

QUESTION NO 8**By Councillor Ewan Aitken
answered by the Convener of the
Education, Children and Families
Committee**

Question (1) What proposals have been discussed to increase your cuts to youth work sessional hours in the city?

Question (2) Who have you consulted about these cuts?

Question (3) What impact assessments have you carried out on the possible effects of your proposed cuts?

Answer Senior officers are currently preparing a range of options (including impact assessments) to reduce projected expenditure in Community Learning and Development to bring it into line with the approved budget for 2009-10. Sustained and proper examination will be given to any recommendations brought forward.

Supplementary Question Is the Convener admitting she is now taking a budget decision with no idea how to implement it?

Supplementary Answer No.

QUESTION NO 9

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

Question

On 17 October 2008 I received a letter from the Head of Corporate Property and Contingency Planning telling me that the damage caused by vandals at the Craigentenny Community Centre in September 2008 had been repaired. To date that is not the case. Can you explain why that claim of completion was made and why the work has not been completed as promised?

Answer

I can confirm that the statement in the letter of 17 October 2008 was correct and that all broken windows were repaired at the time.

QUESTION NO 10**By Councillor Ewan Aitken
answered by the Convener of the
Health, Social Care and Housing
Committee**

Question (1) On 6 November 2007 the Policy and Strategy Committee agreed that a short life reference group with representation from providers and service users would be created whilst the Council implemented the procurement process. Was this group ever set up, when did it meet and who represented service users?

Answer (1) The reference group was set up to take forward the recommendations of the report "The Review of Contract Management Arrangements for Social Care and Housing Support Services" and continues to meet as required. Those invited to attend were named in the report to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 6 November 2007.

Question (2) On 6 November 2007 the Policy and Strategy Committee agreed to provide further details on the range of indicators used in the assessment of the quality of service provided by third party organisations. Why have these details not been provided to any Council committee for scrutiny?

Answer (2) The Procurement Risk and Quality Assessment (PRQA) stated the indicators which are used in this process.

Joint indicators have been developed for the service specification for the current Care and Support tender for implementation when new contracts are place. These indicators will be advised to Finance and Resources Committee when the tender is recommended.

Question (3) On 6 November 2007 the Policy and Strategy Committee noted that a further report on self directed support and the implications for providers would be considered by the Council at a later date. Why has that not happened?

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

- Answer** (3) A working group is progressing this, with a report planned for Committee in the autumn.
- Question** (4) Did you arrange for every one of the 772 people with complex needs whose care package is now being tendered to be consulted as to whether or not they wanted the choice of who entered their home to be decided by market tender? If not, why not?
- Answer** (4) Given the scale of the tender it was not appropriate to conduct a separate discussion with every service user. Views of service users have been sought regarding their satisfaction with the service they receive. This was done through a service user satisfaction survey, a series of focus groups during 2008 and two meetings to progress the Equalities Impact Assessment in December 2008/January 2009.
- Question** (5) On 6 November 2007 the Policy and Strategy Committee agreed that a Procurement Risk and Quality Assessment would be made in the final year of a social care contract. Was such an assessment made individually for each of the 772 home care contracts now out to tender?
- Answer** (5) There are not 772 care and support contracts out to tender. The tender is for services currently provided by 52 organisations.
- Supplementary Question** Why did the Convener think it was too much trouble to ask the folk with complex needs whose support was going to be changed if they wanted themselves to be able to choose who gets into their home?

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

**Supplementary
Answer**

I think I have answered that adequately in the answers to the question. Can I remind Council that this isn't the first time that there has been tendering for services on this scale? Prior to the election, under Councillor Ewan Aitken's leadership, the Council Executive agreed to tender Domiciliary Care Services. We didn't have a Committee system at that time; that was agreed by the Council Executive and the Chair of that Council Executive was Councillor Ewan Aitken. There is a little element of hypocrisy in this. Actually your question drips with hypocrisy. You say one thing in opposition; you do a completely different thing when you are in power. Thank God you are not going to get your hands on that again.

QUESTION NO 11

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

- Question**
- (1) In the leaflet provided for participants at the "Who gets to choose?" conference held on 15 April 2009 in the City Chambers it states that one of the objectives of tendering services is to "improve the overall quality of the service":
- (a) What work was done to assess the quality of service provided at present, in particular in ways that included the views of those using the service?
 - (b) What benchmarks of quality were used?
 - (c) How was that information then used in assessing whether tendering was the best way of improving the quality?

- Answer**
- (1) In addition to ongoing monitoring of housing support services, a survey of care at home customers was carried out in 2008. Further consultation with customers was carried out in early 2009 to inform the equality impact assessment.

Findings of this consultation and ongoing monitoring informed the quality criteria and benchmarks set out in the tender documentation. Particular emphasis has been given to customer involvement, meeting key customer outcomes like progress towards independence, improved quality of life and avoidance of homelessness and inappropriate admission to hospital. Tenders are also required to demonstrate how they will ensure effective communication with customers, good performance and punctuality. There is also a strong emphasis on equalities.

Services will, for the first time, be benchmarked in an open and transparent manner against consistent evaluation criteria set out in the tender documentation.

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

- Question** (2) The leaflet provided for participants at the "Who gets to choose?" conference held on 15 April 2009 in the City Chambers states that Councils are "not obliged to tender social services".
- (a) Who decided that the City of Edinburgh Council would use tendering for care and support services?
 - (b) Who was present at that meeting?
 - (c) When those involved made that decision, did they have an equalities impact assessment before them?
 - (d) In what ways were you involved in that decision?

- Answer** (2) The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee meeting of 4 February 2008, the Council meeting of 21 February 2008 and the Council Management Team considered the implementation programme on 14 August 2008. You are aware of the members of these groups.

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) could only be undertaken subsequently once it was clear what impact required to be assessed. The EIA was then posted on the Council's website in February 2009.

Supplementary Question

That is a very interesting answer to the previous question.

For this question, well first of all you haven't answered the question I asked because I didn't ask about monitoring and implementation. I asked about who was there when they took the decision. When we took the decisions, we took the decisions. I asked which Committee decided that the Council should tender contracts such as the one advertised on 12 February. Can you answer that and can you answer whether or not you were actually present at the Committee?

Supplementary Answer

Can I draw your attention to Answer (2) and suggest that you see an optometrist and get better glasses so that you can see it properly?

QUESTION NO 12

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

Question

What discussions have been had with a) Lothian Buses, and b) the Scottish Government with regard to the introduction of hybrid buses to Edinburgh?

Answer

Lothian Buses consider hybrid drive technology unproven for buses and not commercially viable at this time. Experimental use of hybrid buses elsewhere will, however, be monitored. No discussions have been held with The Scottish Government in this connection.

QUESTION NO 13

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

Question

Please would you list all the maintenance for road, pavement refurbishment and renewal work that is scheduled for the next six months?

Answer

Maintenance work is of a responsive nature and it is therefore not possible to predict such work for the next 6 months. It is assumed that the question relates to planned investment in roads and footpaths under the Council's Capital Programme. Such work is subject to a report to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 5 May 2009 and is therefore already in the public domain. Subject to the decision of that Committee, and associated consultation, the programme currently being recommended is as detailed in the attached appendix.

Appendix

Scheme Name	Scheme Description
Carriageways	
Adelphi Place	Carriageway from Portobello High Street to end of street.
Barnton Park	Carriageway whole road
Barntongate Avenue	Carriageway from number 17 to 1
Barntongate Drive	Carriageway whole road
Barntongate Terrace	Carriageway from Barntongate Avenue to number 10
Bowmont Place	St Leonards Street to access to Carnegie Court
Braehead Road	Footway both sides from Braehead Grove to Whitehead Road
Braid Hills Approach	Carriageway Braid Hills Rd to No16
Braid Mount - including Braid Mount View, Braid Mount Crescent and Braid Mount Rise	Carriageway Whole Road
Broomhall Crescent	Carriageway from Broomhall Road to Broomhall Place
Broomhall Park - Whole Road	Carriageway - Whole road
Broomhall Terrace	Carriageway - Whole road
Broomhouse Grove	Carriageway - Whole road
Broomhouse Row	Carriageway - Whole road
Buckstone Circle including Buckstone Close and Buckstone Howe	Carriageway - Whole road on each street
Buckstone Gardens	Carriageway Whole Road
Buckstone Grove	Carriageway Whole Road
Buckstone Wood	Carriageway Whole Road
Buteland Road	Carriageway from Haughhead Road to Cockburnhill Road
Caiystane Terrace and Caiystane Drive	Carriageway - Whole road both streets
Cammo Grove	Carriageway from road end to Cammo Parkway
Camus Road East	Carriageway Whole Road
Camus Road West	Carriageway Whole Road
Carrington Road	Carriageway Whole road
Chancelot Grove	Carriageway from Ferry Road to number 4
Charterhall Grove	Carriageway From Nos 1&103 to end of cul-de-sac
Claremont Gardens (carriageway)	Carriageway - Whole
Clermiston Crescent	Carriageway from Clermiston View to number 111
Comely Bank Avenue	

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

Scheme Name	Scheme Description
Comiston Springs Avenue	Carriageway - Whole road both streets
Comiston View including Comiston Grove	Carriageway - Whole road
Corstorphine Hill Crescent	Carriageway - Whole Road
Corstorphine Hill Road	Carriageway - Whole road
Craighall Terrace	Carriageway - Whole Road
Crewe Terrace	Carriageway - Whole road
East Camus Place	Cockburnhill Road to Mansfield Road, selected lengths
East Rigg Farm Road	Carriageway - No 1 to No 15
Essex Road	Carriageway Woodhall Rd to Munro Dr
Fernielaw Avenue	Carriageway No45 north-east to rear of No 55
Fords Road	Carriageway - Pentland Place to No 26
Forth View Road	Carriageway - Curriehill Rd to Forth View Ave
Forth View Crescent	Carriageway - Whole road
Fox Spring Crescent	Carriageway - East side Marmion Cres to No 20 c-d-c both sides & west side No 38 to 94
Glenallan Drive - inc. Cul-de-sac and Glanallan Loan.	Carriageway - Gracemount Dr to Lasswade Rd
Gracemount Avenue	Carriageway - Whole Road except area at bridge
Haughead Road	Carriageway - Hutchison Rd to Slateford Rd
Hutchison Crossway	Carriageway - From 11 Ferryburn Green past School Lane to No 18 Bryce Road to No 59 Lanark Road West
Kirkliston Road	Carriageway from No 21/26 to Alnwickhill Rd
Lanark Road West (Bryce Rd - Provost Haugh)	Standingstone Road to Carriageway - Muirhouse Avenue North to Pennywell Road
Leadervale Road	Carriageway - Whole road
Main Street Dalmeny	Carriageway from North Gyle Rd to 75m from North Gyle Grove
Muirhouse Avenue	Carriageway - Whole Road
Newmains Road	Carriageway - whole road and inc. Orchardhead Loan - Whole road
North Gyle Loan	Whole Road
Old Kirk Road	Carriageway - Whole road
Orchardhead Road and Orchardhead Loan	Carriageway Dalkeith Rd into Burgess Ter
Paties Road	Carriageway - Royston Mains St to 56
Pilton Place	
Queens Crescent	
Royston Mains Crescent	

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

Scheme Name	Scheme Description
Saughton Mains Gardens	Carriageway - Whole road
Sighthill Gardens	Carriageway - Whole road
Sighthill Loan	Carriageway - Sighthill Gardens to 105
Sighthill Road	220 Wester Hailes Road to Sighthill Terrace
Silverknowes Court	Carriageway - Whole road
Silverknowes Terrace	Carriageway - Whole road
Southhouse Terrace	Carriageway - Whole road
Stewart Terrace - South Queensferry	Whole Road
Swanston Drive - cul-de-sac	Carriageway - Whole of Cul-de-sac
Swanston Gardens	Carriageway - Whole road
Swanston Terrace	Carriageway - Whole road
The Loan	Carriageway - Whole road
Traquair Park East	Carriageway – No 20 East to junction
Walter Scott Avenue	Carriageway - From No 11 to square at No 42 to 58 to No 24 and inc Fairford Gardens, whole road
West End Place	Whole road
Whitehouse Road	Whole road except south end
Footways	
Annfield	Footway - south side from No9 to No 38
Baird Road	Entrance to Norton House Hotel to Hillend C+F surfacing. - footway
Barnton Avenue West	Footway - Whole street both sides
Brand Gardens	Brand Gdns Nos 11 to 13 north side and Brand Dr to Christian Cres south side. Brand Drive No 5 and No 21
Broomhall Bank	Footway both sides, whole road
Broomhall Park	Footway both sides, whole road
Broomhall Place	Footway north side from Broomhall Crescent to Broomhall Road
Bryce Avenue	East footway from Wakefield Ave to no 7 and west footway from Bryce Grove to no 44
Caiystane Hill	Both sides Caiystane Avenue to Terrace
Cammo Grove Phase 1	Footway both sides from Cammo Gardens to south end of Cammo Hill (excluding o/s No 16, 14, 9 and 7)
Claremont Gardens (footway)	Carriageway - both sides of street
Corstorphine Hill Crescent	Footway - Whole street both sides
Craigmount Avenue North	No 31 to no 57

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

Scheme Name	Scheme Description
Crewe Terrace	Footway west of Crewe Grove both sides, whole road
Davidson Road	Footway - Grigor Avenue to Crewe Road South, north side
Drum Brae Drive Eyre Place Lane	Clermiston Gardens to Crescent Footway west side Eyre PI to No 2 Eyre PI Lane
Featherhall Terrace and Featherhall Place	Footway - south side of street from No 6 going west to Featherhall Avenue end on north side from the Avenue into Featherhall Place on west side No 11.
Gracemount Avenue	No 19 to 55 and South Burnhead Grove to Little Road
Hamilton Grove, Gardens	Hamilton Gardens East side, round Hamilton Grove to No 5
Hawkhill Avenue	Albion Place No 43 to 49, 19 to sub station, and Hawkhill Ave No.26 north side. Albion Place No 26 to 34, Lockhart Church, access to football ground, and Hawkhill Ave at Adult Education Centre, south side
John's Lane Kingston Avenue Lampacre Road	Whole lane west side Both sides from No 2 to 30 East side from No 1 to 31 and West side from Meadowhouse Road to Carrick Knowe Drive
Learmonth Crescent (footway)	Nos 14 to 22 west side, and 5 to 39 east side
Lindsay Road / North Fort Street Lockharton Crescent	Both sides Footway Sth East side from Lockharton Gdns to Lockharton Ave
Lower Granton Road Meadowfield Drive	Nos 114 to 12, south side Footway - West side, Duddingston Rd West to No.13 and East side, Duddingston Rd West to No 55 Lady Nairn Crescent
Newton Street Oxgangs Loan	Footway - Whole of East side North footway to no 45 and south footway to no 44.

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

Scheme Name	Scheme Description
Oxgangs Park / Rise	Oxgangs Park, both sides from Oxgangs Row to Oxgangs Rise. Oxgangs Park, south footway from no 2 to no 8 and Oxgangs Street from Oxgangs Row to no 2 Oxgangs Park. Oxgangs Rise, east side from no 9 to Oxgangs Park and west side from Oxgangs Park to Oxgangs
Portland Street	Footway Section on East Side at Commercial St and West side at 30-42 and 56
Prince Regent Street	Madeira Street to North Junction Street, both sides
Regent Road Phase 1, 2 & 3 Saughtonhall Avenue West Silverknowes Court Phase 1	Footway - Whole street Footway both sides whole road Footway outside radius whole length, both sides from Silverknowes Rd to Eastway
Silverknowes Court Phase 2	Footway - South end of street on both sides
South Fort Street South Laverockbank Avenue	Ferry Road to Pitt Street, west side East footway, Craighall Road to no 64 - West footway Craighall Road to Mayville Gardens East
St. Clair Street	No.18 to 20 southwest side, depot northeast side at No 26 Hawkhill Avenue
St. Mary's Place Stewart Terrace - Loch Road - South Queensferry Succoth Park	Whole road both sides Whole street both sides Footway - South side from No 1 to 37 and North side at Succoth Court.
Sunbury Street Wardieburn Road	Whole street west side East footway from Wardieburn Place West to Wardieburn Terrace
West Bowling Green Street	Anderson Place to The Quilts, both sides.

QUESTION NO 14**By Councillor Hinds answered by
the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

Question (1) Following lobbying by the local community and users of Warriston Playing Fields a feasibility study was carried out for the Fields. This study was to report on the feasibility of combining the three existing buildings on the Warriston Playing Fields. What was the cost of this study and when was it published?

Answer (2) City Development commissioned the feasibility study, at a cost of £8k, which was published in June 2007.

Question (2) Following the publication of this study what action was taken by officials or elected members to carry out the recommendations?

Answer (2) The then Director of City Development (Andrew Holmes) wrote to the Chief Executive on 17 August 2007 to confirm that the 2007-10 Capital Programme was fully committed and it was unlikely that any work would be undertaken in the near future.

City Development investigated the possibility of selling a piece of land at the north of the site at Howard Place and ring-fencing the receipt from the sale to invest in the new facilities. This was not acceptable in planning terms.

Question (3) What consultation was undertaken with the local community and service users?

Answer (3) Consultation was carried out with Warriston Tennis Club, Warriston Crescent Residents Association and Northern Bowling Club as part of the feasibility study. In addition, a meeting with the four ward Councillors and representatives from Warriston Community Tennis Club took place on 20 November 2007.

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

- Question** (4) An initial £30,000 was earmarked for Warriston Playing Fields. Was this money spent or was it removed from the budget? What resources are included in this year's budget and future years' budgets?
- Answer** (4) Council approved a review of the Children and Families Capital Investment Programme in 2007 which excluded the £30k allocation.
- There is currently no budget allocation for the refurbishment or replacement of the pavilions at Warriston.
- Question** (5) The condition of the existing pavilion is poor and it is covered in graffiti, when will it be repainted and upgraded?
- Answer** (5) The pavilion painting, including a specialist anti-graffiti coating, was completed on 23 April 2009, which followed on from the day-to-day repairs carried out in the previous financial year (2008/09).
- Supplementary Question** I am grateful to the Convener for the answer, on the Warriston area, and not just the pavilions but the playing fields and the disused tennis courts. The pavilions are in very poor condition and as I understand it were to be considered as one of the pavilions to be upgraded. As you will remember there was a great deal of lobbying of this Council to invest in pavilions. We spent money on an investment to find out what improvements could be carried out at Warriston Playing Fields. An £8,000 study was carried out with recommendations and was published. This has now sat on the shelf and I think the local community are concerned about this. In Answer (4) you say there is currently no budget allocation for the refurbishment or replacement of pavilions at Warriston. Does that mean that in the foreseeable future there is no investment for the pavilions or are there no proposals for investment and improvements in Warriston Playing Fields altogether in the foreseeable future?
- Supplementary Answer** We did in fact put money into the budget specifically for pavilions and playing fields but obviously there has to be a prioritisation within that and that is exactly what is happening now and Warriston will be part of that prioritisation exercise.

QUESTION NO 15**By Councillor Godzik answered by
the Convener of the Transport,
Infrastructure and Environment
Committee**

Question (1) What percentage of Interchange bus stops now have real time information?

Question (2) Please identify where and for what reason 'bustracker' systems have not been installed at all Interchange stops?

Question (3) What action is being taken to ensure that all Interchange bus stops have a bustracker, and when will this be completed?

Answer This Administration is committed to providing Bustracker real time information at interchange bus stops to help increase bus travel by giving passengers confidence in the reliability of Edinburgh's award-winning bus service. 80% (39 of 49) of 'interchange' stops currently have Bustracker.

Of the remaining ten stops:

five (two at Princes Mall and three on Lothian Road) do not have Bustracker installed due to the shallow depth of footway and difficulties obtaining a suitable power supply. Alternative solutions are under investigation;

three (Queensferry Street) will be considered once the tram works are complete;

one (Tollcross – outside the Cameo cinema) awaits a decision on whether the bus stop is to be moved to facilitate a new bus shelter; and

one (Meadow Place Road) is predominantly set down rather than pick up.

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

**Supplementary
Question**

Can I ask the Convener, given the concern from the Tollcross community specifically on the very busy bus stop outside the Cameo Cinema, if he can keep me updated on the progress of that site?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Yes.

QUESTION NO 16**By Councillor Godzik answered by
the Convener of the Transport,
Infrastructure and Environment
Committee**

Question (1) What action is being taken to reduce littering in Edinburgh's streets?

Answer (1) There has been a clear trend of improvement in street cleansing performance under the current Administration with the city achieving its best ever average yearly CIMS (Cleanliness Index Monitoring Survey) score (70) in 2008/2009 compared with an average score of 67 in 2006/07.

A full analysis and benchmarking exercise for the Task Force (Street Cleansing) service was completed in 2008 to lay the foundations for a full service review.

Following this review, resources have been re-allocated within Services for Communities to support service improvements in the areas with the lowest CIMS scores. A full description of the action taken is provided in a report to be considered by the Council's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 5 May 2009 which details, on an area basis, the allocation of additional resources to meet local requirements.

Question (2) What approach has been taken to the issuing of fixed penalty notices for littering?

Answer (2) The issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice is the first consideration to each and every littering offence witnessed by two persons. On some occasions, such as foreign visitors to the city, offenders may benefit from an advisory warning or caution and discretion will be used by the Environmental Wardens where necessary.

Question (3) What specific action is being taken to reduce littering around schools?

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

Answer (3) Each team of Environmental Wardens carries out regular lunchtime patrols around high schools. These patrols are often supported by the local Neighbourhood Action Units and Community Support Officers aiding the identification of individuals responsible for littering.

It is currently the practice to issue a warning to a school child aged under 16 followed up by an advisory letter to the parent or guardian of that child.

Environmental Wardens have also attended schools to work with the pupils to encourage positive behaviour. Roadshows highlighting the problems of littering in the area have also been set up at parents' evenings to encourage support from the parents/guardians and generate more positive behaviour.

Other examples of proactive working include the West Neighbourhood approaching all food premises in proximity to local high schools to give appropriate advice in respect of the provision of litter bins by the businesses; on staff carrying out street litter control; and, on advertising posters highlighting the problem of littering in the area.

**Supplementary
Question**

The Convener will be aware of the great concern about litter in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links especially with regards to schoolchildren and over the weekend. There is also great concern over the lack of enforcement action in Edinburgh especially when compared to the enforcement action taken in Glasgow. There is a great contrast where in Glasgow over 11,000 fines – Fixed Penalty Notices – have been issued. Can I ask the Convener why there is such a discrepancy between the enforcement regimes in the two major cities in this country?

**Supplementary
Answer by
Councillor
Aldridge**

Unlike the Labour Party we measure the success of our policies not on the number of fines we impose on the citizens of Edinburgh but on the actual outcomes of the actions that we take. The outcome of the actions we have taken is that our streets are as clean as they have ever been, that the average independently assessed scores for the cleanliness of our streets and littering show that under the last two years of the Labour Administration they were 66-67 and under us 69 and 70, so a clear improvement. What we are doing is working.

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

On the imposition of Fixed Penalty Notices, I think perhaps you should look at the number of notices last year which Glasgow imposed which is substantially less than the year before and from that the number of those fines which were actually paid. If, for example, you look at dog fouling in Glasgow, you will note that in the year 2008-2009 Glasgow imposed across the whole city a total of three Fixed Penalty Notices of which one was paid.

QUESTION NO 17

**By Councillor Godzik answered by
the Convener of the Culture and
Leisure Committee**

Question

What progress has been made in providing children in Edinburgh with “free year-round access to council swimming pools” and what discussions has the Council had with the Scottish Government on this matter?

Answer

Edinburgh has had “free year-round access” to swimming pools for children of primary school age since 2003.

**Supplementary
Question**

Does the Convener recognise that the common definition of children extends beyond that of pupils attending primary school? She will, of course, be aware of the SNP’s Manifesto commitment to provide free swimming to all children and in that regard can she outline what action has been taken to extend free swimming to all children and will she outline what discussions she has had with the Scottish Government on this matter?

**Supplementary
Answer**

Approximately 60,000 children across Edinburgh already benefit from free access to swimming pools. It is a shame your colleague Frank McAveety, MSP, chose to ignore this fact along with the efforts of other Scottish Local Authorities in his rush to grab himself some extra headlines with a press release recycled, as I understand it, for the fourth time. Given that we are already quite far ahead of the game in Edinburgh, it has not featured in discussions with the government yet. Edinburgh Leisure, the Trust I would remind Councillor Godzik that is responsible for running our leisure services, is always considering ways and is considering ways that it might increase provision for children in Edinburgh. I am sure that as a Board Member of Edinburgh Leisure, Councillor Godzik looks forward to hearing more of this in the future.

QUESTION NO 18**By Councillor Godzik answered by
the Convener of the Culture and
Leisure Committee****Question**

What consultation took place with you or the Head of Sport and Physical Activity prior to the announcement that Primary Schools would be closed for lets on Thursday evenings?

Answer

The proposal to close primary schools on Thursday evenings was one of a range of measures discussed with the Budget Review Group and was subsequently approved by Council.

**Supplementary
Question**

I have an e-mail that I received from a very senior Council official from the Sports Department that stated that she had not been informed of the change in letting agreements. Given that physical activity in the city is a key concern and indeed we have a very ambitious target, is this a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing in this Administration?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I am sure that the principal reason for Councillor Godzik's question is a genuine concern for the user groups affected. Therefore, I would draw your attention please to the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 17 March 2009 where Councillors MacLaren and Beckett called for a report on all school lets and for an interim report looking at the immediate pressing issues regarding the provision of sporting activities. I understand that Children and Families has been in close and continuous contact with user groups in order to minimise disruption as far as possible.

QUESTION NO 19**By Councillor Henderson answered
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee**

Question **(1)** How many members of staff within Community Learning and Development are currently on temporary contracts of employment?

Question **(2)** What steps are being taken to maximise the opportunities, where possible, to offer staff permanent contracts?

Answer There are 1,410 staff currently employed in Community Learning and Development on temporary contracts. 1,357 of these are on short term sessional contracts because of the nature of the work. The remaining 53 staff are on temporary contracts for a variety of reasons, but primarily because of short term funding. These temporary posts are kept under review and where funding becomes sustainable, we seek to make such posts permanent.

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

QUESTION NO 20

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

Question

How many "on the spot" fines have been issued for dog fouling in Edinburgh in the last 12 months?

Please provide figures broken down by ward.

Answer

Ward		Fixed Penalty Notices
1	Almond	9
2	Pentland Hills	0
3	Drum Brae/Gyle	7
4	Forth	22
5	Inverleith	2
6	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	12
7	Sighthill/Gorgie	20
8	Colinton/Fairmilehead	2
9	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	0
10	Meadows/Morningside	1
11	City Centre	4
12	Leith Walk	9
13	Leith	6
14	Craigentiny/Duddingston	6
15	Southside/Newington	3
16	Liberton/Gilmerton	17
17	Portobello/Craigmillar	18
Total		138

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

**Supplementary
Question**

Councillor Aldridge has now told us twice in this Chamber that our streets are as clean as they have ever been. This will come as news to the residents of Currie and Balerno many of whom have been lobbying me for some time now, including schoolchildren from Dean Park Primary about dog fouling in that area, and I will ensure that his quote makes it into the pages of the next Currie and Balerno News and I will invite residents to give me their opinions on whether or not the streets are as clean as they have ever been.

Given that these issues have been reported and we now know that no Fixed Penalty Fines have been issued at all in the Pentland Hills Ward in the last 12 months, can the Vice-Convenor tell us when the residents of Pentland Hills can enjoy a service that appears to be delivered elsewhere in the city?

**Supplementary
Answer by
Councillor
Aldridge**

It is not my opinion that the streets are as clean as they have ever been; it is the independent assessment through CIMS which is showing that our streets are as clean as they have ever been. I am not one to over-claim; I am depending on others' assessment of our streets and I am sure everyone will be able to identify hot spots which are not as clean as they should be and there are always areas for improvement.

The issue with Fixed Penalty Notices, particularly for dog fouling, is that the wardens have to be there at the time of the offence and it has to be witnessed. I was as interested as you were in seeing the variation in the number of fines across the different wards and I am currently looking into why that should be. So, I thank you for asking the question because I think it shows up some interesting details and we will get behind those figures but certainly every ward in the city is getting a fair share of resources to enable the streets to remain as clean as they can be.

QUESTION NO 21**By Councillor Munro answered by
the Convener of the Finance and
Resources Committee**

Question (1) How much revenue does the Council receive in business rates from landlords operating short-term lets?

Question (2) How much revenue does the Council receive in Council Tax from landlords operating short-term lets?

Answer The Council does not maintain a separate register of landlords operating short-term lets and the duration of current lets is not known or held on Council systems. It has therefore not been possible to provide the information requested by Councillor Munro.

Supplementary Question I know that when speaking to Danny Gallacher from Revenues and Benefits this week this was a new area for the department to look at. Would the Convener ask the Head of Revenues and Benefits to convene a Cross-Departmental Working Group to look at how we can actually compile a register of these groups because it is an issue, not just for myself in the Leith Ward and Western Harbour, but I know it is an issue of particular concern within the City Centre with regards to short-term lets and whether these people are actually contributing to either Council Tax for the rates for the premises or business rates for the premises that are being used for short-term lets. Would he undertake to ask for that group to meet?

Supplementary Answer I thank Councillor Munro for the question and for the information that he has provided to the department on the number of lets which appear to be causing concern for residents and indeed in some cases not paying non-domestic rates. There will be further work done on that. I think, as far as his suggestion goes, it is certainly worthy of consideration and I will take it up with the officers to see whether that is the best way forward.

QUESTION NO 22**By Councillor Munro answered by
the Convener of the Health, Social
Care and Housing Committee**

Question (1) How many users currently use Bonnington Resource Centre?

Answer (1) 22.

Question (2) When is Bonnington Resource Centre scheduled to close?

Answer (2) We anticipate that the centre will close at the end of 2009 when all the service users have an agreed new service.

Supplementary Question Bonnington Resource Centre is a purpose-built facility. What is the Administration's intent with this building post closure?

Supplementary Answer To date we don't have any settled plans for that building but once we do have them I can assure you that you will be kept in the loop on that and consulted, ideally before anything else happens.

QUESTION NO 23**By Councillor Burgess answered by
the Leader of the Council**

Question (1) What is the Administration doing to achieve the goal of reducing the city's carbon footprint to a zero carbon economy by 2050?

Answer (1) This Administration is committed to achieving exacting targets set to ensure that good environmental practice is at the core of all of our policies to preserve resources for future generations. The Council is also participating in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme with the Carbon Trust to help gain carbon savings emissions. Further details can be found under sustainable development on the Council's website.

The Council is actively pursuing a number of initiatives to gain carbon emissions savings with developers and the Edinburgh Standards for Sustainable Buildings. An increasing number of community groups have also received funding from the Climate Challenge Fund to undertake a range of projects to reduce carbon in their communities. Other policies, such as the Tram Project, will also be carbon neutral.

Question (2) Will the Administration bring forward a strategy aimed at delivering this goal?

Answer (2) A draft Energy Strategy for the city is being developed, with an outline framework due to be presented to the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group in the autumn.

**Supplementary
Question**

My concern is the answer reveals that the Administration's approach to tackling the city's climate change emissions is fairly piecemeal and only addresses the Council's emissions rather than emissions city-wide. Does the Leader recognise that if the Administration is serious about the goal of reducing the city's carbon footprint that her Administration needs to have a city-wide strategy towards achieving this and the energy strategy referred to in the

The City of Edinburgh Council
30 April 2009

answer is not that strategy? Would the Leader also agree that if the Council had such a strategy in place it would mean that current climate wrecking policies, such as actively supporting airport expansion and new budget airline routes, would be properly scrutinised against the carbon reduction goal and I ask again will the administration bring forward such a strategy?

**Supplementary
Answer**

I don't think anybody can doubt how seriously this Administration takes both the global and local implications of climate change and the social, environmental and economic costs that there are both to the city and globally as well. What is in my answer is what the Council is doing, as you quite rightly point out. However, I fully appreciate that we need to have everybody else out there in the city buying into that agenda as well and certainly through the Edinburgh Business Assembly, where Brendan Dick takes a very strong line on moving towards a zero carbon economy. We are in discussions with people. We have been in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and certainly over the years we will be working closely with every other individual and organisation in this city to ensure that we do reach what I am sure you will agree is a very ambitious target but one that we realise we do have to meet.

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