

## Committee Minutes

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### The City of Edinburgh Council

Year 2011/2012

### Meeting 7 – Thursday, 24 November 2011

Edinburgh, 24 November 2011 – At a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council.

#### Present:-

#### LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable George Grubb

#### COUNCILLORS

Elaine Aitken  
Ewan Aitken  
Robert C Aldridge  
Jeremy R Balfour  
Eric Barry  
Angela Blacklock  
Mike Bridgman  
Deidre Brock  
Gordon Buchan  
Tom Buchanan  
Steve Burgess  
Andrew Burns  
Ronald Cairns  
Steve Cardownie  
Maggie Chapman  
Maureen M Child  
Joanna Coleman  
Bill Cook  
Jennifer A Dawe  
Cammy Day  
Charles Dundas  
Paul G Edie  
Nick Elliott-Cannon  
Paul Godzik  
Norma Hart  
Stephen Hawkins  
Ricky Henderson  
Lesley Hinds

Allan G Jackson  
Alison Johnstone  
Colin Keir  
Louise Lang  
Jim Lowrie  
Gordon Mackenzie  
Marilyne A MacLaren  
Mark McInnes  
Stuart Roy McIvor  
Tim McKay  
Eric Milligan  
Elaine Morris  
Joanna Mowat  
Rob Munn  
Gordon J Munro  
Alastair Paisley  
Gary Peacock  
Ian Perry  
Alasdair Rankin  
Cameron Rose  
Jason G Rust  
Conor Snowden  
Marjorie Thomas  
Stefan Tymkewycz  
Phil Wheeler  
Iain Whyte  
Donald Wilson  
Norrie Work

## 1 Deputations

### (a) **Alternative Business Models Review Programme – Environment Workstream** (item 2)

**UNISON, City of Edinburgh Branch** – The deputation referred to a submission which UNISON had sent to all Councillors which provided an estimated price comparison between the Enterprise and the in-house options and, in their view, demonstrated that the in-house option would provide best value for the Council. UNISON had regularly expressed concern to elected members about the sustainability, environmental and economic elements of the Enterprise bid.

The deputation urged the Council to support the in-house bid. They also asked the Council to recognise the expertise and skills gained by the ABM team in cross-departmental working and the positive relationship developed with the trade unions throughout this exercise. They suggested that dialogue continue on how to capitalise on this experience and urged officers and elected members to use the opportunity to promote Edinburgh as an example of partnership working to develop in-house options for the provision of public services.

(Reference – e-mail request, submitted.)

**Greater Leith Against the Cuts** – The deputation asked the Council to vote against the ABM proposals which, in their view, would take money and jobs out of the city. They were disappointed that consultation appeared to have been stage-managed and claimed that the recent public meeting on the proposals had been by invitation only.

The deputation suggested that the MORI poll results had not been released because they would show opposition to the privatisation of public services. They reminded the Council that members were elected to represent the interests of electors not to submit to the wishes of central government. The public were aware of what the proposals meant and they asked members to listen to their constituents.

(Reference – e-mail request, submitted.)

**Unite the Union** – The deputation said that following the provision of information to employees on the Public Sector Comparator, out of a 70% response, 92% of employees in the refuse collection service had expressed support for the in-house option. Staff wanted to carry on working for the Council and the public were happy with the service provided by the Council.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

The deputation hoped the Council would support keeping services in-house and looked forward to working with management to ensure an effective working relationship and partnership between management and work crews.

(Reference – e-mail request, submitted.)

**Save Our Services Edinburgh East** – The deputation had asked the Council at its last meeting to respect the opinion of the public and workers who were opposed to the privatisation of services. They had been sent away then with uncertainty. They hoped this would not happen today and that the Council would make the right decision. The public was opposed to proposals which would create profit for private companies and more signatures to this effect had been collected from people of all political persuasions. The deputation said they would continue to raise the issue until privatisation had been taken off the table. They hoped the Council would make a decision it could be proud of.

(Reference – e-mail request, submitted.)

**(b) Support for ‘Occupy Edinburgh’ – Motion by Councillor Chapman – Occupy Edinburgh** (item 3)

The deputation spoke in support of Councillor Chapman’s motion on Support for Occupy Edinburgh to be considered later on the agenda. Occupy Edinburgh comprised people from all political parties and none and from all backgrounds. It had no leadership structure and reached decisions by consensus. The Occupy movement was working to develop a sustainable economic model to protect our fragile planet. It was not anti-capitalist but sought, amongst other things, new political and financial structures and the devolution of decision making to local communities.

The deputation said Occupy Edinburgh had excellent relations in the city with the police, the Council and Essential Edinburgh. They urged the Council to step forward and advance its reputation worldwide by supporting the aims of the Occupy movement.

(Reference – e-mail request, submitted.)

**(c) Boroughmuir High School: Purchase of Fountainbridge Site and Options for Future Development – Boroughmuir High School Parent Council** (item 4)

The Parent Council had established a New School Sub-Group (NSSG), which included representatives from the three Boroughmuir feeder primary schools, to consult on the options proposed for the new school before making a recommendation to parents.

The deputation appreciated the efforts made by the Council on behalf of Boroughmuir High School and supported the purchase of the Fountainbridge site as an option for consideration. However, until further information was available on the new build and refurbishment options, and the views of parents had been sought, the Parent Council was not in a position to endorse a preference for either option and could not agree with the Council declaring new build as the preferred option in the consultation document.

(Reference – e-mail request, submitted.)

## **2 Alternative Business Models Review Programme – Environment Workstream**

An update was given on further work instructed by the Council on 27 October 2011 on the Alternative Business Models (ABM) programme and recommendations were made on the way forward in relation to the Environment workstream.

The Council had heard deputations on the matter from UNISON, City of Edinburgh Branch; Greater Leith Against the Cuts; Unite the Union; and Save Our Services Edinburgh East (see item 1(a) above).

The Chief Executive's recommendations were detailed in paragraph 23 of her report as follows:

“23 That the Council:

- (a) agrees to the appointment of Enterprise Managed Services Ltd as the preferred bidder for the Environment workstream;
- (b) delegates to the Directors of Services for Communities and Corporate Governance authority to enter into a partnership agreement based on the terms set out in the report to Council of 27 October;
- (c) notes the additional budget savings of £32m which this proposal will secure compared to the Council's existing long-term financial plan;
- (d) agrees to the draw down of a further £788k from the Council's spend-to-save fund to complete the review programme and implementation of this workstream; and
- (e) notes that further reports would be made to future meetings of the Council on the Integrated Facilities Management and Corporate and Transactional Services workstreams.”

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**Motion**

- 1) To reiterate the Administration's stated position (Administration Budget – 11 February 2010) that:

*"This Administration instinctively supports public services and recognises the responsibility that local government has to provide for society fairly, equitably and progressively. However, Council recognises that, in its responsibility to Edinburgh and its residents, it is necessary to consider all approaches critically and objectively."*

- 2) To recognise that a Strategic Partnership with Enterprise Managed Services Ltd would deliver contractually guaranteed service improvements including enhanced cleanliness of the city, increased recycling rates, better maintenance of grounds and parks and reduced carbon footprint when compared to the Public Sector Comparator.
- 3) To note that over the 7 year period of the contractual partnership, Enterprise Managed Services Ltd would deliver £27million more savings that were contractually underpinned than the Public Sector Comparator.
- 4) To agree that maximising savings was in line with the Council's stated commitment to providing *"high-quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner"* (Budget Motion 10/02/2011) and that these savings would help protect our most vulnerable, ensure that every young person had an equal opportunity to reach their full potential and that Edinburgh was cleaner and more sustainable.
- 5) To note that implementing the Public Sector Comparator would require £4million to be found from the Council's existing budget for 2012/13, threatening valued existing services.
- 6) Having considered additional information regarding the Public Sector Comparator and Enterprise Managed Services Ltd provided subsequent to the meeting on 27 October 2011, to note that the independent external review of the Public Sector Comparator provided a 'low to medium' confidence rating of its deliverability.
- 7) Mindful of the above and of the obligation on all elected members to demonstrate Best Value, to accept there was a compelling case to appoint Enterprise Managed Services Ltd to deliver the Environment workstream and to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 23 of the report by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Dawe (on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group).

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

### Amendment

- 1) To note that the Alternative Business Models Review Programme would be concluded by a decision of Council and that this was commonly known by, and made clear to, all Parties involved in the process.
- 2) The Council, having taken into account inter-alia the following ...
  - (i) The statutory duty to deliver Best Value, namely the duty to ensure the continuous improvement of services. Specifically to note the duty to strike an appropriate balance between quality and cost while having due regard for efficiency, effectiveness, economy, equality, human rights and sustainability including social and economic sustainability as well as environmental protection, including concerns regarding co-mingling.
  - (ii) The statutory duty to have due regard for Scottish Government guidance and protocols including Best Value Guidance, Section 52 Guidance, the National Standards on Community Engagement and the “Public Private Partnerships in Scotland – protocol and guidance concerning employment issues”.
  - (iii) The now acknowledged, significant workforce reduction under this element of the ABM programme with public sector jobs being lost to the City of Edinburgh and the resulting adverse economic consequences for the city.
  - (iv) The risk to local services, and local accountability, being too great and the estimated level of savings being unlikely to outweigh the dis-benefits of this element of the ABM programme.
  - (v) The information that was made available in the “data room” coupled with detailed analysis of some of the said information.

... all lead the Council to agree that the procurement process be terminated without award of a contract.

- 3) To further note that an internal improvement plan had been developed which had the potential to deliver significant improvements and savings to in-house service delivery and:
  - (i) To apply the terms of the Environmental Services internal improvement plan and instruct the Chief Executive Officer to take appropriate steps to secure its implementation.
  - (ii) To agree that regular reports on the progress of the internal improvement plan be made to the Finance and Resources Committee and/or Council and that Committee should bring any matters of concern regarding its progress to the attention of the Council in order that it could determine any course of action it deemed necessary.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

- 4) Therefore to reject recommendations 23 a) to e) in the report by the Chief Executive and to proceed as stated above.

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

### **Voting**

In terms of Standing Order 31(1), the vote was taken by calling the roll.

For the motion:

Lord Provost Grubb; Councillors Elaine Aitken, Aldridge, Balfour, Buchan, Coleman, Dawe, Dundas, Edie, Hawkins, Jackson, Lang, Lowrie, Gordon Mackenzie, MacLaren, McInnes, McKay, Mowat, Paisley, Rose, Rust, Snowden, Thomas, Wheeler and Whyte – 25 votes.

For the amendment:

Councillors Ewan Aitken, Barry, Blacklock, Bridgman, Brock, Buchanan, Burgess, Burns, Cairns, Cardownie, Chapman, Child, Cook, Day, Godzik, Hart, Henderson, Hinds, Johnstone, Keir, McIvor, Milligan, Morris, Munn, Munro, Peacock, Perry, Rankin, Tymkewycz, Wilson and Work – 31 votes.

### **Decision**

To approve the amendment by Councillor Burns.

(References – Act of Council No 17 of 27 October 2011; report no CEC/69/11-12/CE by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Aldridge declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of UNISON.

Councillor Hinds declared a non-financial interest in the item as a member of Unite the Union.

Councillor Elliott-Cannon declared a non-financial interest in the item as a member of UNISON and as two family members worked for one of the bidders and left the Chamber during its consideration and during the deputations on the matter (see item 1(a) above).

### **3 Support for 'Occupy Edinburgh' – Motion by Councillor Chapman**

The following motion by Councillor Chapman was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

Notes that the encampment of citizens in St Andrew Square, 'Occupy Edinburgh', represents one part of a growing, global movement for real democracy, authentic global equality and justice, and a sustainable economic and ecological future;

Notes that this occupation, together with the more than thousands of others worldwide, is not simply a protest, but an effort to bring to life the inclusive, equitable and sustainable systems desired;

Notes that this movement, and its participants in Edinburgh, have significant support in the wider population;

Believes that it is unacceptable that bailouts for the rich minority who caused the current economic crisis are being paid for with the loss of priceless public services, and this must never be allowed to happen again;

Believes that an economy built on perpetual consumption needlessly depletes our planet's resources, and causes irreversible environmental damage, and must end now;

Believes that these demands are not only fair, but are in fact the only reasonable response in the face of the crisis faced by our current economic system, our communities and our planet;

Believes that, by setting an example, Edinburgh can help our national governments, and the wider world, finally to accept the real and fundamental changes that are so desperately needed to salvage a sustainable future;

Thus supports the values of Occupy Edinburgh;

Supports the participants of the St Andrew Square occupation in demanding that these values be recognised and acted upon by all governmental bodies in the UK, and worldwide;

Commits to return our democracy to the people, and to work together immediately to create a new, sustainable and equitable Scotland.”



The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

The Council had heard a deputation on the matter from Occupy Edinburgh (see item 1(b) above).

### **Motion**

Councillor Chapman accepted the terms of the following amendment, submitted by Councillor Dawe on behalf of the Administration, as a replacement for her motion:

- 1) While having sympathy with many of the sentiments expressed by those involved in the 'Occupy' protest and agreeing that there was a continuing need to reduce the inequitable gap between rich and poor and that further reforms were needed to UK and international banking and financial systems, to note that income tax reforms in favour of the poorest in society and the implementation of the Vickers' Independent Commission on Banking reforms would help to ameliorate the situation.
- 2) To also welcome the recommendations of the final report of the High Pay Commission inquiry 'Cheques With Balances: why tackling high pay is in the national interest' published earlier this week.
- 3) To agree that protest politics were a legitimate form of political activity but to also agree that representative electoral politics was a more effective form of democracy.
- 4) To recognise the aims of 'Occupy' movements throughout the world and to understand that they were an attempt to redirect economic decisions to be more orientated towards the poor and disenfranchised which was a sentiment Council endorsed.

- moved by Councillor Chapman (on behalf of the Green Group), seconded by Councillor Cardownie (on behalf of the Administration).

### **Amendment**

To take no action on the matter.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Rose (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

|                   |   |          |
|-------------------|---|----------|
| For the motion    | - | 47 votes |
| For the amendment | - | 10 votes |

**Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Chapman as amended by the Administration amendment in the name of Councillor Dawe.

**4 Boroughmuir High School: Purchase of Fountainbridge Site and Options for Future Development**

Approval was sought for:

- the purchase of a 4.7 hectare site at Fountainbridge from Lloyds Banking Group for the potential future location of Boroughmuir High School and other uses;
- authority to conduct a statutory consultation on the proposed future relocation of the school, commencing in January 2012; and
- authority to agree the extent to which any surplus sites would be subject to future development and/or disposal through EDI.

The Council had heard a deputation on the matter from Boroughmuir High School Parent Council (see item 1(c) above).

**Motion**

- 1) To purchase the Fountainbridge site from Lloyds Banking Group, to allow unconditional missives to be concluded by the end of the calendar year.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a statutory consultation paper for:
  - (i) the relocation of Boroughmuir to a new building on the Fountainbridge site and associated catchment change; or
  - (ii) the refurbishment and extension of Boroughmuir on its existing site with associated temporary decant to either the former Oaklands Special School in Broomhouse or the former Burdiehouse Primary School;with the preference being expressed as new build on the Fountainbridge site.
- 3) To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to explore the exact site boundary prior to the start of the consultation period to maximise the site's potential for the school.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

- 4) To delegate authority to the Directors of City Development, Corporate Governance and Children and Families to consider and finalise the proposed involvement with EDI. This might involve the transfer of the residual land at the Fountainbridge site to EDI to proceed with its development planning and the further possibility of granting of an option in favour of EDI on the existing school buildings should Fountainbridge be chosen as the site for the school upon conclusion of the statutory consultation.

- moved by Councillor MacLaren, seconded by Councillor McIvor (on behalf of the Administration).

### **Amendment**

To approve the motion subject to the replacement of the last sentence of paragraph 2 “with the preference being expressed as new build on the Fountainbridge site” with the following:

“to acknowledge that no decision regarding the future location of Boroughmuir High School would be taken until the statutory consultation was complete.”

- moved by Councillor Johnstone, seconded by Councillor Burgess (on behalf of the Green Group).

### **Voting**

|                   |   |          |
|-------------------|---|----------|
| For the motion    | - | 54 votes |
| For the amendment | - | 3 votes  |

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor MacLaren.

(References – Act of Council No 3 of 10 February 2011; report no CEC/68/11-12/C&F by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Buchanan declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board member of EDI and CEC Holdings.

Councillors Blacklock, Hinds, Gordon Mackenzie, McKay and Rust declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Board members of EDI Group Ltd.

## 5 Questions

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

## 6 Minutes

### Decision

To approve the minute of meeting of the Council of 27 October 2011 as a correct record.

## 7 Leader's Report

The Leader presented her report to the Council. The following additional comments were made:

- Budget Consultation meetings with Neighbourhood Partnerships
- Removal of Christmas decorations near the war memorial for Remembrance Day.

The following questions/comments were raised:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Councillor MacLaren  | - Looked After Children – sponsored Christmas show   |
| Councillor Balfour   | - ABM decision<br>- future of the Administration coalition<br>- Council's financial position   |
| Councillor Whyte     | - Statutory requirement to achieve best value – ABM decision and financial position of STOs<br>- Tram project governance – scrutiny arrangements/role of Audit Committee |
| Councillor Mowat     | - Funding for Christmas celebrations in Princes Street   |
| Councillor Chapman   | - Public sector day of industrial action   |
| Councillor Tymkewycz | - Budget consultations – promotion of Labour manifesto commitments   |

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Councillor Morris | - Circulation of political material to Community Councils        |
| Councillor Barry  | - New Boroughmuir High School – physical education facilities    |
| Councillor Buchan | - Community Councils – ensuring survival/attracting young people |

(Reference – report no CEC/67/11-12/L by the Leader, submitted.)

## 8 ICT – Service Redesign

The Finance and Resources Committee had recommended the release of funding from the BT Efficiency Fund for implementation of the redesign of the ICT infrastructure.

### Decision

To release £2.66m from the BT Efficiency Fund to the programme of Redesign of ICT Services.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 1 November 2011 (item 2); report no CEC/64/11-12/FARC by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

## 9 Revenue Monitoring 2011/12 – Half Year Position

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a recommendation in relation to the use of the Council Priorities Fund arising from consideration of the 2011/12 revenue monitoring half year position.

### Decision

To use the Council Priorities Fund for the additional support to business identified in the Edinburgh Tram report to the Council meeting on 2 September 2011.

(References – Act of Council No 1 of 2 September 2011; Finance and Resources Committee 1 November 2011 (item 6); report no CEC/65/11-12/FARC by the Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services, submitted.)

## **10 Directorate of Corporate Governance – Recruitment to the Post of Head of Policy and Public Affairs**

The recruitment process for the post of Head of Policy and Public Affairs in the Directorate of Corporate Governance was detailed.

### **Decision**

To note the recruitment arrangements for the post of Head of Policy and Public Affairs within the Directorate of Corporate Governance.

(References – Act of Council No 8 of 27 October 2011; report no CEC/66/11-12/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

## **11 Carrick Knowe Church – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregation – Motion by Councillor Edie**

The following motion by Councillor Edie was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes that Carrick Knowe Church is marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their congregation.

Council asks the Lord Provost to write to the Church and convey the Council’s congratulations.”

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Edie.

## **12 Scottish Friends of Bhopal – Motion by Councillor Johnstone**

The following motion by Councillor Johnstone was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“The Council:

Welcomes the establishment of Scottish Friends of Bhopal in the city and commends its efforts in raising awareness and funding for the charity, Bhopal Medical Appeal;

Understands that Scottish Friends of Bhopal will also raise awareness of other victims of environmental and workplace contamination that exist around the world;

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

Recognises that the Union Carbide Gas Disaster in Bhopal, India was 27 years ago and that this anniversary will be marked by a memorial service at Greyfriars Kirk on the 3rd of December at 3pm;

Acknowledges the courageous struggle for justice and dignity by Bhopalis and congratulates them for their valiant efforts to gain the right to healthcare and compensation for their physical and psychological injuries caused both by the gas leak disaster and by the contamination of ground water in the area;

Notes that the ongoing fight for environmental and social justice in Bhopal continues to this day, that the area has never been fully cleaned up, and that there is still a campaign for Dow Chemical, who have owned Union Carbide since 2001, to take adequate responsibility for the disaster.”

**Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Johnstone.

**13 Transient Visitor Levy (Tourist Bed Tax) – Motion by Councillor Burgess**

The following motion by Councillor Burgess was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“This Council:

Notes that the proposal for a levy on visitor accommodation was discussed by the Council as long ago as 1997;

Notes that the idea has resurfaced periodically since then, including as the subject of a report by the Edinburgh Tourism Action Group and in the Council’s Economic Development Framework Review in 2007;

Notes support for the concept from the Leader and Deputy Leader reported in the media this autumn but that no report has been made to Council on the proposal;

Recognises the ongoing severe reductions in funding to the Council but that the ongoing Council Tax freeze has limited the Council’s ability to raise revenue;

Recognises the potential of a relatively small levy of around £1-2 per night to generate at least £5-10million per annum and that this scale of levy is unlikely to discourage visitors or affect the hotel trade;

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

Understands that such an approach is taken in the US, other parts of Europe and in major city tourism destinations such as Vancouver, New York and Venice;

Agrees in principle that Edinburgh should now go ahead with the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy; and

Therefore formally agrees for a full report on the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy to be made to the Policy & Strategy Committee early in the New Year 2012 at the latest.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Policy and Strategy Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

#### **14 Electricity Sub-Stations – Motion by Councillor Hart**

The following motion by Councillor Hart was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes the poor condition of several electricity sub-stations in South Edinburgh and instructs the Director of Corporate Governance to write to Scottish Power requesting action to address this problem in South Edinburgh as well as across the city.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

#### **15 ‘Open All Hours’ – Motion by Councillor Day**

The following motion by Councillor Day was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council commends the excellent work and efforts of 'Open All Hours', a partnership between Community Learning and Development and Edinburgh Leisure, as they celebrate 10 years of successful intervention enabling young people to take part in activities promoting active lifestyles.

Council requests that the Lord Provost mark the occasion in a suitable way.”

#### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.



## 16 Zero Tolerance – Motion by Councillor Ewan Aitken

The following motion by Councillor Ewan Aitken was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes:

- Previous agreements by the Council to support the aims and objectives of the Zero Tolerance movement to eradicate violence against women;
- The call by Zero Tolerance for employers to sign up as Zero Tolerance employers as part of the move to change the culture which still encourages violence against women.

Council believes that, as a major employer in the city, it has a significant obligation to show by example the actions and commitments of being a good employer.

Council therefore agrees to receive a report on the steps Council would have to take to enable it to sign up as a Zero Tolerance employer.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion.

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

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note that:
  - (a) Edinburgh District Council’s Women’s Committee launched the UK’s first Zero Tolerance campaign in Edinburgh in November 1992 and the Council continued to support its aims;
  - (b) a wide-ranging ‘Policy on Domestic Abuse’ was adopted by this Council as a local collective agreement in February 2010 to provide information, support and guidance to employees as victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse;
  - (c) the Council showed by example and actions its commitment to continue to be a zero tolerance employer;

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

- (d) John Swinney, Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth, would launch Zero Tolerance Trust's PACT (Policy, Action, Communication, Training) scheme on 8 December 2011 and that this Council would ensure its policy and practice met the scheme's requirements; and
  - (e) The Edinburgh Violence Against Women Partnership (EVAWP), a multi agency group including this Council, was playing a prominent part in supporting the International 16 Days of Action for Violence against Women, which commenced on 25 November 2011, and had produced an action plan to take forward priority areas of work.
- 2) Thus, to agree that there was no need to receive a report on steps that needed to be taken to be a zero tolerance employer.

- moved by Councillor Dawe, seconded by Councillor Wheeler (on behalf of the Administration).

### **Voting**

For the motion - 18 votes  
For the amendment - 39 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the amendment by Councillor Dawe.

## **17 Blue Badge Parking Permits – Motion by Councillor Child**

The following motion by Councillor Child was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

- recognises that the possession of a 'Blue Badge' parking permit can greatly improve the quality of life for many citizens with mobility problems in Edinburgh;
- calls for a report on the performance of the department in issuing Blue Badges over the last year, the reasons for any delays experienced, and the actions taken to ensure these permits can be issued, fairly and efficiently, within a reasonable timescale.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

## 18 Liberton Drive and Alnwickhill Road – Drainage Problems – Motion by Councillor Hart

The following motion by Councillor Hart was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council notes the continuing problem with drainage, particularly during periods of heavy rain, on Liberton Drive and Alnwickhill Road resulting from Scottish Water building works on the west side of Alnwickhill Road.

Council calls for urgent action to remedy this potentially dangerous flooding and instructs the Director of Services for Communities to negotiate a solution with Scottish Water.”

The Lord Provost remitted the motion to the Liberton/Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership in terms of Standing Order 28(3), subject to competency.

## 19 Companies and Organisations wholly owned by the City of Edinburgh Council – Motion by Councillor Chapman

The following motion by Councillor Chapman was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“Council:

Notes that ***tie ltd*** has been wound down following the serious problems encountered with its failure to deliver the Edinburgh Tram project;

Further notes that there are other companies and organisations wholly owned by the Council that manage Council projects and services;

Believes that, in the light of the democratic and managerial failures of ***tie ltd***, it is essential that the Council reviews the value and use of such structures;

Calls for a report, within two cycles, that evaluates the current and future use of such companies and organisations to deliver and manage Council services and projects and outlines possible alternative approaches.”

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**Decision**

- 1) To note there was an outstanding remit to report on the governance of Council owned arms length companies and that this would be the subject of a report to Policy and Strategy Committee in January 2012.
- 2) To agree that the report should take into account all relevant experience including governance of the Tram project.

**Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board member of EDI Group Ltd and CEC Holdings.

**Appendix**  
**(As referred to in Act of Council No 5 of 24 November 2011)****QUESTION NO 1****By Councillor Whyte answered by  
the Convener of the Economic  
Development Committee**

**Question**           **(1)** At what stage did the Convener first become aware of the joint appraisal of stadium development options between the Council and Heart of Midlothian FC?

**Answer**           **(1)** I was made aware of the study on 3 February 2011.

**Question**           **(2)** Was there any discussion or correspondence with any other member of the Administration?

**Answer**           **(2)** Information about the study was reported to the Economic Development Committee on 31 May 2011.

**Question**           **(3)** Did the Convener give consideration to whether this would be a politically sensitive matter within the terms of s 1.5 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers?

**Answer**           **(3)** The Director of City Development, in line with his delegated authority, agreed that the Council should contribute to the options study for the regeneration of the Tynecastle area (which includes many Council assets). I saw no reason to demur from this approach as the advice would inform elected members in reaching any subsequent decisions.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**Supplementary  
Question**

I would draw the Convener's attention to two things. The report he talks of from 31 May 2011 to the Economic Development Committee talks of consultants commissioned by Hearts carrying out an assessment not anything about Council funding and the Section 1 General Terms of Standing Orders relating to delegation at 1.5 talks about politically controversial items and says "The relevant officer in consultation with the appropriate executive member (or, if absent, the Leader)..." and so on will decide whether an issue is politically controversial. I have some sympathy for the Director in this regard because issues around football in Edinburgh maybe are not his first knowledge – I understand he's a St Johnstone fan – but Councillor Buchanan is an Edinburgh person and I am quite astonished, well of course he has moved away but he was an Edinburgh person, and I would have thought he would have realised the political sensitivity about the Council spending money on a fund towards a study for one of our particular football clubs. Did he not realise this? Should he not have decided this was a politically sensitive matter and have it reported to Committee and would he in hindsight not agree that it would have been better to state in any report to Committee or otherwise that the matter was being funded at least in part by the Council?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I was quite happy that the matter was delegated to the Director of City Development to take into account the assets that the Council has in the area surrounding Tynecastle and around some of the issues relating to health and safety as relates to the North British Distillery site requirements. Yes, I am from Stranraer actually which is quite distant but I did come to Edinburgh to study and ended up supporting Hearts, so I do understand the sensitivities around football clubs, but we are investing £15,000 out of a £1bn budget. Hearts have invested £15,000 as well and the report will be coming back to Council for further discussion so I think we have covered ourselves as we need to and I am satisfied by that.

**QUESTION NO 2****By Councillor Day answered by the  
Convener of the Health, Social Care  
and Housing Committee**

**Question** (1) How many Council properties remain empty and unallocated in the Royal Mile (part of the Canongate proposals)?

**Answer** (1) 9 properties remain empty and unallocated at 16/11/11.

**Question** (2) For how long have these properties remained unallocated?

**Answer** (2) The range of dates that properties have been empty from is between 06/11/06 and 15/12/08.

**Question** (3) What is the total amount of potential rent lost?

**Answer** (3) The total amount of potential rent lost is £110,176.02.

**QUESTION NO 3**

**By Councillor Day answered by the  
Convener of the Health, Social Care  
and Housing**

- Question** (1) What meetings or discussions, if any, have been held with the Scottish Government regarding the Transfer of Management of Development Funding (TMDF) budget?
- Answer** (1) The following discussions have taken place with the Scottish Government regarding the Transfer of Management Development Funding (TMDF) budget:
- 9 November 2011 – meeting between Scottish Ministers, Council leaders from Glasgow and Edinburgh, and COSLA representatives;  
15 November 2011 – meeting between officers from the Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council, Glasgow City Council and COSLA;  
17 November 2011 – meeting between Scottish Ministers and representatives of the COSLA Leadership Board (including Councillor Dawe); and  
18 November 2011 – an update provided to the COSLA Leaders Meeting (at which Councillor Dawe again participated).
- Question** (2) What levels of TMDF funding will Edinburgh receive from 2012 to 2015?
- Answer** (2) CEC officers and the Council Leader, working with their Glasgow counterparts and COSLA, have secured £24.1m for Edinburgh in TMDF funding for affordable housing development by housing associations in 2012/13.

This is a one year settlement with further discussions to take place with Scottish Government regarding funding for the remaining two years of the spending review.



The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**Supplementary  
Question**

Is the Convener aware that Glasgow has confirmed a three-year settlement of approximately £38m a year, substantially more than Edinburgh yet again? I wonder if the Convener could tell us what, if any, discussions or commitments have been made to any three-year deal for Edinburgh and, finally, does the Convener agree with me that yet again the Scottish Government has favoured Glasgow over Edinburgh and allowed more development in Glasgow which may well affect the affordability of the houses that we build in Edinburgh?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

My understanding is that that is not the case with Glasgow but I will need to go and investigate that information further. The answer I have got down there, and the Council Leader has indeed been involved in these discussions, is the answer I have been supplied with and as far as I am aware is the best information available. It is a one year deal that has been struck and actually the improvements that the Council Leader has managed to negotiate as part of this have substantially improved on what was originally touted.

**QUESTION NO 4**

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

**Question**

Councillor Dawe wrote to the Scottish Government requesting an inquiry into the Edinburgh Tram Project. Has she had a response? If so, would she circulate the response to elected members? If not, would she pursue an answer?

**Answer**

The First Minister replied on 18 October 2011 confirming that the Scottish Government will be delighted to have a public inquiry into the Edinburgh Tram Project and welcoming the commitment that I gave that the Council would fully cooperate and assist the inquiry in its deliberations.

A copy of the First Minister's response is attached to this answer.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I thank the Leader the copy of the letter that was sent by the First Minister on 18 October 2011. In the letter she will note that it says that the current situation demands that initial immediate focus should be on delivering this project. Has she been given any indication from the First Minister or the Scottish Government when this inquiry will be held and secondly when does she think, as the Leader of this Council, an inquiry should be held?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

No, I have not received any intimation from the First Minister and it is entirely up to the First Minister as to when he calls the inquiry.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

## Appendix

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Councillor Jenny Dawe  
City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers  
High Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 1YJ

Our ref: 2011/1018658  
/ks October 2011

Dear Jenny

**EDINBURGH TRAM PROJECT – PUBLIC INQUIRY**

Thank you for your letter of 27 September, confirming your Administration's support for a public inquiry into the tram project.

I have been clear that the Scottish Government will be delighted to have a public inquiry into the problems surrounding this project, and will do so when the full circumstances can be examined. The current situation demands that the immediate focus should be on delivering the project.

I welcome your support for an inquiry and your commitment to fully cooperate and assist in its deliberations when it is called.

**ALEX SALMOND**

**QUESTION NO 5**

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

**Question**

There have been conflicting statements from officials, in the press, about whether documents relating to the Edinburgh Trams Project have been retained and are available in response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Can she inform the Council what information has been kept by the Council and **tie** Ltd? Will this information now be available under an FOI request?

**Answer**Document Retention

The Council holds tens of thousands of e-mails relating to the trams project together with a significant quantity of hard copy data. In addition the Council has recently taken control of all records that were retained by **tie** and TEL.

The Council is collating and examining this information to fully assist with any future public inquiry. Given the volume of data involved, this process will take a number of months to complete.

All necessary steps are being taken to ensure that this information is protected and secured.

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information requests are considered on an individual basis and answered in accordance with the relevant legislation.

In relation to the specific FOI request, I understand that the information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, I am advised that some information was released.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**Supplementary  
Question**

I thank the Leader for the answer regarding the information sent out. There are two parts to this question. You are saying that you have been advised that some information was released. As I understand it, one letter has been released by the Council under Freedom of Information. I was just wondering if you were aware of that? Can I also ask what your view is on Transport Scotland sending out 16 or 17 pages of information with the majority of it being blanked out? Do you have a view on that?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I don't know precisely what was released under Freedom of Information. If you say it was one letter then I have to accept your word for that. I do not know what was released. And, as regards Transport Scotland, it is a matter entirely up to them as to what they release and what they redact from letters and statements when they release them.

**QUESTION NO 6**

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

**Question**

All political parties in Edinburgh are in support of an Edinburgh Trams Project Inquiry. What action is the Leader taking to ensure all relevant information will be retained and available for the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry?

**Answer**

I have made it known to the Chief Executive that I expect all steps to be taken to conserve all material related to the Tram project to assist the Inquiry when it is called. I was not surprised that the Chief Executive shared my determination in this regard.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Well this question is definitely to do with the City of Edinburgh Council, Councillor Dawe. You have said that the Chief Executive is expecting to conserve all the material relating to the Tram project and **tie** and that all that is coming together. I am assuming that that is being prepared. I just wonder if you could give a timescale of when that information will be prepared and I wonder if you could give an indication if you would be willing, like with other information, to have a Data Room where Councillors could actually go and look at all that material and get a background to the material as we have done with previous information.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**Supplementary  
Answer**

I think that is kind of a strange request. You would not normally expect material that was going to potentially be used in a public inquiry to be available in that way but obviously nearer the time I will take advice from our legal people as to whether that is a correct and proper thing to do or not. As regards when all the information will be gathered, I do understand that there are quite a few people working on that. There is a vast amount of information as you can imagine and obviously, with the closure of the **tie** offices, there is obviously a great deal of information kept there so, at this moment in time, I have no indication of how long it will take to collate all that material. Presumably it will need to be indexed if it is to be of any real use to a public inquiry, so I think it is an ongoing piece of work and I am not in a position to say how long that will take.

**QUESTION NO 7**

**By Councillor Hart answered by the  
Convener of the Economic  
Development Committee**

**Question**

A revenue monitoring report considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 1 November contains a reference to a budget overspend in respect of support for the Clipper Race. Could you please provide details of the overspend and the reasons for it?

**Answer**

*Edinburgh Inspiring Capital's* participation in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race 2011/12 has been made possible through external sponsorship worth £1million. This offer, and the significant city promotion and inward investment opportunities that it afforded, emerged after the budget for Economic Development had been finalised for 2011/12. A specific report was therefore brought to the Economic Development Committee on 31 May 2011. Committee agreed that £55,000 be earmarked as the Council's contribution to maximizing the benefit of the £1 million sponsorship received. As this figure was not budgeted for at the start of the financial year it is recorded as an overspend.



The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**QUESTION NO 8**

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

**Question**

To ask what the current school roll, capacity and percentage above or below capacity is for each i) primary and ii) secondary school.

**Answer**

| School                          | Notional Capacity <sup>1</sup> | Roll (Sept 2011 Census) | % Above or below capacity |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>PRIMARY</b>                  |                                |                         |                           |
| Abbeyhill Primary School        | 219                            | 158                     | -28%                      |
| Balgreen Primary School         | 379                            | 348                     | -8%                       |
| Blackhall Primary School        | 415                            | 400                     | -4%                       |
| Bonaly Primary School           | 415                            | 390                     | -6%                       |
| Broomhouse Primary School       | 279                            | 148                     | -47%                      |
| Broughton Primary School        | 379                            | 324                     | -15%                      |
| Brunstane Primary School        | 379                            | 172                     | -55%                      |
| Bruntsfield Primary School      | 523                            | 450                     | -14%                      |
| Buckstone Primary School        | 415                            | 384                     | -7%                       |
| Canal View Primary School       | 415                            | 231                     | -44%                      |
| Carrick Knowe Primary School    | 523                            | 374                     | -28%                      |
| Castleview Primary School       | 415                            | 187                     | -55%                      |
| Clemiston Primary School        | 379                            | 290                     | -23%                      |
| Clovenstone Primary School      | 279                            | 183                     | -34%                      |
| Colinton Primary School         | 324                            | 128                     | -60%                      |
| Corstorphine Primary School     | 469                            | 470                     | 0%                        |
| Craigentenny Primary School     | 324                            | 152                     | -53%                      |
| Craiglockhart Primary School    | 456                            | 342                     | -25%                      |
| Craigour Park Primary School    | 415                            | 329                     | -21%                      |
| Craigroyston Primary School     | 415                            | 185                     | -55%                      |
| Cramond Primary School          | 415                            | 391                     | -6%                       |
| Currie Primary School           | 415                            | 334                     | -20%                      |
| Dalmeny Primary School          | 125                            | 103                     | -18%                      |
| Dalry Primary School            | 306                            | 255                     | -17%                      |
| Davidson's Mains Primary School | 523                            | 453                     | -13%                      |
| Dean Park Primary School        | 496                            | 456                     | -8%                       |
| Duddingston Primary School      | 415                            | 381                     | -8%                       |
| East Craigs Primary School      | 415                            | 389                     | -6%                       |
| Echline Primary School          | 379                            | 239                     | -37%                      |
| Ferryhill Primary School        | 324                            | 297                     | -8%                       |

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

| School  | Notional Capacity <sup>1</sup> | Roll (Sept 2011 Census) | % Above or below capacity |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Flora Stevenson Primary School                  | 469                            | 447                     | -5%                       |
| Forthview Primary School                        | 415                            | 342                     | -18%                      |
| Fox Covert ND Primary School                    | 199                            | 196                     | -2%                       |
| Fox Covert Roman Catholic Primary School        | 219                            | 162                     | -26%                      |
| Gilmerton Primary School                        | 469                            | 346                     | -26%                      |
| Gracemount Primary School                       | 550                            | 405                     | -26%                      |
| Granton Primary School                          | 379                            | 316                     | -17%                      |
| Gylemuir Primary School                         | 456                            | 397                     | -13%                      |
| Hermitage Park Primary School                   | 415                            | 351                     | -15%                      |
| Hillwood Primary School                         | 96                             | 61                      | -36%                      |
| Holy Cross Roman Catholic Primary School        | 415                            | 251                     | -40%                      |
| James Gillespie's Primary School                | 415                            | 406                     | -2%                       |
| Juniper Green Primary School                    | 415                            | 379                     | -9%                       |
| Kirkliston Primary School                       | 415                            | 314                     | -24%                      |
| Leith Primary School                            | 415                            | 240                     | -42%                      |
| Leith Walk Primary School                       | 415                            | 179                     | -57%                      |
| Liberton Primary School                         | 415                            | 390                     | -6%                       |
| Longstone Primary School                        | 324                            | 222                     | -31%                      |
| Lorne Primary School                            | 279                            | 246                     | -12%                      |
| Murrayburn Primary School                       | 379                            | 377                     | -1%                       |
| Nether Currie Primary School                    | 219                            | 159                     | -27%                      |
| Newcraighall Primary School                     | 145                            | 113                     | -22%                      |
| Niddrie Mill Primary School                     | 415                            | 273                     | -34%                      |
| Oxgangs Primary School                          | 415                            | 344                     | -17%                      |
| Parson's Green Primary School                   | 415                            | 262                     | -37%                      |
| Pentland Primary School                         | 415                            | 368                     | -11%                      |
| Pirniahall Primary School                       | 324                            | 220                     | -32%                      |
| Preston Street Primary School                   | 279                            | 257                     | -8%                       |
| Prestonfield Primary School                     | 279                            | 165                     | -41%                      |
| Queensferry Primary School                      | 415                            | 348                     | -16%                      |
| Ratho Primary School                            | 199                            | 109                     | -45%                      |
| Roseburn Primary School                         | 249                            | 202                     | -19%                      |
| Royal Mile Primary School                       | 199                            | 107                     | -46%                      |
| Sciennes Primary School                         | 631                            | 642                     | 2%                        |
| Sighthill Primary School                        | 306                            | 162                     | -47%                      |
| South Morningside Primary School                | 631                            | 599                     | -5%                       |
| St Catherine's Roman Catholic Primary School    | 199                            | 207                     | 4%                        |
| St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School     | 199                            | 146                     | -27%                      |
| St David's Roman Catholic Primary School        | 219                            | 223                     | 2%                        |
| St Francis' Roman Catholic Primary School       | 279                            | 151                     | -46%                      |
| St John Vianney Roman Catholic Primary School   | 306                            | 256                     | -16%                      |
| St John's Roman Catholic Primary School         | 415                            | 392                     | -6%                       |
| St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School       | 306                            | 230                     | -25%                      |
| St Margaret's Roman Catholic Primary School     | 125                            | 91                      | -27%                      |
| St Mark's Roman Catholic Primary School         | 199                            | 158                     | -21%                      |
| St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (Edin.) | 415                            | 363                     | -13%                      |

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

| School  | Notional Capacity <sup>1</sup> | Roll (Sept 2011 Census) | % Above or below capacity |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (Leith) | 306                            | 281                     | -8%                       |
| St Ninian's Roman Catholic Primary school       | 379                            | 212                     | -44%                      |
| St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School        | 415                            | 405                     | -2%                       |
| Stenhouse Primary School                        | 324                            | 270                     | -17%                      |
| Stockbridge Primary School                      | 199                            | 195                     | -2%                       |
| The Royal High Primary School                   | 379                            | 351                     | -7%                       |
| Tollcross Primary School                        | 306                            | 304                     | -1%                       |
| Towerbank Primary School                        | 523                            | 512                     | -2%                       |
| Trinity Primary School                          | 456                            | 432                     | -5%                       |
| Victoria Primary School                         | 145                            | 144                     | -1%                       |
| Wardie Primary School                           | 456                            | 415                     | -9%                       |
| <b>SECONDARY</b>                                |                                |                         |                           |
| Balemo Community High School                    | 850                            | 784                     | -8%                       |
| Boroughmuir High School                         | 1050                           | 1139                    | 8%                        |
| Broughton High School                           | 1200                           | 908                     | -24%                      |
| Castlebrae Community High School                | 600                            | 251                     | -58%                      |
| Craigmount High School                          | 1400                           | 1271                    | -9%                       |
| Craigroyston Community High School              | 600                            | 400                     | -43%                      |
| Currie Community High School                    | 900                            | 812                     | -10%                      |
| Drummond Community High School                  | 600                            | 458                     | -24%                      |
| Firrhill High School                            | 1150                           | 1111                    | -3%                       |
| Forrester High School                           | 900                            | 628                     | -30%                      |
| Gracemount High School                          | 650                            | 633                     | -3%                       |
| Holy Rood Roman Catholic High School            | 1200                           | 986                     | -18%                      |
| James Gillespie's High School                   | 1050                           | 1129                    | 8%                        |
| Leith Academy                                   | 950                            | 901                     | -5%                       |
| Liberton High School                            | 850                            | 650                     | -24%                      |
| Portobello High School                          | 1400                           | 1342                    | -4%                       |
| Queensferry Community High School               | 1000                           | 789                     | -21%                      |
| St Augustine's Roman Catholic High School       | 900                            | 729                     | -19%                      |
| St Thomas of Aquin's Roman Catholic High School | 750                            | 763                     | 2%                        |
| The Royal High School                           | 1200                           | 1250                    | 4%                        |
| Trinity Academy                                 | 950                            | 882                     | -7%                       |
| Tynecastle High School                          | 900                            | 560                     | -38%                      |
| Wester Hailes Education Centre                  | 750                            | 345                     | -54%                      |

<sup>1</sup> Note: Notional Capacities currently subject to review.

<sup>2</sup> Note: The occupancy of a school may exceed 100% as the notional capacity is not the maximum capacity of a school but is a general operating capacity. The notional capacity methodology assumes that classes are unlikely to be operating to full capacity (25 pupils in P1, 30 pupils in P2-P3 and 33 pupils in P4 – P7). However in a number of schools the classes are operating close to their individual size limits and thus are officially recorded as being over 100% of the notional capacity. With regard to secondary schools, the current notional capacity assumes classrooms are in use 80% of the time. Accordingly, more efficient timetabling of spaces allows them to operate at above 100% occupancy.

**QUESTION NO 9**

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

**Question**

To ask what action will be taken to increase the school roll at Tollcross Primary following the opening of the new Gaelic school at Bonnington.

**Answer**

The Council remains committed to the continued viability of Tollcross Primary School once it reverts to being a sole English language school. It is worth noting that out-of-catchment requests to the English language section of Tollcross Primary School were refused this year because of capacity issues.

Council agreed on 27 October 2011 to undertake adaptations at Tollcross nursery to increase the capacity to 40:40 and this should assist in increasing numbers.

It is also anticipated that fewer places will be available in neighbouring schools as their catchment rolls increase thereby producing an increase in pupils looking for alternative provision in the surrounding area. Media messages have gone out across the city to encourage parents to choose catchment schools.

Specific schools, including Tollcross, are being highlighted to showcase good practice, in FACe and other media publications. The Department will continue to work closely with Tollcross Primary School to ensure that it continues to flourish once the Gaelic Medium Stream relocates to a dedicated school at Bonnington.

**QUESTION NO 10**

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

**Question**

To ask, in light of the proposed development at the Craighouse Campus, what discussions have taken place regarding overcapacity at South Morningside Primary School.

**Answer**

The Craighouse campus redevelopment would bring additional pressures to the roll at South Morningside Primary School, in addition to the already very high catchment numbers the school is experiencing. Accordingly, ways of increasing the school capacity in this area of the city are currently being explored. This may also address the issue of South Morningside's reliance on annexe and temporary unit accommodation which currently supplements the main building accommodation.

This exploration is at an early stage and will be subject to a Council report in due course.

**Supplementary  
Question**

Can I ask the Convener if she will undertake to keep ward members updated with regards to the progress on this matter? Can I also ask her if she accepts the figure which was outlined in Question 4.8 stating that South Morningside is currently 5% under its full capacity?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Yes, I will endeavour to keep education spokespersons involved as far as I can as far as discussions go and yes I accept the figures which you see in front of you.

**QUESTION NO 11**

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

**Question**

Of the temporary teaching staff who were appointed to fill posts vacated by staff who took VERA, how many have since left to take up permanent posts?

**Answer**

Of the 56 fte staff appointed to fill vacancies arising from VERA, the Department is aware of 2 teachers who were appointed to temporary posts and have since gained permanent posts elsewhere. Permanent vacancies have now been released and advertised in our Secondary Schools. As of 16 November, 40 permanent teacher posts have been advertised.

The City of Edinburgh Council  
24 November 2011

**QUESTION NO 12**

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

**Question**

On what dates have meetings been held of the Guidance/  
Pupil Support Review working group?

**Answer**

The Working Group first met on Tuesday 22 November. A  
further meeting will take place on 6 December and one other  
before the Christmas break.

**QUESTION NO 13**

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

**Question**

Additional staff and security measures were put in place for the Council meeting of 27 October. Could you please explain why additional staff/security measures were required and how much additional cost was incurred as a result?

**Answer**

Security was increased for the day in response to intelligence from Lothian and Borders Police regarding protester activity in the city. As a result of these measures, various potential projectiles were confiscated as well as two Stanley knives and a hypodermic needle.

The additional cost for the 9 hour shift required was £1,405.

**Supplementary  
Question**

I welcome the revelation that Administration arrangements are informed by intelligence. Given today's experience and I think the lack of any obvious security threat, does the Convener share my hope that we can perhaps return to normal arrangements for next month's Council meeting?

**Supplementary  
Answer**

Indeed.