detail how the Council will reduce electricity consumption across the Council estate. This will include a range of measures such as insulation and controls. A programme of work is underway in schools to reduce their energy consumption. Monitoring and targeting work also need to be included with specific and measurable targets set against realistic timescales.

Supplementary Question

I asked quite a long list of questions on the Council's approach to tackling climate change because the situation is urgent and I thank the Convener for his answers. I am disappointed that it is going to take a year to come up with a programme for action in Edinburgh but can I ask the Administration whether it will consider making an assessment of the city's overall climate change emissions itself in addition to the emissions from the Council's own activities in order that the Council can properly target its policies towards climate change in the future?

Supplementary Answer

It sounds a reasonable suggestion.

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QUESTION NO 21

**By Councillor Johnstone
answered by the Convener of
the Transport, Infrastructure
and Environment Committee**

Question

Will the Council follow the lead of others throughout the UK, and as far afield as New Zealand, and introduce the "Walking Wednesdays" scheme to city schools, reducing pollution, congestion and obesity and providing an opportunity to learn road safety skills?

Answer

The City of Edinburgh Council has been involved with the Safer Routes to School project since the late 1990s and currently employs three School Travel Coordinators to promote active travel within schools. The School Travel Coordinators link with other initiatives such as Eco Schools, Active and Health Promoting Schools to ensure a holistic approach.

Part of their remit involves promotional and publicity activities to encourage sustainable travel to school as part of a travel plan. These include promoting:

- Walk to School week in May and October by providing schools with publicity and educational materials and prizes
- Participation in Walk Once a Week and Walk on Wednesday initiatives.
- Walking bus and cycle bus schemes
- Buddying schemes where older children pair up with younger pupils using the same route
- Car share schemes
- 'Park and Stride' schemes where parents park at safer locations away from school and walk the rest of the way e.g. St Peter's RC School setting up a scheme with Waitrose supermarket in Morningside

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- Transition projects such as the 'Travelling Green' walking project which stresses the importance of children developing independent travelling and road safety skills in P5 and P6 in preparation for children to make the transition from Primary to High School.

**Supplementary
Question**

The Safer Routes to School project has raised awareness of walking to school as an option in the city. However, the school run continues to account for a fifth of all traffic in peak hours and take-up of walking school buses remains patchy and irregular across the city. In light of the simplicity and directness and world-wide success of the "Walking on Wednesday" message, would the Convener consider a concerted marketing campaign to get our city school children walking every Wednesday?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Assuming there are no budget overtones, it sounds a reasonable suggestion and I certainly agree with Councillor Johnstone's aspirations to reduce the school run; that is one of my ambitions as part of the Administration.

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QUESTION NO 22

**By Councillor Johnstone
answered by the Convener of
the Transport, Infrastructure
and Environment Committee**

Question

Will the Council invest in raising the standard of the pedestrian environment throughout the city by rolling out a programme of Street Audits such as that carried out in Canaan Lane in 2004-05?

Answer

The Council is currently spending very significant sums on its programme of road and pavement improvements. This year 119 of the worst pavements have been identified for resurfacing, or renewal, at an estimated cost of £5.46m.

The Local Transport Strategy contains a commitment to produce a programme for pedestrian audits of city streets by mid 2008 and to carry out two further audits similar to the one carried out in Canaan Lane by this date.

**Supplementary
Question**

I warmly welcome the commitment to carry out two further similar street audits by the middle of next year. The purpose of these audits is to highlight the user friendliness or otherwise of streets from the pedestrian perspective and it is about more than resurfacing pavements in poor condition – that is a routine maintenance function. [Can I just point out some of the recommendations of the Canaan Lane report have been acted upon but many haven't.] Can you advise of any commitments to carry out further improvements that were recommended in the report and whether or not any recommendations arising from the two reports to be commissioned will be carried out?

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**Supplementary
Answer by the
Transport,
Infrastructure
& Environment
Committee
Convener**

Yes, I will review those reports again and get back to you.

**Supplementary
Answer by the
Planning
Convener**

I would add that we are looking very carefully at the whole streetscape and how it fits in with new developments. We are trying to get home zones which includes shared spaces, cars, pedestrians and cyclists and so we are moving ahead with that. We have a Committee that looks at every planning application and hopefully everything will improve over the next few months and years.

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QUESTION NO 23

**By Councillor Johnstone
answered by the Convener of
the Education, Children and
Families Committee**

- Question** (1) What impact will the proposed loss of 320 full-time nursery places have on families across the city?
- Answer** (1) Requests for all full time nursery places are allocated against an agreed priority 'banding' system of need as laid out in the Department's admission policy. All current nursery places are currently being audited against these criteria. The focus of this work is to seek to ensure those children whose needs are the greatest will continue to be offered full time places. The audit will be completed by the end of October 2007. Children who lose a full time place will continue to be offered a part time place.
- Question** (2) How much is the City of Edinburgh Council currently investing in private partnership nurseries for children resident (a) within the city and (b) outwith?
- Answer** (2) There are a total of 118 Partner Providers. At the end of June 2006 there were 3313 children with Partner Providers, 2954 of which were from the City of Edinburgh Authority area with 359 coming from other local authorities.
- The total pre-school funding grant paid to Partners in the academic session 2006/07 was £3,234,009. The Council also support Partner Providers through the provision of Quality Development Services, Psychological Services and Teaching Services. Overall staff costs for these services are estimated at £224,000. In addition, Partner Providers have access both to Council's Continuous Professional Development courses at subsidised rates and to Early Years Resource Centre.

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**Supplementary
Question**

Obviously full-time nursery places are vitally important not only to the children themselves but to entire families and they provide an opportunity for single parents and others on low incomes to go to work, something that would be impossible if they were offered the 2½ hour part-time nursery place instead. I just wondered if the Convener could let me know if any assessment has been made of the full cost of the loss of these places in terms of loss of income and the impact such loss of employment will have on children and families both financially and on their well-being.

**Supplementary
Answer**

No.